



Center for Civil Rights

A center of UNC School of Law

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SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

School Resegregation: Must the South Turn Back. (UNC Press, 2005) A volume of essays first presented at the 2002 conference “The Resegregation of Southern Schools.” Edited by John Charles Boger and Gary Orfield.

Looking to the Future: Legal and Policy Options for Racially Integrated Education in the South and the Nation. Papers from the April 2009 conference were published in the *North Carolina Law Review*, Vol. 88, Issue 3, March 2010.

High Poverty Schooling in America: Lessons in Second Class Citizenship, *North Carolina Law Review Symposium*, Vol. 85, Issue 5, October 2006

What Stands Between Students and a Sound Education? Co-published by the center and Action for Children North Carolina. Made possible through the generous assistance from the Jesse Ball duPont Fund.

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OVERVIEW

The UNC Center for Civil Rights is committed to using action-oriented advocacy, including litigation, to make America’s promise of justice, opportunity and prosperity a reality for all people. Since its inception, the center has served as the Southern hub for civil rights advocacy. By leading impact litigation and providing direct legal support, commissioning new civil rights legal scholarship and training young and future attorneys, the center brings national attention to local injustices that the region’s low-income and minority families and communities continue to face. The center’s work focuses on education and community development, and it addresses key issues through community partnership, advocacy and litigation.

HISTORY

The Center for Civil Rights was founded in 2001 by Julius L. Chambers, the former director-counsel to the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., and former chancellor of North Carolina Central University. The center has risen to national prominence as an outpost for strategic civil rights advocacy, especially in partnership with lower income and non-white communities. Advocacy programs offered by the center directly serve families and communities throughout the state of North Carolina and provide action models for advocates, scholars, and attorneys throughout the country.

LEGAL AND ADVOCACY AGENDA

Educational Advancement and Fair Opportunities Programs

- **Securing an equitable education for students in K-12 public schools**
 - *Confronting issues of resegregation*
 - *Building and maintaining racial and economic diversity*
 - *Securing adequate school funding and resources*
- **Increasing access to and diversity in higher education**

Community inclusion and economic development program

- **Ensuring access to quality municipal services and benefits**
- **Achieving environmental justice**
- **Combating housing discrimination and residential segregation**

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Student Opportunities

Center for Civil Rights Fellowship

The two-year fellowship is designed to train future generations of attorneys to continue the campaign to secure fair and equal opportunities for minority and low-income individuals, families and communities. Fellows serve as active members of the center's legal staff and contribute significantly to the center's capacity to effectively serve its clients.

Summer Internships, Fall/Spring Externships and Pro Bono Opportunities

The center offers internships, externships and pro bono opportunities to current UNC Law students throughout the academic year. Interns and externs work closely with the center's staff to educate community members about their civil rights, draft and prepare amicus curiae briefs, and collect data to support the current legal and advocacy agenda. Recent pro bono projects include a collaborative project with Legal Aid of North Carolina and the school's Pro Bono Program to draft wills and other directives for low-income, elderly individuals in eastern N.C., and hosting statewide effort for Election Protection, a national voting protection organization.