Disparity in Connecticut: Where are We Now and Where are We Heading?

Wednesday, October 22, 2008
Welte Auditorium
Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT

Purpose of the Conference:

- Inform decision-makers about current initiatives in the criminal & juvenile justice area
- Inform decision-makers about the importance of preventing youth from entering the juvenile and criminal justice systems
- Promote dialogue among those who work in our criminal justice system and those whose lives they impact.
- Identify solutions
- Help shape the Commission’s agenda over the next year
Keynote Speaker

Charles Ogletree, the Harvard Law School Jesse Climenko Professor of Law, and Founding and Executive Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice, is a prominent legal theorist who has made an international reputation by taking a hard look at complex issues of law and by working to secure the rights guaranteed by the Constitution for everyone equally under the law. The Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice (http://www.charleshamiltonhouston.org), named in honor of the visionary lawyer who spearheaded the litigation in Brown v. Board of Education, opened in September 2005, and focuses on a variety of issues relating to race and justice, and will sponsor research, hold conferences, and provide policy analysis.


Professor Ogletree is a native of Merced, California, where he attended public schools. Professor Ogletree earned an M.A. and B.A. (with distinction) in Political Science from Stanford University, where he was Phi Beta Kappa. He also holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

In 2008, the National Law Journal named Professor Ogletree one of the 50 Most Influential Minority Lawyers in America. In 2006, Professor Ogletree was named by Ebony Magazine as one of the 100+ Most Influential Black Americans. He was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award when he was inducted into the Hall of Fame for the National Black Law Students Association, where he served as National President from 1977-1978. Professor Ogletree also received the first ever Rosa Parks Civil Rights Award given by the City of Boston, the Hugo A. Bedau Award given by the Massachusetts Anti-Death Penalty Coalition, and Morehouse College’s Gandhi, King, Ikeda Community Builders Prize.

Professor Ogletree has been married to his fellow Stanford graduate, Pamela Barnes, since 1975. They are the proud parents of two children, Charles Ogletree III and Rashida Ogletree. The Ogletrees live in Cambridge and are members of St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church.
Agenda

8:30 – 9:00 Registration & Continental Breakfast *(Location: Welte Auditorium)*

9:00 – 9:30 Greetings:
The Honorable Chase T. Rogers, Chief Justice

Welcoming Remarks:
The Honorable Judge Lubbie Harper, Jr., Appellate Court Judge and Chair of the Commission

9:30 – 10:45 Keynote Speech:
Prof. Charles J. Ogletree, Jr.
Harvard Law School Jesse Climenko Professor of Law
Executive Director, Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race & Justice

10:45 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:30 Morning Break-out Sessions (For more information see back page of brochure)

12:30 – 1:45 Lunch (Blue ticket) *Location: Alumni Hall, Student Center*

Panel Presentation: Key Decision Points in the Criminal Justice Process
Judge Patrick Clifford, Chief Administrative Judge for Criminal Matters
Kevin Kane, Chief State’s Attorney
Susan Storey, Chief Public Defender
John Danaher, Commissioner of Public Safety
Moderator: Susan Pease, Dean of Arts and Sciences at Central Connecticut State University

Lunch (Yellow ticket) *Location: Constitution Room, Memorial Hall*

Panel Presentation: Innovative Initiatives Spearheaded by Inner-City Police Chiefs
Chief Darryl K. Roberts, Hartford Police Department
Chief Neil O’Leary, Waterbury Police Department
Chief James Lewis, New Haven Police Department
Chief Paul Fitzgerald, Berlin Police Department, Police Chiefs’ Association
Moderator: Attorney Michael Jefferson, Chairman, African-American Affairs Commission

1:45 – 3:00 Afternoon Break-out Sessions *(same location as morning break-outs)*
Facilitated Dialogue:
Attendees will break-up into smaller groups to reflect on the day and create action steps for the state to address the issue of disparity in Connecticut

3:00 – 4:00 Plenary Session *(Location: Welte Auditorium)*
Afternoon break-out groups will report back to the Commission on their recommendations for action
Morning Break-out Sessions

1. **The Media and its Role in Shaping Perceptions of Race and Ethnicity**  
   *(Location: Welte Auditorium)*  
   A panel of media representatives will discuss the role that television, newspapers and radio play in shaping the way the public perceives the connection between race/ethnicity and crime.

2. **Urban versus Suburban Policing**  
   *(Location: Marcus White Living Room)*  
   A panel of police chiefs will discuss the challenges, needs and techniques unique to policing in an urban vs. suburban environment.

3. **The Effect of the War on Drugs and the Mental Health Care System on Minority Populations**  
   *(Location: Founders Hall in Davidson Hall)*  
   Local experts from state and not-for-profit agencies will discuss the negative impact that the war on drugs has had on Connecticut residents, particularly its minority populations.

4. **Juvenile Justice: Comprehensive Strategies for Keeping Young People out of the Criminal Justice System and in School**  
   *(Location: Alumni Hall in Student Center)*  
   Dr. Patrick Coggins of Stetson University will examine the factors driving the increase in juvenile incarceration, particularly of minorities, and the variables that impact courts and schools. What can schools and the court do? Five validated models to reduce the juvenile incarceration rate will be explored.

5. **The Impact of Underlying Social Issues on the Criminal Justice System**  
   *(Location: Constitution Room, Memorial Hall)*  
   The criminal justice system is one created by man and shaped by society’s response to a changing social environment. This panel will examine the underlying societal issues that influence the criminal justice system.

6. **Perception versus Reality – Youth Violence**  
   *(Location: Willard Hall, Rm 211)*  
   A panel consisting of local youth will discuss the difference between the perception of youth violence in Connecticut and the reality.

7. **The Impact of Politics on our Criminal Justice System**  
   *(Location: Philbrick-Camp in Student Center)*  
   A panel of legislators that includes Senator Andrew McDonald, Senator Toni N. Harp, Representative Toni Walker, Senator John Kissel, Representative Bill Dyson, will discuss how political decisions affect our criminal justice system.

8. **The Perception of the Criminal Justice System by the Latino Community**  
   *(Location: DiLoretto Hall, Rm 202)*  
   A September, 2008 study by the Pew Hispanic Center indicates that Latinos perceive a significant deterioration of their overall position in the United States. This panel discussion focuses on how Latinos perceive the Criminal Justice System. One speaker will focus on undocumented immigrants; the others will speak to general issues that concern the extraordinarily diverse community placed under the Latino umbrella.

9. **From Destruction to Construction: Mentoring Young Men of Color**  
   *(Location: DiLoretto Hall, Rm 308)*  
   Dr. Edward Joyner of Sacred Heart University will talk about working with young men who have a history of criminal behavior. This requires a systemic approach and mentors who are not intimidated by the hyper-masculine behaviors that many of these young men have adopted. Yet when appropriate institutions and individuals work together to help these young men develop social and vocational skills that lead to employment and sustained relationships with successful role models, long-term success is possible. This presentation will provide participants with a real case study of a reasonably successful intervention that engaged the school, law enforcement officials and a lawyer to transform lives.

10. **The Power of Choice**  
    *(Location: Clock Tower in Student Center)*  
    This workshop by Anthony M. Harper, MSW, will focus on the power that adolescents have to make positive choices.