

# NAACP NEWS

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## **PRESS RELEASE AND CONFERENCE**

### ***CALIFORNIA AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY JOIN FORCES TO OPPOSE PROPOSITION 209 IN CALIFORNIA AND MICHIGAN***

Los Angeles NAACP, Los Angeles Sentinel, Alliance for Equal Opportunity in Education, SCLC, Los Angeles Urban League, BAMN's Legal Team, Brotherhood Crusade, UCLA Africa Student Union, Coalition for Black Student Equity, California Law Professors and Constitutional Historians, California Social Science Researchers, Coalition of Black Clergy and Community Leaders Association [partial list] are calling on the one million African Americans in California, and other minority groups to join us in a Press Conference to address the **"LACK OF DIVERSITY IN CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITIES."**

***THE PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON***

***WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2011***

***AT 10:00 AM***

***AT THE LOS ANGELES SENTINEL***

***3800 CRENSHAW BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CA. 90008***

With the passage of Proposition 209 in California in 1996, and its identical twin in Michigan in 2006. The white majority in both states wiped out decades of hard fought affirmative action programs in higher

education, employment and public contracting rolling back African-American and other minority gains to 1950s levels.

A three-judge panel of the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, which includes Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee on July 1, found Proposal 2 unconstitutional., which is the amendment to the Michigan's state constitution that outlawed the use of affirmative action in public institutions. The panel found the amendment violated the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment Equal Protection Clause. The Court stated: "The equal protection injury imposed by Proposal 2 is not the Michigan electorate's attempt to end affirmative action, but the method by which it sought to do so." The matter is now before the full court of 17 judges.

This same issue is now before the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, and a ruling is expected in late spring on whether Proposition 209 also violates the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment Equal Protection Clause. A positive ruling in California's 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit may depend on several factors: 1) Whether the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals in its hearing before all the Justices on the Court affirms the three judge panel's decision this spring: 2) Whether the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit follows the decision of the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit; and, 3) Whether the California African-American community joins in supporting the attorneys handling the cases in Michigan and California: 4) Whether California can flood the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals with numerous "Friends of the Court" briefs supporting the overturning of Proposition 209: 5) Whether we can get thousands upon thousands to march on the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals on the day of oral argument; and, 6) Whether the African-American community cares enough about our future to ACT NOW!

For further information on how you or your organization can be a part of our growing and historic effort to overturn Proposition 209 go to the Los Angeles NAACP website [www.naacp-losangeles.org](http://www.naacp-losangeles.org) or call the Los Angeles NAACP President Leon Jenkins at (310) 397-1171. This must be a statewide united effort by the entire African-American and minority communities.

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