

PRRAC and NCSD Affiliates in the Media Following SCOTUS Affirmative Action Ruling

[Was the Constitution Ever Really Color-Blind? with Damon Hewitt](#) (July 4)

Interview with Damon Hewitt

Damon T. Hewitt, President and Executive Director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law, discusses *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. University of North Carolina* and the Supreme Court's direction on affirmative action. Hewitt explains what *Brown v. Board of Education* got wrong, exposes the logical fallacy behind the idea that a diversity rationale should have an endpoint, and offers insights on what higher education institutions should do in response to the Court's decision.

[Unpacking the Supreme Court's ruling on Affirmative Action w/ OBI UC Berkeley \(Event\)](#) (July 3)

Event with John A. Powell and Sheryll Cashin

Join us to hear from legal experts about the implications of this decision on university student bodies, its wider social significance, and what can be done to help universities and other institutions better reflect the diversity of our country.

[Want to make access to college fair? Root out K-12 inequality](#) (July 2)

Commentary by Genevieve Siegel-Hawley

"Racially unequal opportunities to experience challenging coursework are compounded by school segregation and deeply rooted racial disparities in opportunities to build monetary wealth. Wealth inequities mean racially stratified access to resource-rich K-12 schools and high-cost test tutoring that can raise SAT scores by hundreds of points. They also mean college affordability issues impact families very differently along racial lines and at all points in the college-going process."

[Protecting Our 'Opportunity' to Remain Plutocratic](#) (July 2)

Quoted Derek Black

"Without education, the founders feared democracy would devolve into mob rule and open doors to unscrupulous politicians and hucksters," the University of South Carolina Law School's Derek Black has pointed out. "Our democratic experiment might very well just fail."

[What you need to know about Affirmative Action](#) (June 30)

Interview with Cara McClellan

As part of his television reporting, Trymaine Lee had a conversation with professor Cara McClellan of the University of Pennsylvania's law school in the lead-up to the decision. They talked about the history of this policy, as well as the stakes of losing it.

[Affirmative Action, DEI, and Reparations: Where Do We Take the Fight for Racial Justice Now? \(Video\)](#) (June 30)

Interview with Damon Hewitt

Black history banned, 'wokeness' criticized, DEI renounced...What are the implications for Black people and other marginalized groups in the United States and what can you do about it?

[Latest Supreme Court decisions specifically affecting Black Americans](#) (June 30)

Quoted with Damon Hewitt

“No matter what this court says, we will continue to fight, no matter what this court says nothing can deprive us of what we call a race conscious future,” said Damon Hewitt, the president of Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

[Colorado colleges respond to Supreme Court repealing affirmative action](#) (June 30)

Quoted Kevin Welner

Kevin Welner, a professor at the University of Colorado Boulder says even with affirmative action, the school has struggled with diversity. “If you come to Boulder, whether it’s the campus or the city, we are overwhelmingly white,” Welner said. “I think some colleges will change their application process in order to get that richer, richer data in the richer evidence about who the student is.”

[The Supreme Court’s Decision on Affirmative Action Must Not Be the Final Word](#) (June 29)

Commentary by Olatunde Johnson

“It’s crucial that educational institutions create pathways and partnerships that reach underserved students and less-resourced schools. This will mean developing programs in local elementary and secondary schools, partnerships with community colleges, and transfer policies that enable access to more resourced and selective institutions.”

[SCOTUS decides major affirmative action cases](#) (June 29)

Interview with Olatunde Johnson

Here & Now’s Robin Young speaks with Olatunde Johnson, professor at Columbia Law School and an expert on affirmative action and constitutional law, about the Supreme Court’s decision on affirmative action.

[Extra Time: Affirmative action sparks reaction across the nation \(Video\)](#) (June 29)

Interview with Damon Hewitt

President and Executive Director of the Lawyers’ Committee Damon Hewitt dives into the decision and what it could mean in the grand scheme of social justice in America.

[In affirmative action and student loan cases, advocates fear losses for racial equity](#) (June 29)

Quoted with Damon Hewitt

It will be important for colleges to find ways to show they see the students as more than a number on paper, said Damon Hewitt, president and executive director of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. “We need the schools to say, ‘Look, the court says we can’t consider race, but we still see you,’” said Hewitt, whose organization defended affirmative action before the Supreme Court in October.

[Supreme Court and Affirmative Action in Higher Education](#) (June 29)

Interview with Tanya Clay House

Affirmative Action on college campuses ended today. The Supreme Court ruled in two separate cases, saying race cannot be a consideration for college admissions. It is a landmark decision that will immediately impact the racial make-up of predominately white institutions of higher learning. But it may not stop there.

[Affirmative action is done. Here's what else might change for school admissions.](#) (June 29)

Quoted David Hinojosa

"There are paths forward to ensure racial equity in higher education," said David Hinojosa, an attorney with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law who argued on behalf of a group of students opposed to the suit against University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "And we will pursue every avenue to hold universities accountable under federal civil rights laws, to reinstate a fair admissions process, where students' identities are celebrated, not shunned."

[Supreme Court decision a 'travesty of justice' says UNC, Harvard litigator](#) (June 29)

Quoted David Hinojosa

"That is one of the grossest miscarriages of justice," said Hinojosa. "By trying to suggest that programs that are intended to bring students together across races and ethnicities to grow and learn together from one another so that they can share their own perspectives and experiences that inform that of their colleagues and their peers is somehow contrary to what *Brown v. Board* was written for."

[Supreme Court Strikes Down Universities' Affirmative Action Programs](#) (June 29)

Quoted David Hinojosa

"The anti-DEI efforts are connected with the anti-affirmative action efforts in the sense that they are trying to erase any notion of systemic discrimination against historically marginalized people of color, including Black people," says Hinojosa, and our "horrid history of slavery and discrimination and the remnants thereof."

["Race still matters in this country": Education experts weigh in on SCOTUS affirmative action dissent](#) (June 29)

Quoted Cara McClellan

"This decision is a huge barrier and it comes at a time when we know race still matters in this country," said Cara McClellan, the director with Advocacy for Racial and Civil Justice Clinic... "All students benefit from being in a diverse population on campus. The research shows that the benefits in terms of critical thinking [and] leadership skills in terms of being prepared for the workforce," McClellan said.

[What the Supreme Court's decision on affirmative action at colleges means for future applicants](#) (June 29)

Quoted Cara McClellan

"It's really important to emphasize that colleges and universities still have duties to eliminate barriers," McClellan said. "Remember that there are still many people in this country who recognize the value of diversity," she added. "Race continues to matter."

[Local residents react to Affirmative Action ruling: "I am very much concerned"](#) (June 29)

Quoted Cara McClellan

Cara McClellan, an associate professor at Penn Law School, says this decision is a barrier. "When our institutions of higher education become exclusionary spaces that really undermines the legitimacy of our promise of the American dream," McClellan said.

[What Philly-area schools are saying about the SCOTUS ruling to end race-based admissions in colleges](#) (June 29)

Quoted Cara McClellan

“This could have huge implications,” said McClellan, founding director of the Advocacy for Racial and Civil Justice Clinic at Penn...The decision comes at a time in the country’s history when the court should be making moves toward more inclusion, she said. “They are doing the opposite in terms of rolling us back in time.”

[Local reaction to Supreme Court affirmative action decision](#) (June 29)

Quoted Derek Black

University of South Carolina Constitutional Law Center Director Derek Black said universities can still use factors like zip codes, socioeconomic status, and a parent’s first language to select diverse student bodies. “What the court is looking at is not just what your race is, but whether you have a diverse experience, that may overlap with race, that may not overlap with race,” said Black.

[Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights on the Supreme Court Affirmative Action Decision \(Video\)](#) (June 29)

Press conference with Damon Hewitt, David Hinojosa, and Jin Hee Lee

The Leadership Conference for Civil and Human Rights held a press conference on the Supreme Court’s decision to strike down affirmative action in college admissions. Leaders from Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC), Latino Justice, Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and the NAACP spoke alongside civil and human rights lawyers to overview what the Supreme Court decision means for the future of college admissions.

[Activists blast Supreme Court ruling on affirmative action in college admissions](#) (June 29)

Quoted Damon Hewitt and David Hinojosa

“Race-conscious policies were created to mitigate centuries of wrongdoings against people of color and to bring students of all races and backgrounds together,” said Hinojosa. “It is one of the greatest ironies that the Court has undermined such policies by holding UNC’s and Harvard’s programs unlawful.”

[Civil Rights Community Vows to Advance Racial Equity Despite Supreme Court Rulings Invalidating Harvard and UNC’s Specific Affirmative Action Plans](#) (June 29)

Quoted Damon Hewitt and David Hinojosa

“Through a tortured interpretation of the law, history, and current-day reality, today’s decision threatens to make higher education less accessible, less equitable, and less attainable for students of color,” said Damon Hewitt, President and Executive Director of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

[With affirmative action struck down, Stanford scholars discuss what to do next](#) (June 29)

Quoted Sean Reardon

“We must redouble our efforts to dismantle the systemic inequalities in educational opportunity in children’s lives – from birth through high school. That means addressing family economic inequality, using housing policies to address residential segregation, using education policy to improve preschools and K-12 schools in minority communities, and making good on the promise of Brown v Board to eliminate racial school segregation and inequality.”