



Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Legal Profession



**CHRISTIAN STRATEGIES FOR A SUCCESSFUL LIFE
OF SERVICE IN THE LAW**

A Conference for Pre-Law Students, Law Students, and Lawyers

FEBRUARY 24, 2007

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY
School of Law

The Institute on Law, Religion & Ethics

Malibu, California

The lack of racial and ethnic diversity in law schools and the legal profession is well documented. To cite one example, in California, one of the most racially and ethnically diverse states in the country, only 1.7 percent of lawyers are African-American (down from 2.4 in 2001), 3.8 percent are Hispanic, and 5.3 percent are Asian. Statistics from law schools suggest that things will not get much better. The continued lack of racial and ethnic diversity within law schools and the legal profession raise significant questions as to whether we can achieve a just society.

Beneath the statistics are individual people of color, who are often isolated and under great pressure. Getting through law school and entry into the legal profession pose substantial challenges to anyone, but in these, as in many areas of American society, there are special challenges posed to persons of color.

Amidst all of the discussion of the lack of diversity, there has been little consideration of the resources of the Christian faith. Within the United States, African-Americans, Hispanics, and Asians are among the most actively involved Christians. Many of the greatest leaders in the ongoing fight for equality—including Martin Luther King, Jr. and Caesar Chavez—drew guidance, strength, and inspiration from the Christian faith.

In addition, reconciliation is one of the central themes of scripture—not only reconciliation with God, but reconciliation across racial and ethnic lines. One of Jesus' most powerful moral messages was the Story of the Good Samaritan, a story of one who reached across racial and ethnic lines to care for someone in need (Luke 10:25-37). In Paul's vision of the church, "there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

At this conference, we will hear from people of color who have successfully faced the challenges of law school and the legal profession. They have found means to serve Christ in the midst of law school and the practice of law. They will share their stories and sources of inspiration. In particular, we will consider:

1. What are the Christian resources that might help you succeed in law school and the legal profession?
2. What sort of service might Christ call you to in law?
3. What does Christ call law teachers, administrators, and even families of law students to do in support of their sometimes struggling law students?
4. Might Christian faith be a source of reconciliation between lawyers of different racial and ethnic backgrounds?

We welcome people of all faiths, races, and ethnic backgrounds. Though the conference is designed for pre-law students, law students, and lawyers, we welcome pre-law advisors, law school administrators, professors, and clergy.

We hope that you can join us.

Robert F. Cochran, Jr.

*Louis D. Brandeis Professor of Law and
Director, Institute on Law, Religion & Ethics*

Speakers:



RAUL A. GONZALEZ served as Justice of the Texas Supreme Court from 1984 to 1998. He now has his own mediation and appellate litigation firm. His wide range of experience before joining the Court included private practice, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Assistant City Attorney of Houston, Diocesan Attorney, and trial judge.



JACK L. WHITE, II is a litigation associate with Kirkland & Ellis and former law clerk to Judge (now Justice) Samuel A. Alito, Jr. on the Third Circuit. He earned his J.D., magna cum laude, from Pepperdine in 2003, where he was Editor-in-Chief of the law review and won first place in NITA's national Tournament of Champions.



MARCHELLE BAILEY received her undergraduate and law degrees from UCLA. She is a staff attorney and Womens' Business Opportunity Representative for the United States Small Business Administration. She and her family attend the Culver Palms Church of Christ in Santa Monica, California.



DAVID DOMINGUEZ, an evangelical Christian, is Professor of Law at Brigham Young University. He received his B.A., with honors, from Yale University, and his J.D. from UC Berkeley. From 1980 to 1988 Professor Dominguez served as a trial attorney with the National Labor Relations Board.



JACQUELINE WANG is an attorney at Byrne & Nixon LLP in Los Angeles. Prior to this, she worked as an entertainment law attorney at Disney ABC Cable Networks. Ms. Wang received her B.A., magna cum laude, in 1994, from UC San Diego, and her J.D., cum laude, from Harvard Law School in 1999.



JOHN W. PATTON JR. is a partner in the law firm of Pasternak, Pasternak & Patton and a licensed minister at the West Angeles Church of God in Christ. He graduated first in his law school class from Howard University, and in 1997, was the first African American president of the Beverly Hills Bar Association.



SARAH HOWARD JENKINS is the Charles C. Baum Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She has published extensively in the area of commercial law. Her articles and books include the current edition of Corbin on Contracts, Vol. 13, Discharge of Contract (2003).

Conference Schedule

8:00 *Continental Breakfast and Registration*

9:00 *Welcome*

9:15 *Panel I* The Challenges of Law School and the Legal Profession and the Resources of the Christian Faith

- ◆ Sarah Howard Jenkins
- ◆ John Patton
- ◆ Jackie Wang

10:45 *Break*

11:15 *Panel II* Law as a Christian Calling—What does the LORD require of you, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?
(Micah 6:7-9)

- ◆ Raul Gonzalez
- ◆ Marchel Bailey
- ◆ David Dominguez
- ◆ Jack White

12:45 *Lunch*

2:00 *Breakout groups* Succeeding in Law

- A. Getting into law school
- B. Getting through law school
- C. Finding a job
- D. Success in law practice
- E. Racial reconciliation in Christ

3:15 *Break*

3:45 *Discussion groups*

5:15 *Reception*

6:00 *Dinner*

7:00 *Prayer and Praise* LaShae Henderson and Glandion Carney

Registration

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Fees

Students: \$25.00

Lawyers: \$75.00

**A limited number of travel and housing scholarships are available.
To apply, please submit a current resume and a statement explaining
why the conference interests you to Kim Retts, Program Administrator
(see contact information below).*

Payment Options

VISA MasterCard Enclosed check (*payable to Pepperdine University*)

Amount to be charged to card: _____

Name _____

as it appears on card

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Please return this form no later than February 16, 2007 to:

Kim Retts, Program Administrator
Institute on Law, Religion & Ethics
Pepperdine University School of Law
Malibu, CA 90263
FAX: 310.506.7729
Telephone: 310.506.7635
E-mail: kimberly.retts@pepperdine.edu

For further conference information and updates,
or to register online,
please visit
<http://law.pepperdine.edu/ilre>

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY
School of Law

The Institute on Law, Religion & Ethics

24255 Pacific Coast Highway
Malibu, California 90263

Nonprofit Org
US Postage

PAID

Pepperdine
University