

Why We Can't Wait Conference  
AGENDA & SPEAKERS – September 25, 2007 **DRAFT**

**About the Conference**

The 1980s in the United States marked the beginning of what some have called the "rollback" period in civil rights. Through a series of decisions in key areas of the law such as educational equality, employment discrimination, disability rights, environmental justice and sexual harassment, the federal courts have limited the ability of people to file and win civil rights cases by restricting access to courts and eroding remedies for practices that discriminate against racial and ethnic minorities, women, older Americans, and persons with disabilities.

This conference, *Why We Can't Wait: Reversing the Retreat on Civil Rights*, is being convened by North Carolina Central University School of Law, University of North Carolina School of Law, Duke Law, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund and the National Campaign to Restore Civil Rights, in an effort to educate, raise awareness and build alliances to protect and preserve equal justice, fairness, and opportunity and to make sure our laws are in step with the country we want for ourselves and for future generations.

**When:** October 19-20, 2007

**Where:** Durham Marriott at the Civic Center  
Durham, NC

**Who Should Attend:** Anyone (students, scholars, lawyers, activists) who is interested in promoting and protecting equal justice and equal opportunity.

**Program Costs and Benefits:** The registration fee of \$25.00 includes continental breakfast, lunch and all conference materials. A limited number of fee waivers are available.

**Friday, October 19, 2007**

9:30 – 10:30 am      **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

10:30 – 10:45am      **Welcome**  
*Dean Raymond Pierce*  
*North Carolina Central School of Law*

10:45 – 12:00pm      **Opening Plenary Session I: Telling Our Stories**  
*A discussion of the civil rights rollback from the perspective of people who have been directly affected*

Wade Henderson – Moderator

President, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights

Lilly Ledbetter

Plaintiff in Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.

Reverend Lois Dejean

Gert Town Revival Initiative, Inc.

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12:00 – 12:15 p.m.     **Break**

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.     **Luncheon**  
*Key Note Speaker:*  
*Reverend Dr. William Barber II*  
*President, North Carolina Conference*  
*NAACP*

1:30 – 2:45 p.m.     **Concurrent Workshops – GROUP A**

- **The Rollback At Work: What Does it Mean for Employees?**  
David Green – Moderator  
Assoc. Dean for Academic Affairs, NCCU School of Law  
Geraldine Sumter  
Partner, Ferguson Stein Chambers Gresham & Sumter P.A.  
Jocelyn Samuels  
VP for Education and Employment, Nat'l Women's Law  
Center  
Kevin Russell  
Partner, Howe & Russell PC
- **Let us All Work: Removing Restrictions on the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act**  
Marty Davis – Moderator  
Director of Special Campaigns, AARP Foundation  
Rochelle Bobroff  
Director, Federal Rights Project, Nat'l Senior Citizen Law  
Center  
Sam Bagenstos  
Professor, Washington University in St. Louis  
Sarah Somers  
Staff Attorney, National Health Law Project  
Arlene Mayerson  
Directing Attorney, Disability Rights Education & Defense  
Fund
- **Promoting Environmental Justice**  
Cristóbal Joshua Alex – Moderator  
Campaign Coordinator, National Campaign to Restore Civil  
Rights  
Annette Hiatt  
Senior Attorney, NCABL Land Loss Prevention Project  
Kyle W. LaLonde  
Attorney, Jeffer, Mangels, Butler & Marmaro LLP  
Michelle Roberts

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Campaign and Policy Coordinator, Advocates for  
Environmental Human Rights

- **Toward Economic Justice**

Jocelyn Frye – Moderator

General Counsel, Nat'l Partnership for Women and Families

Rachel Lovis

Campaign Organizer, Farm Labor Organizing Committee

Irv Joyner

Professor, NCCU Law School

Anthony Robinson

President, Minority Business Enterprise Legal Defense and  
Education Fund

2:45 – 3:00 p.m.

**Break**

3:00 – 4:15 p.m.

**Concurrent Workshops -- GROUP B**

- **Holding Employers Accountable for Employment Discrimination**

Bill Robinson – Moderator

Professor, University of the District of Columbia - David A.  
Clarke School of Law

Mike Okun,

Attorney, Patterson Harkavy LLP

James Andrews

President, AFL-CIO of North Carolina

Trina Jones

Professor, Duke Law School

- **Discrimination in the Neighborhood: Housing and Lending  
Discrimination**

Charles Daye – Moderator

Professor and Deputy Director, UNC Law School Center for  
Civil Rights

Lisa Rice,

Vice President, National Fair Housing Alliance

Diane Houk

Executive Director, Fair Housing Justice Center

Martin Eakes

CEO, Center for Responsible Lending

- **Diversity and Equality: What is Next for School Integration**

Dennis Parker – Moderator

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Director, ACLU Racial Justice Project  
Wendy Scott  
Professor, NCCU Law School  
Elise Shore  
Atlanta Regional Counsel, MALDEF  
Angella Dunston  
Director, Education Law Project, NC Justice Center

- **Immigrant Rights are Civil Rights**  
Deborah Weissman – Moderator  
Professor, UNC Law School  
Lee Gelernt  
Senior Staff Counsel, ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project  
Marielena Hincapié  
Director of Programs and Staff Attorney, National  
Immigration Law Center  
George Wu  
Senior Staff Counsel, Asian American Justice Center

4:15 – 4:30 p.m.      **Break**

4:30 - 5:45 p.m.      **Plenary Session II: Making a Plan**  
***Strategies to Address the Rollback***

Janell Byrd – Moderator  
NCCU School of Law, Charles Hamilton Houston Chair, and  
The Cochran Firm  
Charlotte Burrows  
Office of Senator Kennedy  
Elizabeth Haddix  
Attorney  
Robert Garcia  
Executive Director and Counsel, The City Project  
Makani Themba-Nixon  
Executive Director, The Praxis Project

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.      **Cocktail Reception**

**Saturday, October 20, 2007**

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.      **Networking Breakfast**

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.      **Plenary Session III: Going Global**  
***International Human Rights Tools in the Fight for Civil Rights***  
Margaret Huang – Moderator

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Program Director, Global Rights  
Cindy Soohoo  
Director, Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute  
Ajamu Baraka  
Executive Director, US Human Rights Network  
Ryan King  
Policy Analyst, The Sentencing Project

11:00 – 11:15 a.m.     **Break**

11:15 – 1:00 p.m.     **Closing Plenary Session IV: Where Do We Go From Here?**  
***Action oriented next steps***

Marianne Engelman Lado – Moderator  
General Counsel, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest  
Julius Chambers  
Director, UNC Law School Center for Civil Rights  
Julie Fernandes  
Senior Policy Analyst and Senior Counsel, Leadership Conference on  
Civil Rights Education Fund  
Debo Adebile  
Director of Litigation, NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund  
Anita Earls  
Southern Coalition for Social Justice