

Journal of Race, Gender & Ethnicity
Presents:

Racial Segregation on Long Island



TOURO COLLEGE
JACOB D. FUCHSBERG
LAW CENTER

“Let us all hope that the dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear-drenched communities, and in some not too distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty.”

Martin Luther King, Jr., *Letter from Birmingham Jail* (1963)

The Journal of Race, Gender & Ethnicity welcomes everyone to our Second Annual Symposium. Since our legal community is

based on Long Island, we felt that it was important to look into our own backyard when framing our symposium idea. In doing so, we discovered that the racial segregation of yester-year is alive and unwell today right here in our community. Such racial segregation can be seen in various parts of Long Island living, from education to housing. As part of the legal community, we felt it paramount that such segregation be addressed in this year’s symposium. Our goal was to explore these issues and create an environment where we could discuss the legal avenues available to eradicate this cancer. We hope that you will take the knowledge that you will gain here today with you into the world and help to raise awareness of this important matter of both public and legal concern.

Sincerely,

Lenka Richards, *Editor-in-Chief*
Stephanie M. Adduci, *Associate Editor of the Symposium*
&
The Journal of Race, Gender & Ethnicity

About the Journal of Race, Gender & Ethnicity

Touro Law Center's Journal of Race, Gender & Ethnicity is a student-run electronic journal that serves to enrich the educational experiences of students and the law school community by providing a scholarly forum for the study of issues surrounding race, gender, and ethnicity and the law. Participation provides an avenue for students to practice and enhance their research, writing, and editing skills. Staff members are selected through a writing competition, based on writing and analytical skills. For more information on the Journal of Race, Gender & Ethnicity, or to submit an article, contact us at (631) 421-2244 ext 462 or email journofRGE@tourolaw.edu.

Editor-in-Chief

Lenka Richards

Managing Editors

Andrea Filpi
Noel Munier

Articles Editors

Stacy Meisner
Matthew Klieger

Notes & Comments Editor

Allyson Kohlmann

Staff

Ricardo Abraham
Stephanie Marie Adduci
Davina Amiri
Allison Brockington
Nicole Casale
Usman Farooqui
Robert Huntley
Christina Mahabir

Patrick McGlashan
Greg Misener
Luis Pomares
Shari Newman
Anupama Ramlackhan
Sindy Ramlal
Kimberly Stevenson
Derell Wilson

Faculty Advisors

Professor Deborah Waire Post
Professor Anita Krishnakumar
Professor Douglas Scherer

Spring 2006 Symposium Committee

Stephanie Marie Adduci
Lenka Richards
Kimberly Stevenson
Shari Newman

Symposium Schedule

4:30 – 5:30pm Racial Segregation in Education

Speakers:

Lisa Tyson, *Long Island Progressive Coalition*

Legislator Roger Corbin, *Nassau County Legislature*

5:30 – 6:30pm Racial Segregation in Housing

Speakers:

Cathryn Harris, *Erase Racism*

Ann Sullivan, *NY ACORN*

Diane Goins, *Board Member NY ACORN*

6:30 – 7:00pm Food & Refreshments

7:00 – 7:45pm Panel Discussion:

The Interrelation of Racial Segregation in Education and Racial Segregation in Housing

Panelists:

Lisa Tyson, *Long Island Progressive Coalition*

Legislator Roger Corbin, *Nassau County Legislature*

Cathryn Harris, *Erase Racism*

Ann Sullivan, *NY ACORN*

Diane Goins, *Board Member NY ACORN*

Moderator:

Dean Howard A. Glickstein

Lisa Tyson

Long Island Progressive Coalition

Lisa Tyson grew up in Nassau County, Long Island. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing and Communications from the Fashion Institute of Technology in 1993. She continued her studies in the Masters of Science program in Urban and Environmental Studies at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1994. Her professional experience has been at the Long Island Progressive Coalition (LIPC), where she has been working since 1996 and is currently the Director.

Ms. Tyson specializes in transportation, affordable housing, sustainability, campaign finance reform and tax issues. After successfully running a campaign to stop the widening of Route 25A, Ms. Tyson served on the Technical Advisory Board for the Department of Transportation's Long Island Transportation Plan 2000. Ms. Tyson organized a coalition which created a \$3 million affordable housing fund for the Town of East Hampton. Ms. Tyson has been appointed to the Nassau County Commission on Revenue Enhancement and Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy's Budget Transition Team.

Ms. Tyson's most recent successes include writing and passing of the Nassau County living wage bill, the strongest in New York State, as well as stopping the Long Island Transportation Plan 2000 (a plan to build over 60 new miles of roadway on the island). Ms. Tyson currently serves as a Steering Committee Member of the Nassau Chapter of the Working Families Party and as the Treasurer of the Long Island Campaign for Affordable Rental Housing.

Legislator Roger Corbin

Deputy Presiding Officer, Nassau County Legislature

Roger H. Corbin is currently serving as Nassau County legislator of Legislative District 2, representing the diversified communities of New Cassel, Westbury, and parts of East Garden City, East Meadow, Hicksville, Hempstead, Lakeview, Old Westbury, Rockville Centre, Uniondale and West Hempstead.

Roger Corbin's involvement in public service officially began when he served as a member of the original Charter Revision Committee (1994), the body that set the foundation for the Nassau County Legislature, a historic new form of government, which changed the system for the first time in over 100 years. He again made history in 1995 when he ran for office and became the first Black Democrat to be elected to the newly formed Legislature. He was appointed by his colleagues to the position of Deputy Presiding Officer in 1999. Since his election to public office, Corbin has given a voice to the concerns of minorities in Nassau County.

For well over thirty years he has been a community activist and a strong advocate for people. He has always chosen "people" over government in many tough issues he faced during his political career. He has served as County Legislator for District 2 for the past ten years and is seeking re-election to his sixth term. Currently he serves as the Deputy Presiding Officer of the Second Term of the Nassau County Legislature, Chairman of the Government Service Committee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee and member of the Minority Affairs Committee.

Current achievements and accomplishments during his terms in office are:

- ✚ Allocated \$60 million towards economic revitalization for the Town of North Hempstead
- ✚ Youth gang initiatives with increased funding for youth programs
- ✚ Affordable housing – collaboration with the Town of North Hempstead
- ✚ Received 10 bond upgrades from Wall Street rating agencies – Nassau now has A+ rating and is also rated one of the safest places to live and raise a family
- ✚ Voted and passed legislation on many environmental initiatives including open space, green power, solar power exemptions
- ✚ Restored fiscal stability to the Nassau University Medical Center and community health centers
- ✚ Strengthened Megan's Law – protecting our vulnerable children against sex offenders in their communities
- ✚ Passed Charity Care Legislation – providing health care for the uninsured
- ✚ Anti-smoking legislation
- ✚ Eviction policy legislation

It gives Roger great pride to represent a community he grew up in, one that is very much a part of his everyday life. Roger Corbin graduated from Westbury High School and went on to attend Yankton College in South Dakota on a full track & field scholarship. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, serving in the Vietnam War. After his military service he attended Pace University, majoring in business law.

Cathryn Harris
Erase Racism

Cathryn Harris has been part of Erase Racism since January 2005. Ms. Harris is a project manager and is credited with having researched, authored and published ERASE Racism's "*Long Island Fair Housing: A State of Inequity.*" The publication highlighted the deficiencies in the fair housing enforcement systems; developed and implemented strategy to rectify inefficiencies in Federal, State and local enforcement systems, as well as working with County and local government on innovative approaches to community development.

Ms. Harris has commenced dialogues and negotiations with federal, state and local government agencies and officials to affect policy changes including DOJ, HUD, NYSDHR, NYSD and the New York AG's Office. In addition, she has collaborated closely with the president of the largest real estate brokerage firm on Long Island to rectify the role some realtors play in perpetuating segregation, including designing and implementing a survey program for real estate professionals. Ms. Harris has also outreached to and provided materials for local municipalities to improve community planning and development in ways that allow for healthy and integrated neighborhoods.

Ms. Harris also collaborated with another attorney to draft legislation intended to change human rights laws in Nassau and Suffolk Counties; she has also navigated the legislative process. The legislation is expected to be introduced Spring 2006. Ms. Harris has also designed a new fair housing policy, which Nassau County is adopting in March 2006 as official policy that will affect 22 County departments.

Diane Goins
Board Member NY ACORN

Few Democrat and Working Families Party (WFP) candidates have gotten elected in Long Island without her help. An 1199 SEIU member of 15 years and an LPN at Sun Harbor Nursing Home in Roslyn Heights, Diane gave little thought to becoming politically involved until she started attending union delegate assemblies and realized she should turn her passion for social issues into making actual changes in her neighborhood.

After a co-worker suggested that in addition to her union activism, she should become involved with ACORN, a community group that works to empower low and moderate-income families, Diane figured, "Why not?" This in turn led Diane to go join her local tenants' association to fight for more affordable housing in Hempstead and Long Island as well as to join the WFP in order to start electing people who would fight for the working class.

Ms. Goins campaigned in far eastern Suffolk County for newly elected Legislator Kate Browning. Closer to home, Diane helped elect Hempstead Mayor Wayne Hall, impressed with his promises to create more affordable housing and institute a local living wage bill that would provide higher wages for Village employees. After Hall's win, she watched, together with her own 1199 SEIU, ACORN and WFP, the Nassau County Legislature vote unanimously to pass a living wage law that would help thousands of homecare workers get a raise.

Ann Sullivan
NY ACORN

Ann Sullivan has been Lead Organizer of the Long Island Chapter of New York Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (NY ACORN - a project of New York Agency for Community Affairs) since 1996. With ACORN leadership, Ms. Sullivan helped to develop the Long Island Chapter of NY ACORN into an organization with neighborhood groups in Hempstead, Roosevelt, Uniondale and Freeport and membership throughout Nassau County and in Riverhead, Suffolk County. She organized around tenant/landlord issues, predatory lending, police and neighborhood safety, schools improvements, and worked closely with the Tri-State Transportation Campaign in the fight to stop cuts in bus services. Ms. Sullivan also developed ACORN affiliates in Kansas and Michigan.

NY ACORN has, under Ms. Sullivan's guidance, established a reputation as one of the leading fair housing advocates in Nassau County. When Long Island ACORN members reported that they had difficulty renting apartments in predominately white, affluent sections of Nassau County, Ms. Sullivan recruited ACORN members to volunteer for real estate phone testing: the results were significant. By and large, people of color received fewer return phone calls and were sometimes told apartments were unavailable *when white testers were encouraged to come and look at apartments.*

Based on these tests, Ms. Sullivan proceeded to organize a more systematic and extensive examination of the treatment that prospective renters experience in the Nassau County real estate market. She scheduled and ran almost two hundred tests throughout the course of many months, which yielded significant, consistent results. She compiled the results in a study entitled *Whites Only: Racial Discrimination in the Nassau County Real Estate Market and in the Public School System.* The study generated attention from the press, public officials, and other community groups.

Since the release of *Whites Only*, Ms. Sullivan has led protests against the offending real estate offices. As a result, numerous individuals have come forward with accounts of discrimination at the very real estate offices that LI ACORN tested. To further publicize this pervasive and insidious problem, Ms. Sullivan and LI ACORN co-organized a forum with the New York State Division of Human Rights.

Due to pressure from Ms. Sullivan and LI ACORN, a bill has been introduced in the State Legislature that will significantly raise the fines for discriminatory real estate companies. The Human Rights Law has, traditionally, provided for fines between \$100 and \$500 for discriminatory real estate agents. The new bill imposes fines between \$5,000 and \$10,000 for first-time offenders, and fines of \$10,000 to \$20,000 for second offenses. The bill also includes a provision stating that fines may go to the victims.

Prior to working for ACORN, Ms. Sullivan was president of Transportation Alternatives – where she started the Brooklyn Committee, organized the first Bike-to-Work Week, and helped plan the first Traffic Calming Conference in New York City. Ms. Sullivan has a Bachelor of Arts from Sarah Lawrence College and a Master of Fine Arts from New York University.

Dean Howard A. Glickstein
Touro Law Center

Howard Glickstein is Dean Emeritus and Professor of Law at Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center. Professor Glickstein assumed the post of Dean of Touro Law Center in January of 1986. He stepped down as Dean in July of 2004. Professor Glickstein is currently teaching Racism & American Law as well as Employment Discrimination Law. Prior to holding the position of Dean of Touro Law Center, Professor Glickstein was the Dean of the University of Bridgeport School of Law.

Professor Glickstein is a member of the bars of New York, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Early on in his prestigious career, Professor Glickstein was an associate with the New York law firm of Proskauer, Rose, Goetz & Mendelsohn. In addition, he served for a number of years as a staff attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Appeals and Research Section, where he helped draft the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He was also General Counsel of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and later staff director, before entering the academic world. As an academic, Professor Glickstein has held faculty and administrative positions at Notre Dame Law School, Howard University School of Law, and the University of Bridgeport School of Law.

In early 1973, Professor Glickstein prepared a brief in NAACP v. F.P.C., 520 F.2d 432 (C.A.D.C. 1975), on behalf of the NAACP and eleven other civil rights and women's rights organizations. In the Fall of 1973, Professor Glickstein argued the case in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. After the court handed down its decision in early 1975, Professor Glickstein prepared a cross petition for certiorari and a brief on the merits in the Supreme Court. He then argued the case before the U.S. Supreme Court in February of 1976.

The Court handed down its decision in May of 1976, 425 U.S. 662 (1976).

In addition to his various bar memberships, Professor Glickstein is a member of many professional organizations and boards. He is a member of the American Bar Association (former chairman of the Affirmative Action Committee, Section Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar); the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission; Fund for Modern Courts (Board of Directors); and the New York State Chief Judge's Commission on Fiduciary Appointments.

An eloquent writer, Professor Glickstein has authored numerous publications, on a wide range of topics, including unfair labor practices, the use of informers, labor laws, employment discrimination, class actions, inequalities in educational financing, and religiously affiliated law schools. His work has been published in prestigious journals and law reviews, including the Stanford Law Review and the Yale Law Journal.

Professor Glickstein holds an LL.M. from Georgetown Law School (1962), an LL.B. from Yale Law School (1954), and a B.A. from Dartmouth College (*Magna Cum Laude*, 1951). Professor Glickstein also attended Summer Sessions at both Oxford University, England (1953) and the City of London College, England (1956). While he was a student at Yale Law School, Professor Glickstein was a member of the Editorial Board of the *Yale Law Journal*. As a youngster, Professor Glickstein attended New York City public schools. Professor Glickstein also served our Nation as a member of the United States Army from August 1954 thru August 1956.