



Unfinished Business: Keeping the Promise of *Brown v. Board of Education*

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The Charles Sumner School, Washington, DC

BIOGRAPHIES

CHAKA FATTAH is an experienced lawmaker serving in his fifth term in the U.S. House of Representatives. Congressman Fattah represents the Second Congressional District of Pennsylvania, which includes parts of Philadelphia and Cheltenham Township, PA. He has spearheaded major initiatives in education policy. After working to gain bipartisan support from members of the House, Congressman Fattah scored a legislative victory when his first major education initiative, GEAR UP, was passed in 1998. GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) partners students from low-income schools with colleges and universities to help build an education pipeline for students to realize their college dreams. Including this fiscal year, there are 324 university partnerships and 36 state programs serving nearly 1.3 million students. Policy experts point to GEAR UP as one of the most innovative educational programs. The William H. Gray College Completion Grant is another Fattah legislative achievement designed to help nearly 18,000 low-income minority students successfully complete college. This program aims to retain college students by offering resources to help them complete college and be fully prepared for success in the workforce or in graduate school. To date, GEAR UP and the College Completion Grant have received nearly \$1.1 billion in total combined funding. In addition, Congressman Fattah co-chaired the Web-based Education Commission, which made recommendations into how the Internet is being used to enhance learning opportunities for all learners from pre-kindergarten through high school. He has served as a member of the Pennsylvania State Board of Education, on the Board of Trustees for Lincoln University, Temple University, Pennsylvania State University and Community College of Philadelphia. A life-long resident of Philadelphia, Congressman Fattah attended city public schools, the Community College of Philadelphia, the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School, and the University of Pennsylvania Fels School of State and Local Government where he earned a Master's Degree in Government Administration. He also completed the Senior Executive Program for State Officials at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

WENDY D. PURIEFOY is president of the Public Education Network (PEN), the nation's largest network of community-based school-reform organizations, where she has helped establish numerous foundations and systemic reform initiatives. Ms. Puriefoy graduated from William Smith College and holds three Master of Arts degrees from Boston University, in African American Studies, American Studies, and American Colonial History. Prior to joining PEN, she worked on the desegregation of the Boston public school system and was executive vice-president and chief operating officer of the Boston Foundation, a community endowment supporting public health/welfare, educational, cultural, environmental, and housing programs

HAROLD “BUD” HODGKINSON is the director for IEL’s Center for Demographic Policy. Bud conducts research on demographics and education and publishes numerous reports on his findings, including the seminal publication The Same Client: The Demographics of Service and Delivery Systems. He has directed eight major research projects for the Carnegie Commission, the U.S. Department of Education, the Exxon Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and the Atlantic Ritchfield Foundation. He is the author of 12 books, three of which have won national awards, and over 200 articles, for which, he was honored by the American Press Association. Bud is widely known as a lecturer and analyst of educational issues at all levels. His consulting assignments have included 600 colleges and universities, numerous public school systems, state agencies, state legislatures, city governments and corporations. He serves as Senior Advisor to the American Council on Education and as a Trustee at Hartwick College. Bud earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota, a Master’s degree from Wesleyan, and a doctorate from Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education.

JOHN C. BRITTAIN is a member of the National Board of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and a Senior Fellow in the American Leadership Forum (ALF). In the past, he has served as legal counsel to the Connecticut Conference of the NAACP, Chairperson of the Hartford Charter Revision Commission, Chairperson of the Hartford Human Rights Commission, Chairperson of the ACLU Academic Freedom Committee, and a long time member of the National Conference of Black Lawyers, and the National Bar Association. Brittain is one of the lawyers who filed the landmark *Sheff v. O’Neill* school desegregation case in 1989. This lawsuit challenged the racial, economic, and educational segregation between Hartford and the surrounding school districts as a denial of a student’s fundamental right to an equal education under the Connecticut Constitution. The Connecticut Supreme Court issued a precedent setting ruling in July 1996. A majority of justices found that the extreme racial and ethnic isolation of African American and Latino students denied the schoolchildren in Hartford their fundamental right to an equal educational opportunity. Brittain has devoted much of his time to public service in numerous leadership roles; his most notable, being that of President of the National Lawyers Guild from (1991-93). In 1993, the NAACP awarded Professor Brittain the coveted William Robert Ming Advocacy Award for legal service to the NAACP without a fee. The Ming award was named after a former African American law professor at the University of Chicago and a brilliant civil rights lawyer. From August of 1999 to May 2002, Brittain was Dean of Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas. He returned to his passion for teaching and scholarship as a tenured member of the faculty at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law.

John C. Brittan is a native of Norwalk, Connecticut, and a product of its public schools. Brittain earned his B.A. and J.D degrees from Howard University in 1966 and 1969, respectively.

DAVID RUSK is an independent consultant on urban and suburban policy. Since 1993 he has spoken and consulted in over 120 US communities. Abroad, Rusk has lectured on urban problems in England; Berlin, Stuttgart, and Frankfurt, Germany; and in Toronto and Victoria, Canada. In 1997 he served as an advisor to the government of South Africa on metropolitan governance in Johannesburg, Capetown, and Durban. During 2000 he was a visiting professor at the University of Amsterdam and Delft Technical University in The Netherlands. From 1963-68 he was a full-time civil rights and anti-poverty worker with the Washington Urban League. He then entered the U.S. Department of Labor, serving as the Manpower Administration's legislative and program development director. In 1971 he and his wife, the former Delcia Bence of Buenos Aires, Argentina, moved to Albuquerque, where they raised their three children. Rusk went on to serve as a federal official in the New Mexico legislature (1975-77) and mayor of Albuquerque (1977-81). Rusk attended the University of California at Berkeley, graduating Phi Beta Kappa as the outstanding undergraduate student in economics (1962).

RICHARD D. KAHLENBERG is a Senior Fellow at The Century Foundation, where he writes about education, equal opportunity, and civil rights. Previously, Kahlenberg was a Fellow at the Center for National Policy, a visiting associate professor of constitutional law at George Washington University, and a legislative assistant to Senator Charles S. Robb (D-VA). He is the author of *All Together Now: Creating Middle Class Schools through Public School Choice*, *The Remedy: Class, Race, and Affirmative Action*, *Broken Contract: A Memoir of Harvard Law School*. In addition, Kahlenberg is the editor of four Century Foundation books: *America's Untapped Resource: Low-Income Students in Higher Education*; *Public School Choice vs. Private School Vouchers*; *Divided We Fail: Coming Together Through Public School Choice*; *The Report of The Century Foundation Task Force on the Common School* and *A Notion at Risk: Preserving Public Education as an Engine for Social Mobility*. He is currently working on a biography of educator Albert Shanker for Columbia University Press, with the support of the Hewlett and Broad foundations. Kahlenberg's articles on education and affirmative action have been published in the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, the New Republic, and elsewhere. Kahlenberg has appeared on ABC, CBS, CNN, FOX, C-SPAN, MSNBC, and NPR. Kahlenberg graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College in 1985. Then he went on to spend a year at the University of Nairobi School of Journalism as a Rotary Scholar. He graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School in 1989.

JIM FERG-CADIMA develops policy positions for MALDEF and performs legislative advocacy at the national level for Latino civil rights in the areas of education and employment. Mr. Ferg-Cadima served his term as co-chair of the Hispanic Education Coalition. Previously, Mr. Ferg-Cadima was a Marshall-Brennan Fellow teaching constitutional law at Ballou STAY High School and a Fellow at the Advancement Project

working on ending abusive police practices targeted at communities of color. He received his law degree from the American University Washington College of Law.

JEANNE ALLEN is president of the Center for Education Reform (CER). She is consulted regularly by lawmakers and national leaders in efforts to improve America's schools. Allen's two decades of education experience and expertise places her at the forefront of the drive to bring substantive change to education. She has held senior posts on Capitol Hill and the U.S. Department of Education. Allen founded the Center for Education Reform to fill the void that existed in the nation for sound leadership on education reform. CER, an independent non-profit advocacy organization, is the nation's leading authority on education reform and provides important tools for those seeking to create reform-oriented change, and bring together diverse forces dedicated to making schools better. She is the author of *The School Reform Handbook: How to Improve Your Schools*. Allen also serves as an advisor to several national and community-based organizations. She is a frequent commentator in print and broadcast media having appeared on shows ranging from *Good Morning America*, *Nightline*, the *Today Show* to *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer* and *The O'Reilly Factor*. Her commentaries and thoughts appear in the more than 200 publications yearly, including *The Washington Post*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *Investor's Business Daily*, *The Dallas Morning News*, and *Newsday*. Allen received her bachelors in political science from Dickinson College.

DR. ROSSI RAY-TAYLOR is the Executive Director of the Minority Student Achievement Network, a coalition of 21 suburban school districts committed to eliminating the gap in achievement among students. His work combines Dr. Ray-Taylor's unique background in the business side of schools, pedagogy, leading change and educational research. A popular public speaker, she has been featured speaker for the Annenberg Conference on High School Achievement Gap at Brown University and the American Youth Policy Forum conference for policy makers on Capitol Hill. Prior to assuming the position of executive director Dr Ray-Taylor was Superintendent of Ann Arbor Public Schools and prior to that Deputy Superintendent for Lansing Public Schools. Her professional background includes curriculum development, program evaluation, testing system design and validation. Dr. Ray-Taylor is also affiliated consultant with Public Sector Consultants a private Michigan based corporation that provides policy research, evaluation, planning and strategic counsel to state and local government, school districts, colleges and universities among other clients. Rossi Ray-Taylor is a proven innovative educator with a long track record in the academic, business and research sides of education. Dr. Ray-Taylor holds Bachelors and Masters Degrees from Michigan State University. Her Doctorate of Philosophy in Educational Psychology with a specialty in Learning and Cognition and in measurement and evaluation is also from Michigan State.

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