

**Summit on
Legal and Legislative Strategies to Eliminate the Achievement Gap
Hosted by Congressman Robert C. “Bobby” Scott
Monday, December 14, 2009
1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
2141 Rayburn House Office Building**

**Panel 1: The Past: Establishing a Foundation
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

This panel will address the following questions: What are the legal precedents set in *Brown v Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954) (ending racial segregation in public schools), *PARC v. State of Pennsylvania*, 343 F.Supp. 279 (E.D. Pa. 1972) (requiring free and appropriate education of children with disabilities) and *Mills v. Board of Education of the District of Columbia*, 348 F.Supp. 866 (D.D.C. 1972) (requiring free and appropriate education of children with disabilities)? Can these precedents be applied to a consistent and acknowledged pattern of under-educating low-income and minority students? Does the very existence of an achievement gap demonstrate that low-income and minority children have been deprived of equal educational opportunities in violation of the U.S. Constitution?

Nancy Jones, Legislative Attorney, American Law Division, Congressional Research Service

Katherine Beh Neas, Vice President, Government Relations, Easter Seals

Kathleen Boundy, Co-Director, Center for Law and Education

John Brittain, Visiting Professor of Law, The University of the District of Columbia David A.

Clarke School of Law

Tanya Clay House, Public Policy Director, Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

Veronica Rivera, Legislative Staff Attorney, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund

J. Robert Carr, Executive Director, National Bar Association

Cynthia Robbins, Co-Founder, Racial Justice Initiative, TimeBanks USA

Panel 2: The Present: Demonstrating the Achievement Gap
2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

This panel will address the following questions: What is the current status of educational achievement by socio-economic, racial and ethnic status? What are the short- and long-term disadvantages inflicted on low-income and minority students who are victims of the achievement gap?

Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau

John Payton, President and Director-Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

David J. Goldberg, Senior Counsel and Senior Policy Analyst, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights

Marian Wright Edelman, President, Children's Defense Fund

Russlynn H. Ali, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education

Panel 3: The Future: Where We Go From Here
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

This panel will address the following questions: Is it possible to eliminate the achievement gap? Are there cost-effective alternatives to present government policies that would result in the elimination, or at least a significant reduction, of the achievement gap? How do we determine when the achievement gap has been closed: academic achievement; high school graduation; college entrance; something else? What type of legislation do we need to pass to shape a country in which all children receive a quality education and there is no longer an achievement gap based on economic status, race or ethnicity?

Roberto Rodríguez, Special Assistant to the President for Education, White House Domestic Policy Counsel

Governor Bob Wise, President, Alliance for Excellent Education

Dr. LaRuth Gray, Government Relations and Legislative Liaison, National Alliance of Black School Educators and Scholar in Residence, New York University

Delia Pompa, Vice President for Education, National Council of La Raza

Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond, Member of the Board of Directors, National Council on Educating Black Children and Professor, Stanford University School of Education

Rong Sorn, Executive Director, Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia

Dr. Carol Brunson Day, President, National Black Child Development Institute

Lillian Sparks, Executive Director, National Indian Education Association

Lily Eskelsen, Vice President, National Education Association

Sharon Lewis, Senior Disability Policy Advisor, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor

Amy Wilkins, Principal Partner, The Education Trust

Dan Cardinali, President, Communities in Schools