



The President



The Professor



& The Judge

Reaching for Post-Racialism: What's behind the debate?

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2010

5:00-6:30pm - Columbia Law School JG 101

In the last year our nation witnessed two prominent events: the inauguration of President Obama and the appointment of Justice Sonia Sotomayor. As the first Black President, and the first Latina on the Supreme Court, Obama and Sotomayor's ascent to these prominent positions fueled discussions about post-racialism in the United States. During this time we have also grappled with racial tensions concerning the arrest of Professor Henry Louis Gates at his Boston home, the Supreme Court's decision in *Ricci v. DeStefano*, and the racialization of the healthcare debate. This event will explore these topics and more through a discussion about "post-racialism" in America. Critical Race Scholars Professor Kimberlé Crenshaw and Professor Ian Haney Lopez will share brief remarks and insights, and then lead a discussion about "post-racialism." After the main event, participants are welcome to stay for a post-discussion reception.

PANEL PARTICIPANTS

Professor Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw

Columbia Law School

Kimberlé Crenshaw, Professor of Law at UCLA and at Columbia Law School, is a leading authority in the area of Civil Rights, Black feminist legal theory, and race, racism and the law. Her groundbreaking work on "intersectionality" has traveled globally and was influential in the drafting of the equality clause in the South African Constitution. Crenshaw is actively involved in the coordination of the upcoming 4th Annual Critical Race Studies Symposium: "Intersectionality: Challenging Theory, Reframing Politics and Transforming Movements."

Professor Ian F. Haney Lopez

Berkeley Law, University of California

Ian Haney Lopez is the John H. Boalt Professor of Law at the University of California, Berkeley, where he teaches in the areas of race and constitutional law. He has published ground breaking books on the social, and specifically legal, construction of race. His current research examines the emergence and operation of colorblindness in U.S. constitutional law as a harbinger of a new racial ideology aimed at legitimating and preserving the racial status quo.

Space is limited! Please RSVP by January 18, 2010 to postracialism@gmail.com and visit the event blog at <http://blogs.law.columbia.edu/postracialism/>. Participants are encouraged to participate on the pre-event blog, which will provide materials to help frame the discussion.

This event is sponsored by Columbia's Latina/o Law Student's Association (LaLSA), Black Law Student's Association (BLSA), Civil Rights Society, National Black Law Journal (NBLJ), and the African American Policy Forum