

# Summit for Civil Rights

May 2-3, 2019

Rutgers Labor Education Center Auditorium  
New Brunswick, NJ

## Thursday, May 2

### Opening Remarks 1:00 – 1:30

#### Co-Chairs:

Ashley Bennett, Atlantic County Freeholder, Chair of the Fannie Lou Hamer Women's March

Theodore (Ted) Shaw, Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Civil Rights at the University of North Carolina School of Law at Chapel Hill

**Welcome to Rutgers** - Adrienne Eaton, Dean of the School of Management and Labor Relations, Rutgers University

**Welcome to New Jersey** - Stephen M. Sweeney, President of the New Jersey Senate

**Opening Prayer / Spiritual Reflection** - Rev. Willie Dwayne Francois III, Senior Pastor, Mount Zion Baptist Church of Pleasantville, New Jersey

#### Goals of Summit / Overview of Format

### Why Race and Place Matter I 1:30 – 2:30

*Progressives are excited about the prospects of a forward-looking agenda to combat economic inequality, climate change and array of social issues in the coming years. Speakers and panelists will make the case that ignoring America's enduring racial divide by place, power and opportunity will stymie a progressive agenda and undermine the multiracial solidarity needed to advance such a movement.*

**Opening Keynote** - Sherrilyn Ifill, President, and Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

Why Race and Place (Still) Matter

### Presentation and Panel Discussion

American politics 6 months after midterms and 18 months before presidential: *What we learned from the last two national elections about:*

- *Class, race, place*
- *Role of cities and suburbs*
- *Role of minority and black voters*
- *What can we expect in the coming two years?*
- *How does this inform our thinking about multi racial politics?*
- *And policies of racial justice and economic opportunity?*

Presenter

- Professor Myron Orfield, Institute for Metropolitan Opportunity

Panelists

- James Gee, Chief of Staff, the Honorable Bonnie Watson Coleman
- Petee Talley, Secretary-Treasurer, Ohio State AFL-CIO (retired)
- William Spriggs, Chief Economist, AFL-CIO and Howard University
- Rajiv Parikh, Partner, Genova Burns and General Counsel, New Jersey Democratic State Committee

Moderator

- Deborah Goetell, Hennepin County Commission

## Break

### Why Race and Place Matter II 3:00 – 5:00

#### Panel discussion

The state of racial segregation in America today and why it (still) matters:

How and why Segregation in Housing, Schools, and Work still drive inequality.

- Why should we care?
- What does it have to do with: *mass incarceration, education attainment, economic inequality, labor and wage disparities and exploitation*
- Who benefits / profits and why?
- Can we have a progressive agenda and ignore segregation?

Presenters / Panelist

- Sheryll Cashin, Georgetown University Law Center
- Douglas Massey, Princeton University
- Khalil Gibran Muhammad, Harvard Kennedy School

Moderator

- John Brittain, UDC David A. Clarke School of Law

**Closing Keynote** – Rebecca S. “Becky” Pringle , Vice President, National Education Association

*The Case for Going Big and Bold in pursuit of Racial Justice and Economic Opportunity*

### Thursday, May 2 - Reception - 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

At a special event, participants will have the opportunity to join us in celebrating the civil rights

contributions of **Majority Whip Congressman James E Clyburn - *Opening the Vaults of Opportunity***

**And a tribute to Women in Leadership - *Recognizing Women in Civil Rights Leadership and Power***

- Pierrette “Petee” Talley, Immediate past Secretary-Treasurer, Ohio State AFL-CIO
- Stephanie Lawson-Muhammad, South Orange-Maplewood School District
- Ashley Bennett, Atlantic County Freeholder

Special Guest Speaker **Barbara Ransby**, Award Winning Biographer of Ella Baker and Essie Robeson

Presented by **Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman**

With Comments from **Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee**

Spiritual Reflection by **Bishop John Gandy**

## Friday, May 3

### Opening and Welcome 9:00 – 9:15

### What's Working - Report from the Field 9:15 – 10:45

*Drawing from our civil rights past, participants at the last Summit for Civil Rights called for a three-pronged approach employing litigation, organizing and legislation to advance policies to reduce racial and economic disparities in schools, housing, and opportunity.*

*Litigators, organizers, and local leaders in a number of states have been advancing campaigns that include these three elements.*

#### Opening Keynote - Keith Ellison, Attorney General of Minnesota

Panelists will describe campaigns in New Jersey and Minnesota to desegregate the public schools using a lawsuit along with organizing and engaging the legislature.

#### Panelists

- Myron Orfield, Institute for Metropolitan Opportunity
- Elise Boddie, Professor of Law, Rutgers School of Law, Founder of the New Jersey Coalition for Diverse and Inclusive Schools
- Rucker Johnson, Professor of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley
- Roslyn Mickelson, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- Senator Nia Gill, New Jersey State Senate
- Amy Wells, Columbia Teachers College

#### Moderator

- Stephanie Lawson-Muhammad, South Orange-Maplewood School District

### Break 10:45

### Turning the Progressive Agenda into a Civil Rights Cause I 11:00 – 12:30

*The new majority in Congress, presidential candidates, and advocacy groups are advancing policy proposals around economic inequality, climate change, education, and jobs.*

*But what has our experience and history revealed to us about taking a “race neutral” approach to these issues? Will progressive programs engage and mobilize a multiracial constituency? And do these policy proposals meaningfully attack inequality and address structural disparities in wealth and power perpetuated by modern segregation? Yesterday’s discussion revealed how “gaps” in our society (wealth, health, education, work, etc.) are driven by segregation. How then can we advance an agenda that is meaningful, powerful, and unifying without addressing this central structure of inequality?*

#### Presenter/s

- John Bracey, Professor of History, W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst
- Kali Bracey, Litigation Partner, Jenner & Block
- A multi-generational conversation about the issues of race and class in America, historically and today.

#### Introduction

Mike Kruglik, Building One America

### Panelist

- Dr. Kimberly McGlenn, Councilmember, Jenkintown, PA
- Rich Tolson, Director, New Jersey Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers
- Clayola Brown, President, A. Philip Randolph Institute
- Paul Jargowsky, Director, Center for Urban Research and Urban Education at Rutgers University

### Moderator

- Lisa Rice, President, and CEO, National Fair Housing Alliance
  
- How do the issues of segregation in housing, schools, and work and infrastructure investments drive the “gaps” in wealth, health, education, and criminal justice?
- How do we use these policies to close or eliminate these gaps?

**Afternoon Keynote** - Making the national progressive agenda a Civil Rights Cause for Jobs, Freedom, *and* the Environment - Congressman Frank Pallone

### Lunch and Group Discussion 12:30 – 1:45

- Group I           Housing
- Group II           Schools
- Group III          Infrastructure and jobs

Each group is tasked with examining each of these issue areas for the following questions:

- *How are disparities “gaps” driven by segregation in these areas?*
- *Why is this important to you? Why do you care?*
- *What are the policies and strategies for closing or eliminating the gaps?*
- *What opportunities are there in your area or at the national level?*
- *What are you willing to do?*

### Report, Reaction and Action 2:00 – 4:00

#### Report Back

- Group I           Housing
- Group II           Schools
- Group III          Infrastructure and jobs

**Evaluation** Next Steps (Actions)

**Closing Keynote** - Derrick Johnson, President and CEO, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

*Invitation to join the fight for Civil Rights*