

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

W. E. B. DU BOIS INSTITUTE FOR AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN RESEARCH
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Barker Center • 12 Quincy Street • Cambridge, MA 02138-3879

For Immediate Release
August 17, 2004

Contact: Dell M. Hamilton, 617.495-3611,
dhamilt@fas.harvard.edu,

Top Social Justice Experts Gather on Martha's Vineyard to Commemorate 50th Anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education* Barack Obama To Make Special Appearance

Cambridge – On August, 25, 2004, the nation's top civil rights lawyers, economists, and scholars of the black experience gather on Martha's Vineyard in a panel discussion to examine the continuing legacy of the Supreme Court's 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision to abolish state-sanctioned segregation. Barack Obama, Illinois General Assembly Senator, will also make remarks at the event.

Dubbed "*Brown v. Board of Education: Mission Accomplished?*," the panel discussion commemorates the 50th Anniversary of *Brown v. Board* and promises to deliver a lively and provocative analysis of how this landmark decision forever changed the face of American society.

Fresh from his rousing keynote address at the Democratic National Convention recently held in Boston, Barack Obama, currently in a hot race for U.S. Senate against former presidential candidate Alan Keyes, will also make a special appearance at *Brown v. Board*.

Moderated by Charles J. Ogletree, Jr., author of *All Deliberate Speed: Reflections on the First Half-Century of Brown v. Board of Education* and the Jesse Climenko Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, the panel includes Henry Louis Gates Jr., director of the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research and chair of Harvard University's Department of African and African American Studies.

The panel also includes Sheryll Cashin, author of *The Failures of Integration: How Race and Class are Undermining the American Dream* and Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center; Lani Guinier, author of *Lift Every Voice: Turning a Civil Rights Setback into a New Vision of Social Justice* and Bennett Boskey Professor of Law at Harvard Law School; Caroline M. Hoxby, editor of *The Economics of School Choice* and Professor of Economics at Harvard University; and Abigail Thernstrom, co-author of *Closing the Racial Gap in Learning* and Senior Fellow at the Manhattan Institute.

The event is co-sponsored by Harvard University's W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research and Harvard Law School's Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice.

Who: Charles J. Ogletree, Jr., Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Sheryll Cashin, Lani Guinier, Caroline M. Hoxby, and Abigail Thernstrom. Special guest appearance by Barack Obama.

What: *Brown v. Board of Education: Mission Accomplished?* A panel discussion with a book-signing and reception immediately following.

When: Wednesday, August 25, 2004, 5 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. Book-signing/reception begin at 6:30 P.M.

Where: Old Whaling Church, Edgartown, 89 Main Street, Martha's Vineyard.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

W. E. B. DU BOIS INSTITUTE FOR AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN RESEARCH
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Barker Center • 12 Quincy Street • Cambridge, MA 02138-3879

Ticket Info: Tickets are \$50, \$20 for students and seniors with I.D. Tickets can be purchased at the door. For more information, please call the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute at 617.495.4113.