

**For immediate release:
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**Civil rights organizations call for march and rally at the
U.S. Supreme Court to save *Brown v. Board of Education*
and defend affirmative action and integration**

PRESS CONFERENCE

**Today, 1PM - University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
on the steps of the Michigan Union, 530 State Street, Ann Arbor**

**Today, 4PM – Cass Tech High School, Detroit
2421 2nd Ave.**

United for Equality and Affirmative Action (UEAA), the umbrella organization of the student intervenors in *Grutter v. Bollinger*, the University of Michigan Law School affirmative action case, and the Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action & Integration and Fight for Equality By Any Means Necessary (BAMN), will hold a press conference Monday, December 2, 2002 at 1:00PM at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor on the steps of the Michigan Union to respond to the Court's decision to hear the *Grutter* case. These organizations, UEAA, BAMN, Law Students for Affirmative Action – and 41 individually named students of all races, have intervened in *Grutter v. Bollinger* to raise the fundamental argument for integration and equality as the motivating principle for affirmative action. The students' arguments focus on the promise of *Brown v. Board of Education*, the re-segregation of higher education in California and Texas without affirmative action, and the current inequality and discrimination in K-12 education, in the LSAT, and on undergraduate campuses.

The groups will announce their intention to hold a National Civil Rights March to the U.S. Supreme Court to support and defend affirmative action on the date the Court hears *Grutter* (The date of the oral argument will be announced at the press conference and will be available on the Supreme Court's website). Reverend Jesse Jackson, founder of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, Kim Gandy, President of the National Organization for Women (NOW), Reverend Al Sharpton, and other civil rights leaders have pledged to mobilize and march to the U.S. Supreme Court with these organizations.

Agnes Aleobua, University of Michigan senior, Michigan Student Assembly representative, and one of 41 individually named student defendants, said, "Michigan will lead the nation in the defense of integration and the fight for equality. We will mobilize

students and youth from this campus, this state, and from across the nation to march on Washington. The Supreme Court will hear our voices fighting for justice, equality, and democracy within and outside of the hearing. We will prevail if we mobilize.”

Shanta Driver, National Spokesperson of BAMN, said, “We urge everyone who stands for integration and equality to mobilize for the march on the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court hearing represents a tremendous opportunity for the growing new civil rights movement to assert our determination to defend the gains towards progress we have made. This case will determine whether *Brown v. Board of Education* is real or is a dead letter.”

Miranda Massie, attorney for the student intervening defendants, agreed saying, “Affirmative action plans are desegregation plans for higher education. The student intervenors will argue before the U.S. Supreme Court that integration is this nation’s most compelling interest.”

The students will host a National Civil Rights Summit and Conference at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, from January 20-26, 2003, the kickoff of which will be a national march and rally on MLK Day at the University of Michigan. See our website for more details – www.bamn.com – or call 313-407-4865.

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