Pipeline Crisis
Winning Strategies
Closing the Social & Economic Divide for Young Black Men

Third Plenary Session

Friday, July 11, 2008
Pier Sixty at Chelsea Piers
New York
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Pipeline Crisis/Winning Strategies
2008 National Platform
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Welcome

Welcome to the third plenary session of the Pipeline Crisis/Winning Strategies initiative on young black men.

The Initiative

From a modest start two years ago, this initiative has become a broad-based collaborative committed to closing the stark divide between America’s promise and the social, economic and political realities of young black men. The initiative seeks to stimulate opportunities for the millions of disconnected youth.

The Pipeline Crisis/Winning Strategies initiative is an incubator project of the Fund for the City of New York (“FCNY”). Earlier this year, the United Way of New York provided the initiative a small planning grant to help it develop a strategic plan. With the grant money, Community Resource Exchange, a non-profit that provides advice to community-based organizations, helped the initiative outline an organizational structure; staffing needs; a protocol for managing the five volunteer-led working groups; a fundraising model; and a proposed implementation timeline.

Representative Projects

In March 2007, we assembled an impressive group of accomplished people, from which working groups were formed. Our working groups of lawyers and bankers have forged partnerships with the human service and academic communities to collaborate on critical needs in five target areas: (1) early care & education; (2) public school education; (3) employment & economic development; (4) criminal justice, prison reform & reentry; and (5) opportunities for high-potential youth.

In identifying ways for the private sector to get involved, the working groups have been guided by four basic principles. First, our policy and program initiatives must be grounded in evidence. Second, we will not displace or duplicate work already being done by experts and professionals in these fields. Third, we will not narrow our focus to a search for the “silver bullet.” Fourth, we will embrace both a local and a national focus.

Among the projects that have been generated or inspired by Pipeline Crisis/Winning Strategies are the following:
In partnership with United Way of New York City, our Early Care & Education Working Group has started a fund to support high-quality early care programs in communities with high concentrations of black male children. The “Early Care Fund,” which recently received its first significant contribution, will invest in strategies that increase the number of nationally-accredited early care programs; provide skills training for early care educators and administrators; and promote the physical and mental well-being of families and children in these communities.

With the help of Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation, The Schott Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The New York Community Trust and other philanthropies, our Public Education Working Group is pursuing a collaborative of funders, which will pool charitable resources to identify, support, and promote successful programs and policies addressing the academic achievement of low-income black males in two target areas, Central Harlem and Central Brooklyn. This group has also received grants from Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation to explore measures to stem the tide of truancy and drop-outs in New York City’s public schools.

At the urging of the Pipeline Crisis/Winning Strategies initiative, the New York City Bar Association created a Task Force on Employment Opportunities for the Previously Incarcerated. In March 2008, the Task Force, which is chaired by former Bar President Michael A. Cooper, released a report encouraging legal employers to take the lead in providing employment opportunities for people recently released from prisons as a means of helping the formerly incarcerated reintegrate into the workforce, their communities and their families. The Task Force is now exploring ways to implement its recommendations. With this step in place, the initiative is seeking reforms to ease the nearly insurmountable barrier to hiring formerly incarcerated people in financial institutions and is exploring with an international insurer an insurance product covering employers who hire ex-offenders.

Our High Potential Youth Working Group has launched a program to help middle school students increase their performance on the entrance exam for New York City’s selective public high schools and to gain admission to these schools.

To further the work of this initiative, The Goldman Sachs Foundation established the Winning Strategies Fund, a funding vehicle to strengthen organizations that are assisting young black men on the path to higher education and employment. The Fund selected eight organizations to receive grants to further their work. Each was selected based on a record of: commitment to addressing the educational, social and employment status of young black men; positive outcomes with the target group; and potential for future growth and increased impact.
Welcome, continued

Today’s Program

Senator Charles E. Schumer and Congressman Charles B. Rangel will be discussing their legislative agendas and how the private sector can help bridge the gap between America’s promise and the dire circumstances of her disadvantaged youth. Chuck Schumer, New York’s senior U.S. Senator, has been a strong proponent of strengthening the federal job training program, increasing job training services for disconnected youth, and creating economic incentives to draw low-income fathers into the workforce and to keep them there. Congressman Charlie Rangel, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, is a strong advocate for a comprehensive federal response to the problems confronting the millions of disconnected young people who are drop-outs, unemployed or incarcerated.

We are also honoring three people who have advanced important social initiatives targeting or significantly impacting young black men:

1. Bard College President Leon Botstein is being honored for The Bard Prison Initiative. Over a twenty year period, college-in-prison programs cut reincarceration rates from 60% to less than 15%. In 1995, however, funding for prison college programs fell victim to electoral politics’ “get tough on crime” rhetoric, resulting in the closure of 350 prison college programs nationwide. Bard, a four-year liberal arts college located in the Hudson Valley, funds college programs inside two maximum-security and two medium-security prisons, enrolling over 100 offenders in a rigorous liberal arts curriculum. Bard, which conferred its first B.A. degrees in May 2008, is one of only a few existing prison-in-college programs of its kind in the United States.

2. CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein is being honored for The City University of New York Black Male Initiative. In 2004, Chancellor Goldstein set up a task force to deal with a problem that colleges and universities throughout the country were confronting—the low rates of recruitment, retention, and graduation of black men. In an increasingly shrinking pool of candidates, other colleges and universities focused on recruiting and retaining black men, but Chancellor Goldstein sought solutions to the problems decimating their ranks in higher education: discrimination against them and their high rates of joblessness and incarceration. It was a bold move because very few schools have been willing to adopt programs explicitly geared to black males.
3. Dr. Roland G. Fryer is being honored for the *New York City Million Motivation Campaign*. Dr. Fryer, a Harvard University economist, came up with the bold idea of rebranding academic achievement as a means to motivate low-achieving students. His method: use economic incentives to change the demand for education by making students want to learn. His tool: cell phones, something kids want and use. In February 2008, Dr. Fryer launched pilots in seven middle schools, giving 2,500 students free cell phones that operate based on how well the students perform in school. Early returns are quite promising: students are working harder and performing better. The *Million Motivation Campaign* was selected from a field of 432 international contenders as winner of the prestigious Cannes Lion Titanium Award for best “Breakthrough Idea of 2008”.

We applaud these efforts because, in the search for solutions, our honorees have neither been constrained by convention nor blind to the historical underpinning of modern-day social problems.

There are innumerable historical ways our institutions and policies have advantaged some groups—with benefits inconspicuously flowing to them—and disadvantaged others. Housing patterns have played a significant role in this. After World War II, real estate practices and federal regulations directed government-guaranteed loans to segregated housing suburbs like Levittown. With the help of federal policies and funding, suburban homeowners were able to reap the advantages of wealth accumulation as their home values increased. This wealth was passed down from parents to children, and the power and advantage it conferred became the starting point for the next generation. This advantaged some, but handicapped others.

Today, the net worth of black families is about 1/8 that of white families. Much of this difference is in housing values. According to new studies, when the “family wealth gap” is taken into account, there is no difference in test scores, graduation rates, and other measures between blacks and whites. Wealth then, more than any other measure, is responsible for continuing the accumulated effects of past inequalities. Well-meaning policies that benignly ignore race serve merely to perpetuate these inequities. This is what Justice Blackmun was getting at in *Bakke*, when he wrote, “In order to get beyond racism we must first take account of race. There is no other way.”

Those we honor today understand the historical context for our continuing struggle against the accumulated weight of past inequalities.

Others in the private sector have also taken significant steps to address the many problems young black men face. Many law and financial service
firms have made substantial charitable gifts, created volunteer, mentoring and internships programs, and given countless in-kind contributions to address these problems. However, two law firms and one financial service institution deserve special mention for their extraordinary contributions to sustained efforts to significantly increase the number of black men in the pipeline to higher education.

- In April 2008, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom committed $9.6 million to a 10-year program with The City College of New York that is designed to provide students of diverse racial and socioeconomic backgrounds with the education, groundwork, and experience to gain admission to competitive law schools. The program includes financial assistance, mentoring, paid summer internships and an honors curriculum.

- In May 2008, Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP partnered with Hunter College on a program to prepare students for admission to competitive law schools through academic preparation, intensive LSAT training, and mentoring programs.

- Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation has made an initial $1 million investment in a program to develop black male teachers committed to working in New York City public schools. The grant, which was announced as part of the Clinton Global Initiative in conjunction with The Schott Foundation for Public Education and The City University of New York Black Male Initiative, funds the first phase of a new program, Teachers as Leaders, which promotes teaching as a career path in both American cities and underserved regions around the world. The first phase was launched at five campuses of The City University of New York.

**The 2008 National Platform**

Today, we are also rolling out the *Pipeline Crisis/Winning Strategies 2008* National Platform, a comprehensive statement of policy and program reforms to address the panoply of obstacles to young black men’s pathways to success. The 2008 National Platform covers the entire spectrum of ills confronting young black men. The recommendations of the 2008 National Platform result from evidence-based strategies that have been proven to be effective. We offer this wide-ranging slate of proposals as a start—not a panacea—down the long road to recovering the economic, social and political well-being of young black men.
The National Platform proposals seek to address some of the country’s most harmful policy choices of past decades. Two decades of misguided drug enforcement policies have hit black men and their communities hardest, persistently separating them from their families and crippling their job prospects.

What happens to young black men affects the well-being of their children, families and communities. Seven million U.S. children have fathers in the criminal justice system. With young black men bearing the brunt of disproportionate imprisonment, black children are 9 times more likely to have a parent incarcerated than white children. And children with an incarcerated parent are 6 times more likely to wind up in prison themselves, thus repeating a perpetual cycle of poverty, joblessness and incarceration.

Most black children are born into poverty and the poorest tend to enter grade school without some of the early lessons needed to succeed. Thus, educational inequality begins before these children ever enter grade school and grows exponentially after they enroll. Allocating more of our nation’s resources to high-quality early childhood programs and better public schools will pay for themselves and benefit the nation’s neediest children the most.

The entrenched racial disparities in who lives in the worst neighborhoods, who attends the worst public schools, who goes to prison the most, and who is the last to be hired and the first to be fired are well-documented. This crisis threatens the security of our families, our communities and our nation. The Pipeline Crisis/Winning Strategies 2008 National Platform aims to contribute to the ever-growing consensus that, as a meritocratic society, we can no longer afford to ignore glaring inequities in who is punished and who is helped.

The response to this initiative continues to be extraordinary and we remain steadfast in our conviction that private sector resources can be harnessed to help solve the social, economic and political problems confronting young black men.

In reconvening this gathering, we are once again fortunate to be led by Harvard Law Professor Charles J. Ogletree, Jr., a preeminent advocate in the fight for racial justice.

William J. Snipes

William E. Schroeder
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AGENDA

I. Welcome & Introductions

II. Presentation of National Platform
   Prof. Charles J. Ogletree, Jr., Moderator

   Early Childhood Education — Dorothy Stoneman
   Education — Dr. Ronald Ferguson, Dr. Pedro A. Noguera
   Criminal Justice — Gladys Carrión, Marc Mauer
   Economic Development — Sheena Wright

III. Dialogue with Elected Officials
   Senator Charles E. Schumer (D, NY)
   Congressman Charles B. Rangel (D, NY)

Winning Strategies Honorees, 2008

For courage under pressure: 
   Dr. Matthew Goldstein
   Chancellor, CUNY
   Presented by: Hon. Carol Robles-Román

For exemplary leadership: 
   Dr. Leon Botstein
   President, Bard College
   Presented by: Barry Kamins

For groundbreaking innovation: 
   Dr. Roland G. Fryer
   Professor of Economics, Harvard University
   Presented by: Dean Kurt Schmoke
“For these are all our children. We will all profit by, or pay for, whatever they become.”

— James Baldwin
Charles Ogletree *(Moderator)* .......................................................... 16-17

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Professor Charles Ogletree, the Harvard Law School Jesse Climenko Professor of Law and Vice Dean for Clinical Programs, is a prominent legal theorist who has achieved an international reputation by taking a hard look at complex issues of law and by working to secure the rights guaranteed by the Constitution for everyone equally under the law. Professor Ogletree earned an M.A. and B.A. in Political Science from Stanford University and a J.D. from Harvard Law School. He holds numerous honorary doctorates of law. Charles Ogletree served as staff attorney, Training Director, Trial Chief and Deputy Director for the District of Columbia Public Defender Service.

Professor Ogletree’s many writings include: *All Deliberate Speed: Reflections on the First Half-Century of Brown v. Board of Education*, co-authoring the award-winning book, *Beyond the Rodney King Story: An Investigation of Police Conduct in Minority Communities*, as well as frequent contributions to scholarly works, publications, and commentaries that have appeared in many national newspapers. His commentary on how to make Black America better was published in the 2001 compilation, entitled *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. Professor Ogletree contributed a chapter entitled “The Rehnquist Revolution in Criminal Procedure,” which appeared in *The Rehnquist Court: Judicial Activism on the Right*, published in 2002.

In 2003, he was selected by *Savoy Magazine* as one of the 100 Most Influential Blacks in America and by *Black Enterprise Magazine*, along with Thurgood Marshall, A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr., and Constance Baker
Motley, as one of the legal legends among America’s top black lawyers. In 2002, he received the National Bar Association’s prestigious Equal Justice Award. In 2001, he joined a list of distinguished jurists, including former Supreme Court Justices Thurgood Marshall and William Brennan, and civil rights lawyers Elaine Jones and Oliver Hill, when he received the prestigious Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion of Merit from the Washington Bar Association. In 2000, Professor Ogletree was selected by the National Law Journal as one of the 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America and has received numerous other awards.

In 2001 and 2002, Professor Ogletree moderated the nationally televised forums, State of the Black Union and Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community, produced by Tavis Smiley Productions. Professor Ogletree also served as the moderator of four of producer Fred Friendly’s seminal ten-part series, Ethics in America, which aired on PBS. He has moderated dozens of similar programs, including Hard Drugs, Hard Choices, Liberty & Limits: Whose Law, Whose Order? and Credibility in the Newsroom, and he has also been a guest commentator on numerous national and local television and radio programs. He served as NBC’s legal commentator on the O.J. Simpson case.

Professor Ogletree also serves as the Co-Chair of the Reparations Coordinating Committee, a group of lawyers and other experts researching a lawsuit based upon a claim of reparations for descendants of African slaves, and along with Randall Robinson, co-authored The Debt: What America Owes to Blacks.

In 2005, Professor Ogletree founded the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race & Justice as an interdisciplinary research institute at Harvard Law School focusing primarily on issues of racial justice.
Senator Charles E. Schumer

U.S. Senator Charles E. “Chuck” Schumer represents the State of New York in the U.S. Senate. He started off his second term in 2004 by being appointed to the Democratic Leadership team by Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid (D-NV). Senator Schumer also earned a seat on the Senate Finance Committee, which oversees the nation’s tax, trade, social security, and health care legislation. He sits on the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Judiciary Committee; and the Rules Committee. He is the ranking member of the Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee and the Economic Policy Subcommittee. Prior to his election to the Senate, Senator Schumer represented the Ninth Congressional District in Brooklyn and Queens for eighteen years. Before that, he represented the Forty-Fifth Assembly District in Brooklyn for six years.

For the past two and a half decades, Senator Schumer has been a leader on national issues and a tireless fighter for New York. For his efforts, the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle called Senator Schumer “an accomplished, far-sighted legislator,” while The New York Times wrote that Senator Schumer “is a more serious lawmaker with more rooted values, sounder policy positions, and a deeper commitment to the common good.”

Since his election to the Senate, Senator Schumer has made improving New York’s economy his top priority. His Group of 35 developed a comprehensive plan to address New York City’s long-term economic needs by adding 60,000 new square feet of desperately needed office space to accommodate 300,000 new jobs projected over the next twenty years. Senator Schumer also established an Economic Development Initiative (EDI), a comprehensive effort to attract new businesses and financial resources to Upstate New York.
Improving access to quality education is one of Senator Schumer’s long-term priorities. He led the charge in Congress to make college tuition tax deductable, and, for the first time in history, parents will be able to deduct a portion of their children’s tuition. Senator Schumer has developed a “Marshall Plan for Teachers,” which would provide a series of incentives to attract the best and brightest to teaching, and he has successfully authored several amendments to the education bill which would double funding for recruiting and retaining math and science teachers.

Since the terrorist attacks on September 11, Senator Schumer has worked tirelessly to help New York recover and rebuild. On September 13, Senator Schumer, along with Senator Hillary Clinton, secured a commitment from President Bush to provide $20 billion in federal funding to help New York pay for recovery and relief efforts. Senator Schumer also helped create the federal Victims Compensation Fund.

Senator Schumer is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School. He was elected to the New York State Assembly at age 23, which made him one of the youngest members since Theodore Roosevelt and to Congress at 29. In 1998, Senator Schumer became New York’s junior Senator, and he now holds the senior position.
Congressman Charles B. Rangel

Congressman Charles B. Rangel is serving his 19th term in the U.S. House of Representatives as the Representative from New York’s 15th Congressional District, comprising East and Central Harlem, the Upper West Side, and Washington Heights/Inwood. He is the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, Chairman of the Board of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, and Dean of the New York State Congressional Delegation. Congressman Rangel is the principal author of the $5 billion Federal Empowerment Zone demonstration project to revitalize urban neighborhoods throughout America. He is also the author of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, which is responsible for financing ninety percent of the affordable housing built in the U.S. in the last ten years. The Work Opportunity Tax Credit, which Congressman Rangel also championed, has provided thousands of jobs for underprivileged young people, veterans, and ex-offenders.

As the former Chairman of the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control, Congressman Rangel continues to lead the nation’s fight against drug abuse and trafficking. In his efforts to reduce the flow of drugs into the United States and to solve the nation’s continuing drug abuse crisis, Congressman Rangel serves as Chairman of the Congressional Narcotics Abuse and Control Caucus. Congressman Rangel is a founding member and former Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus; he was also Chairman of the New York State Council of Black Elected Democrats and was a member of the House Judiciary Committee during the hearings on the articles of impeachment of President Richard Nixon. In 1987, at the
height of the battle against apartheid, Congressman Rangel led the effort to include in the Internal Revenue Code one of the most effective anti-apartheid measures – denial of tax credits for taxes paid to South Africa. This measure resulted in several Fortune 500 companies leaving South Africa. In addition, Congressman Rangel played a vital role in restoring the democratic government in Haiti.

Congressman Rangel is a graduate of New York University and St. John’s University School of Law. He has spent his entire career in public service, first as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and later in the New York State Assembly. He was elected to the 92nd Congress on November 3, 1970, and has been re-elected to each succeeding Congress.
Gladys Carrión

Gladys Carrión was appointed Commissioner of the New York State Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS) in January 2007. The numerous areas she oversees at OCFS include foster care, adoption and adoption assistance; child protective services; preventive services for children and families; services for pregnant adolescents; child care services; and protective programs for vulnerable adults. Commissioner Carrión is also responsible for directing the oversight, administration, and management of specialized programs for juvenile delinquents and juvenile offenders, as well as residential facilities for youth placed in the custody of OCFS by the family and criminal courts.

Previously, Commissioner Carrión was Senior Vice President for Community Investment with the United Way of New York City. She was chiefly responsible for implementing United Way’s Community Action strategy, through which it partnered with community-based organizations, government, and business to bring measurable improvement to the lives of the city’s most vulnerable residents and communities. Prior to joining United Way of New York City, she was Executive Director of Inwood House, one of the oldest youth-serving organizations in the city.

Ms. Carrión also served as acting Executive Director of ASPIRA, a major, non-profit Latino community service agency, before becoming supervising law judge and general counsel with the New York State Workers’ Compensation Board.

Ms. Carrión served for three years as Commissioner of the New York City Community Development Agency, where she directed a budget of $48 million, developed citywide policy and programs designed to address the human services needs of our most vulnerable citizens, and ensured the quality performance of more than 300 city-funded community-based organizations.

Commissioner Carrión is a graduate of Fordham University and New York University School of Law. She began her legal career as an attorney with the Bronx Legal Services Corporation, where she rose to become managing attorney for the South Bronx Office.
Ronald F. Ferguson, Lecturer in Public Policy at Harvard, is an economist and Senior Research Associate at the Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy. Dr. Ferguson has taught at Harvard since 1983. His teaching and publications cover a variety of issues related to education and economic development. Much of his research, since the mid-1990s, has focused on racial achievement gaps, and has appeared in publications of the National Research Council, the Brookings Institution, and the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Ferguson’s publications include: Toward Excellence with Equity: An Emerging Vision for Closing the Achievement Gap (Harvard Education Press, 2007), “Parenting Practices, Teenage Lifestyles, and Academic Achievement among African American Children.” (Focus: University of Wisconsin-Madison Institute for Research on Poverty 25.1), and “New Evidence on Why Black High Schoolers Get Accused of ‘Acting White.’” (Research Brief: Achievement Gap Initiative at Harvard University, September 2006).

Dr. Ferguson participates in a variety of consulting and policy advisory activities, including work with school districts on closing achievement gaps. He is the creator and Director of the Tripod Project for School Improvement and is also the Faculty Co-chair and Director of the Achievement Gap Initiative (AGI) at Harvard University. The AGI is a university-wide endeavor that also reaches beyond Harvard and brings together researchers, policy makers, and practitioners to work on school improvement, parenting, and youth culture to help raise achievement and narrow gaps. Dr. Ferguson earned his undergraduate degree from Cornell University and a Ph.D from MIT, both in economics.
Marc Mauer

Marc Mauer is one of the country’s leading experts on sentencing policy, race and the criminal justice system. He has directed programs on criminal justice policy reform for 30 years, and is the author of some of the most widely-cited reports and publications in the field, including *Young Black Men and the Criminal Justice System*, and the *Americans Behind Bars* series comparing international rates of incarceration.

*Race to Incarcerate*, Mauer’s groundbreaking book on how sentencing policies led to the explosive expansion of the U.S. prison population, was a semifinalist for the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award in 1999, and was revised in 2006. Mauer is also the co-editor of *Invisible Punishment*, a 2002 collection of essays by prominent criminal justice experts on the social cost of imprisonment.

Mauer began his work in criminal justice with the American Friends Service Committee in 1975, and served as the organization’s National Justice Communications Coordinator. He is an adjunct faculty member at George Washington University and has served as a consultant to the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the National Institute of Corrections, and the American Bar Association’s Committee on Race and the Criminal Justice System. In 2005, he became Executive Director of The Sentencing Project.

Mauer received the Helen L. Buttenweiser Award from the Fortune Society in 1991, the Donald Cressey Award from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency in 1996 for contributions to criminal justice research, and the Alfred R. Lindesmith Award from the Drug Policy Alliance in 2003 for achievement in drug policy scholarship.

A graduate of Stony Brook University, Mauer earned his Master of Social Work from the University of Michigan.
Pedro A. Noguera

Pedro Antonio Noguera is a professor in the Steinhardt School of Education at New York University. He is also the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Center for Urban Education and the Co-Director of the Institute for the Study of Globalization and Education in Metropolitan Settings (IGEMS). From 2000-2003, Dr. Noguera served as the Judith K. Dimon Professor of Communities and Schools at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. From 1990-2000, he was a Professor of Social and Cultural Studies at the Graduate School of Education and the Director of the Institute for the Study of Social Change at the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr. Noguera holds a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in sociology from Brown University and a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley. An urban sociologist, Dr. Noguera’s scholarship and research focuses on the ways in which schools are influenced by social and economic conditions in the urban environment. He has served as an advisor and engaged in collaborative research with several large urban school districts throughout the United States. He has also done research on issues related to education and economic and social development in the Caribbean, Latin America, and several other countries throughout the world.

Dr. Noguera is the author of numerous books, including The Trouble with Black Boys: And Other Reflections on Race, Equity, and the Future of Public Education and City Schools and the American Dream: Reclaiming the Promise of Public Education.
Dorothy Stoneman

Dorothy Stoneman is the Founder and President of YouthBuild USA, the national nonprofit intermediary and support center for more than 225 YouthBuild programs, and a leader in advocating for youth engagement in civil society. She is Chairwoman of the National YouthBuild Coalition, with more than 1,000 member organizations in 43 states, Washington D.C., and the Virgin Islands.

After joining the civil rights movement in 1964, and prior to founding YouthBuild USA in 1990, Stoneman lived and worked for 24 years in Harlem. She was Director for 10 years of the first YouthBuild program, based in East Harlem. She has built grassroots coalitions that have succeeded in obtaining hundreds of millions of dollars of city, state, and federal funds for community-based organizations to implement programs for youth and community development in low-income neighborhoods.

Stoneman has a bachelor’s degree in history and science from Harvard University and a master’s degree in early childhood education and a doctorate of humane letters from Bank Street College of Education. She is a 1996 recipient of the prestigious MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship and was selected in 2000 by the Independent Sector as the recipient of the annual John Gardner leadership award. She has received other awards from The Children’s Defense Fund, City Year, Youth Service America, Parent Magazine, and the Institute for Applied Youth Development Research. In 2007 she received the prestigious Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship from The Skoll Foundation.
Sheena Wright

Sheena Wright is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Abyssinian Development Corporation (ADC). As CEO of ADC, Ms. Wright leads one of the most successful community and economic development entities in the nation. Since 1989, ADC has been at the helm of improving the quality of life of Harlem residents by providing comprehensive social services, increasing the availability of affordable housing and home ownership opportunities, fostering economic revitalization through small business development and large-scale commercial investments, enhancing educational opportunities for Harlem youth, and increasing the community’s awareness on a myriad of issues through a far-reaching civic engagement unit. Among the initiatives under Ms. Wright’s leadership, ADC completed the permanent site of the Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change, a state-of-the art facility and the first high school built in Harlem in over 50 years, and launched the Abyssinian Neighborhood project, a model community development initiative in the blocks immediately surrounding The Abyssinian Baptist Church. Additionally, Ms. Wright initiated and oversees a Displacement Prevention campaign designed to prevent displacement of low and moderate income families from the Harlem community through civic engagement and preservation purchases of at-risk buildings.

Prior to joining ADC, Ms. Wright served as the General Counsel and Executive Vice President of Business Development for Crave Technologies, a minority-owned software company based in New York and Baltimore. She was previously an associate at Reboul, MacMurray, Hewitt, Maynard and Kristol and Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen and Katz.

Ms. Wright received a law degree from Columbia Law School in 1994 and was named a Stone Scholar for outstanding academic achievement. She completed her undergraduate work at Columbia College in 1990. At Columbia, Ms. Wright was a founding member of the Pan-African House, a Black student cultural institution and residence on the school’s campus. After graduating, she worked for The New York Times Washington bureau as an Editorial Assistant.
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Presenters
Carol Robles-Román’s professional career includes executive posts in law, business, and management. Appointed by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg in 2002 as Deputy Mayor for Legal Affairs and Counsel to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor Robles-Román oversees several city agencies, and advises the Mayor and the executive branch on legal policy issues, including judicial selection, ethics, compliance and enforcement of anti-discrimination laws, disability and access laws, domestic violence, and immigration.

Under her direction, the Legal Affairs team has overseen several public/private initiatives and operational reforms, including new language access protocols so limited English proficient residents can better access city information and services. She established the Office of the Administrative Justice Coordinator, and led the ratification of an ethics code for city Administrative Law Judges. She also redefined how the City proactively responds to domestic violence with the establishment of the state-of-the-art Brooklyn Family Justice Center, with plans for the opening of centers in Queens and the Bronx.

Deputy Mayor Robles-Román works with several educational institutions and nonprofits including as a Trustee of the City University of New York, of the National Association of Women Lawyers, and of the Wildlife Conservation Society, and as a member of the Fordham University at Lincoln Center Board of Advisors and the New York University School of Law Alumni Association. She received her undergraduate degree from Fordham University at Lincoln Center, and her Juris Doctorate from New York University School of Law.
Barry Kamins, a graduate of Columbia College and Rutgers University Law School, is a partner in Flamhaft, Levy, Kamins, Hirsch and Rendeiro in Brooklyn, New York. From 1969 to 1973, he served as an Assistant District Attorney in Kings County where he was Deputy Chief of the Criminal Court Bureau. Mr. Kamins is an adjunct professor at Fordham Law School and Brooklyn Law School where he teaches New York Criminal Procedure. He lectures extensively on criminal law for the Office of Court Administration and to prosecutors and defense attorneys. He is the author of *New York Search and Seizure* and co-author of *New York Criminal Procedure* (Lexis-Nexis). He has written numerous articles for the New York Law Journal and other legal periodicals, and has also authored a chapter in the second edition of the New York Criminal Practice Handbook, published by the New York State Bar Association.

Mr. Kamins is former President of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York and co-chairs the Advisory Committee on Criminal Law and Procedure for the Chief Administrative Judge of New York. Mr. Kamins is former Chairman of the Grievance Committee of the 2nd and 11th Judicial Districts. In addition, he is a former member of the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board. He is currently a member of the New York Law Journal Board of Editors. In the New York State Bar Association, he is Vice President and represents the Second Judicial District.

On several occasions, Mr. Kamins has been appointed a Special Prosecutor in Kings County, and he has been appointed by the courts to serve on several committees dealing with current problems in the criminal justice system: The Commission on the Future of Indigent Defense Services; The Commission on Drugs and the Courts; the Committee to Promote Public Trust and Confidence in the Legal System; the Committee on Guidelines for Representation of Indigent Defendants; the New York State Task Force on Processing Civilian Complaints by the New York City Criminal Court; and the Assigned Council Plan Advisory Committee of the Appellate Division, Second Department. He is a past President of the Brooklyn Bar Association and the Kings County Criminal Bar Association. For the past thirty years, Mr. Kamins has been actively engaged in his firm’s criminal trial and appellate practice, and in the representation of attorneys in disciplinary matters.
Kurt L. Schmoke is the Dean of the Howard University School of Law. Dean Schmoke earned his undergraduate degree in history from Yale University and pursued graduate studies on a Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford. He earned the Juris Doctor degree from Harvard Law School. A partner in the international law firm of Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering, Schmoke served as the mayor of Baltimore City for 12 years, from 1987 to 1999, and was the State’s Attorney from 1982 to 1987.

During his tenure as mayor, Dean Schmoke initiated a number of programs in the areas of housing, education, public health, and economic development. In 1992, President George Bush awarded him the national Literacy Award for his efforts to promote adult literacy, and in 1994, President Bill Clinton praised his programs to improve public housing and enhance community economic development. The Clinton Administration named Baltimore one of six cities to receive Empowerment Zone designation in 1994. Dean Schmoke’s other public service includes his appointment as Assistant Director, White House Domestic Policy Staff under President Jimmy Carter.
Winning Strategies Honorees
In recognition of your courage to increase, encourage, and support opportunity for higher education through The City University of New York Black Male Initiative, we bestow this honor upon:

Chancellor Matthew Goldstein
Chancellor Matthew Goldstein

Matthew Goldstein was appointed Chancellor of The City University of New York (CUNY) effective September 1, 1999. He is the first CUNY graduate to lead the nation’s most prominent urban public university. Dr. Goldstein has served in senior academic and administrative positions for more than 30 years, including as President of Baruch College, President of the Research Foundation, and Acting Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs of CUNY. Prior to being named Chancellor, he was President of Adelphi University.

Chancellor Goldstein has held faculty positions in mathematics and statistics at Baruch College, the CUNY Graduate School and University Center, Polytechnic University of New York, Cooper Union, Eastern Connecticut State University, and the University of Connecticut.


Currently, Dr. Goldstein is a member of the Board of Trustees of the JP Morgan Funds and of the Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center. He is a Director of the Lincoln Center Institute for the Arts in Education, ex officio, the United Way of New York City, and a member of the Business Advisory Council for Columbia Management.

Dr. Goldstein is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences and a Fellow of the New York Academy of Sciences. Among his honors are the 2007 Carnegie Corporation of New York’s Academic Leadership Award; the 2008 Jewish Community Relations Council of New York Communal Leader Award; the 2005 John H. Finley Award; the 2005 Medal of Honor “Austrian Cross of Honor for Science and Art, First Class;” the 2004 New York Foundation for Architecture President’s Award; the 2003 Max Rowe Educational Leadership Award of the American Friends of The Open University of Israel; the 2002 Ellis Island Medal of Honor; and the 2000 Townsend Harris Medal.

Dr. Goldstein earned his doctorate from the University of Connecticut in mathematical statistics, and a bachelor’s degree with high honors in statistics and mathematics from The City College of The City University of New York.
In recognition of your exemplary leadership in restoring higher education in New York prisons through the Bard Prison Initiative we bestow this honor upon:

President Leon Botstein
Dr. Leon Botstein

Leon Botstein has served as the President of Bard College since 1975, where he is also the Leon Levy Professor in the Arts and Humanities. In addition to serving as the President of Bard College, Dr. Botstein serves as the music director and principal conductor of the American Symphony Orchestra. In 2003, he was appointed music director of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, which is the orchestra of the Israeli Broadcast Authority. He conducts the American Symphony Orchestra’s subscription series at Avery Fisher Hall, as part of Lincoln Center Presents Great Performers, as well as the orchestra’s educational concert series for adult listeners, Classics Declassified, at Miller Theatre, Columbia University.

He also has an active international career, making frequent guest appearances with major orchestras around the world.

The author of *Jefferson’s Children: Education and the Promise of American Culture*, he has published widely in the fields of music, education, history and culture.

Since serving as President, Dr. Botstein has elevated the academic and cultural reputation of Bard College. In 1979, he oversaw Bard’s acquisition of Simon’s Rock College, the oldest and most highly regarded early college entrance program in the country. Along with administrators from Simon’s Rock, Dr. Botstein was instrumental in the founding of New York City’s Bard High School Early College in 2001. He is currently a board member of the Open Society Institute, Central European University, and the National Foundation for Jewish Culture. Furthermore, he is a member of the National Advisory Committee for Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute. Dr. Botstein was previously the Chair of the New York Council for the Humanities, Association of Episcopal Colleges, and Harper’s Magazine Foundation.

Dr. Botstein received his B.A. from the University of Chicago and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University. He is also the recipient of the Centennial Medal of Harvard Graduate School of the Arts and Science, the National Arts Club Gold Medal, the Cross of Honor from the Republic of Austria, and the Award for Distinguished Service to the Arts from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.
In recognition of your innovative and groundbreaking idea to motivate students by rebranding academic achievement through the Million Motivation Campaign, we bestow this honor upon:

Dr. Roland Fryer
Dr. Roland G. Fryer, Jr.

Roland G. Fryer, Jr. is a Professor of Economics at Harvard College, a faculty Research Fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research and Institute for Quantitative Social Science, and a former Junior Fellow in the Harvard Society of Fellows, one of academia’s most prestigious research posts. In January 2008, at age 30, he became the youngest African-American to receive tenure from Harvard. In June 2007, Dr. Fryer was appointed Chief Equality Officer for the New York City Department of Education. As C.E.O. for the NYC Department of Education, Dr. Fryer’s primary challenge is to narrow the racial achievement gap in city schools.

In 1998, Dr. Fryer achieved his B.A. from the University of Texas. He went on to Pennsylvania State University to complete his Ph.D. in Economics in 2002. As an analyst of racial difference, Dr. Fryer has published on topics ranging from affirmative action to early childhood development. His theories have been cited in the widely popular *Freakonomics* by New York Times journalist Stephen Dubner and University of Chicago economist Steven Levitt. Dr. Fryer has been featured in *Fortune Magazine, Esquire’s “Genius Issue,” The New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Boston Globe* and *Black Voices*.

Dr. Fryer’s Million Motivation Campaign recently won the 2008 Cannes Lion Titanium Award.
The 2008 National Platform seeks to inject into the national discourse the social, economic and political barriers to young black men’s progress. This is a call to action for our national leaders to address decades of circumstances that have resulted in perpetual inequalities, stifled black men and choked the economic life from their communities. This is an extraordinary undertaking, which has benefited from the input of a dedicated group of individuals, most of whom are leading experts and thinkers in their disciplines:

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In response to a proposal from Pipeline Crisis/Winning Strategies, the New York City Bar Association created a task force to examine the role legal employers can play in enhancing employment opportunities for the formerly incarcerated. The Task Force issued its report in March 2008. We applaud the efforts of the following who served as members of the Task Force or who provided leadership and support for this important and groundbreaking undertaking.

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