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ID# 306164

THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 28, 1999

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE JANET RENO

SUBJECT: REQUESTS PRESIDENT TO HOST THE LAUNCH OF A  
NEW PLAN & ANNOUNCE A NEW PRESIDENTIAL CALL  
TO ACTION TO HELP SECURE EQUALITY & EQUAL  
OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL AROUND JUN 21 99

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
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COMMENTS: ENCLOSURE  
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ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 1 MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: \_\_\_\_\_

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*                      *                      *CORRESPONDENCE:  *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED          *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL *          OF SIGNER *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE      *C-COMPLETED          *          CODE = A  *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  *S-SUSPENDED          *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                      *          OUTGOING *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                      *                      *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE        *                      *                      *
*X-INTERIM REPLY        *                      *                      *
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LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS  
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6/2/99



Office of the Attorney General  
Washington, D. C. 20530

May 26, 1999

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500



Dear Mr. President:

On June 21, 1963, President John F. Kennedy brought together leaders of the Bar and announced a Presidential Call to Action to help secure equality and equal opportunity for all. For the past six months, we have been working with leaders of the Bar on a new plan of action that will renew our collective efforts in the fight for racial justice. We are writing to request that you host the launch of this new plan and announce a new Presidential Call to Action.

Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder has been working for the past six months with leaders of the minority bar, the American Bar Association and the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights to meet our mutual goals of enhancing confidence in the American justice system and ensuring that all Americans have access to quality legal services. That group of Bar leaders has developed a plan to increase the diversity of the Bar and to increase the total number of lawyers engaged in providing legal assistance on racial justice issues. Our plan is consistent with the special responsibility and longstanding commitment of members of the Bar. Ben Johnson, Maria Echaveste and Chuck Ruff have been involved with, and are extremely supportive of, this effort.

It is our hope that this event would take place on or around June 21, 1999, so as to underscore the connection between this effort and that launched by President Kennedy 36 years ago (newspaper article enclosed.) We will be happy to work closely with your staff on any necessary arrangements for this event.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Janet Reno  
Attorney General

Eric H. Holder, Jr.  
Deputy Attorney General

Enclosure

MAY 27 1999

# The New York Times.

Published by The New York Times Company.  
Times Square, New York 36, N. Y.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 1963.

## Lawyers Promise Kennedy Aid in Easing Race Unrest

### Leaders of Bar Agree to Form Working Group Across Nation—President to See Negro Officials Today

By MARJORIE HUNTER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 21.—(H) Heading the lawyers' racial communications committee will be Harrison Tweed of New York and Bernard G. Segal of Philadelphia. All of the 244 lawyers attending today's meeting were invited to serve on the committee. Another committee, also dealing with racial communications, will be established by the American Bar Association. This was announced during the White House meeting by Sylvester C. Smith Jr. of Newark, N. J., the association's president.

Joining the President in meeting the lawyers in the East Room were Vice President Johnson and Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy. Of the lawyers present, 66 were from Southern states. There were 23 from the President has conferred with several thousand persons on racial matters.

Continued on Page 3, Column 3.

## LAWYERS PLEDGE HELP TO KENNEDY

Continued From Page 1, Col. 3

from New York, 6 from Birmingham, Ala., 3 from Jackson, Miss., and also representatives from many of the other towns and cities in which there has been racial trouble recently.

Three former Attorneys General—William P. Rogers, Francis Biddle and Herbert Brownell—were present. Many state bar associations were represented. A number of law school deans, including Eugene V. Rostow of Yale and William C. Warren of Columbia, also attended.

Edward R. Dudley, president of the Borough of Manhattan, described the closed meeting as "very helpful." He said he had been particularly impressed by the sincerity of Vice President Johnson.

*Southern States Debate*

The nearly two-hour meeting was marked by one spirited but limited debate. This was touched off when a Southern lawyer, who was not identified, indicated that he believed the Administration was fostering racial street demonstrations that were leading to violence.

## Leaders of the Lawyers Committee



The New York Times  
Associated Press  
Harrison Tweed, left, and Bernard G. Segal who have been chosen to head lawyers racial communications committee.

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cial crisis, he said, can make the document a "crutch for reaction, a rationalization and excuse for maintaining status quo."

The Attorney General addressed some 5,000 persons gathered beneath a brilliant sun on Independence Mall. The hour-long ceremony marked the 175th anniversary of the ratification of the Constitution.

After his address, Mr. Kennedy left the platform to mingle with the half of the audience composed of school children.

In suggesting that the Constitution could become a device for delay when it was too narrowly interpreted on a word-for-word basis, Mr. Kennedy declared:

"Surely we don't need a new court decision to tell us that the Negro is entitled to decent housing, to equal opportunities in employment, or equal opportunities to advance from un-

skilled into skilled and responsible jobs."

Today, as always, he continued, "the Constitution points the way clearly to what thinking Americans have known all along: That racial discrimination is not worthy of us; that the stifling air of prejudice is not fit to be breathed by the people of a nation that takes pride in calling itself free."

Mr. Kennedy described the recent "shameful scenes of riot and bloodshed" in the South as "outward manifestations of an inner disease" that also affects the North.

"Let no white Northerner delude himself that discrimination is chiefly a matter of Southern concern," he said. "It may be true that a Northern Negro is free to register at a Hilton Hotel, but how much pride or pleasure can he take in this when he can't buy three meals a day for his children?"

Several lawyers defended the Administration's position, but the President cut off the debate.

A few Southern lawyers also said they could not support the Administration's civil rights program, sent to Congress this week, but the legislation question was not debated.

"The major emphasis was on peaceful solutions by cooperation," William McKenzie of Cincinnati, said later.

The President will meet tomorrow morning with 30 white and Negro leaders, including those who head the various Negro organizations that have been in the forefront of the drive for civil rights.

These include the following:

James Farmer of New York, national secretary of the Congress of Racial Equality; John Lewis of Atlanta, chairman of the Students Nonviolent Committee; the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. of Atlanta, chairman of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and Roy Wilkins, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

## Sometimes Differ

These organizations have worked together on some of the racial drives, but they also have differed with one another from time to time.

This will mark the first time the President has brought all these Negro organization leaders together at the White House.

Also attending will be Whitney M. Young Jr. of New York, executive director of the National Urban League; A. Phillip Randolph of New York, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; Walter P. Reuther, president of the International United Automobile Workers, and a number of others.

Meanwhile, Senator Jacob K. Javits of New York, who is in liberal wing of the Republican party, had some words of praise today for Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona. Mr. Goldwater is the leader of the party's conservatives and their choice for the Republican nomination for President in 1964.

Senator Javits said that Senator Goldwater's seemingly new position on civil rights legislation, disclosed yesterday in an interview with two reporters, had improved the prospects for such legislation.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.  
Deputy Attorney General

FROM: Hispanic National Bar Association  
(Lillian Apodaca, President and Alice Velasquez, President-elect)  
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law  
(Jack Londen, Co-Chair, Daniel Kolb, Co-Chair, and  
Barbara Arnwine, Executive Director)  
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association  
(Peter M. Suzuki, President)  
National Bar Association  
(Beverly McQueary Smith, President)  
Native American Bar Association  
(Lawrence R. Baca, President and Gregory A. Smith, Counsel)

CC: American Bar Association (Philip S. Anderson, President and  
William G. Paul, President-elect)  
Professor Derek Bok  
William T. Coleman, Jr.

RE: A Presidential Call to Action for Racial Justice and Diversity

DATE: April 8, 1999

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Below for your consideration are recommendations regarding a Presidential Call to the Bar for its assistance in the pursuit of racial justice and diversity in America. These recommendations include many ideas resulting from beneficial discussions with the American Bar Association.

Presidential Call to Action  
And Response by Lawyers

I. Recommendation One. That the President make an appearance at a public event calling the Bar to assist in the pursuit of racial justice and diversity as discussed in the letter of the Lawyers' Committee For Civil Rights Under the Law letter dated January 15, 1999 attached as Exhibit A. Recommended elements of the Call include:

- A. a statement about the importance of racial justice and diversity in the legal profession and in society.

B. a statement about the need for racial justice and diversity within the Bar including: bar associations, law firms, law school student bodies and faculties, corporate and governmental law departments, and judges and their staffs.

C. a statement about the critical role of members of the Bar (litigators, transactional lawyers, and others) in the pursuit of racial justice and diversity in such areas as:

Affirmative Action	Health Care	Legal Services
Business	Housing	Political Appointments
Civil Rights	Immigration	Political Representation
Education	Justice System	Pro Bono Work
Environmental Justice	Law Enforcement	Religion
Government	Language and	Tribal Sovereignty
Hate Crimes	Cultural Issues	Other

D. praise for the Bar and its prior efforts and responsiveness to previous Calls including examples of previous accomplishments by members of the Bar in pursuit of racial justice and examples of clients and community groups assisted;

E. a challenge to the Bar to take still further steps to support racial justice, consistent with the Bar's special responsibility;

F. emphasis on the fact that racial justice has not yet been achieved;

G. a commitment by the President to direct the White House Office on Race and the White House Counsel's Office to work with the Department of Justice and the Bar in responding to the Call;

H. a statement by the President that he has taken specific actions (such as issuance of an executive order to assure diversity of hiring within the executive branch of government), as his contribution to achieving the goal of racial justice;

I. a request by the President that members of the Bar make a public commitment to carry out specific actions in response to the Call, either as individual organizations or collectively; and

J. that the Call be accompanied by a written statement for circulation and distribution.

II. Recommendation Two. That the Call focus upon the two principal goals of (A) diversity of the Bar and (B) increasing the total number of lawyers engaged in providing legal assistance in support of racial justice.

A. The Call should focus on diversity of the Bar to assure confidence in our justice system including identification and admission or appointment of appropriate numbers of racial and ethnic minority:

- (1) law school students;
- (2) law faculty;
- (3) law clerks;
- (4) associates in law firms;
- (5) lawyers in corporate counsel offices;
- (6) lawyers and lawyer supervisors for federal and state governments and agencies;
- (7) partners in law firms; and
- (8) judges in courts at all levels

To assist in achieving this objective the Bar should consider:

- (1) publication of statistics annually (including publication in appropriate national and local Bar Journals) reflecting the diversity of law schools, government entities, courts and law firms, corporate counsel offices, and
- (2) appointment of representatives to focus on assuring that appropriate efforts are made to identify (and help develop) qualified students and lawyers for admission or appointment.

B. The Call should focus on increasing the total number of lawyers engaged in providing legal assistance in support of racial justice consistent with both the special responsibility and longstanding commitment of members of the Bar, especially:

- (1) commitment of increased numbers of non-litigating lawyers to assistance in support of community and minority groups;
- (2) commitment of increased numbers of senior lawyers to promote racial justice and equality; and
- (3) drawing especially on lawyers not now active, an increase in the commitment of total hours by lawyers, law firms, and legal entities to the promotion of ethnic and racial justice and all forms of pro bono legal assistance.



The objective of these efforts would be to focus on areas such as education, housing, healthcare, immigration, environmental justice, political representation, the justice system, law enforcement, hate crimes, and diversity in government hiring.

To promote these goals, the members of the Bar should be encouraged to consider:

- (1) identifying and distributing information with respect to successful models of cases and programs that have advanced diversity and racial justice;
- (2) coordinating to facilitate identification of worthwhile cases and programs for committed lawyers who do not now have the wherewithal or information that permits them to know that such opportunities for rendering service are available;
- (3) undertaking to assure publication of appropriate statistics; and
- (4) appointing representatives to address each area of special focus.

It is anticipated that the bar associations and bar leaders will individually focus on specific goals (discussed in Recommendation Five herein) so as to maximize the impact of the Bar's response to the Call.

III. Recommendation Three. That the following organizations and individuals (in alphabetical order) be requested to respond to the Call and that this list be supplemented following consultations with these organizations and individuals:

Organizations (To be supplemented)

American Bar Association  
American Corporate Counsel Association  
Association of Law School Deans (or individual deans such as those from Duke and Michigan)  
Association of the Bar of City of New York  
Hispanic National Bar Association  
Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law  
Managing Partners Law Firm Group from ABA  
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association  
National Bar Association  
National Economic Development and Law Center  
Native American Bar Association

Pro Bono Institute  
San Francisco Bar Association  
[also representative leaders from legal services, additional civil rights legal organizations, and state and additional local bar associations]

Individuals (to be supplemented)

Hon. Robert Benham  
Derek Bok  
Warren Christopher  
William Coleman  
Lee Cooper  
Peter Haje  
Conrad Harper  
Robert Joffe  
Jack Martin

IV. Recommendation Four. That the President should direct the White House Office on Race to incorporate into its mission these recommendations of the Bar, and that such Office on Race, along with the White House Counsel's Office and the Department of Justice, will:

- A. take advantage of the bully pulpit of the Presidency to bring attention to race and law issues and to encourage relevant organizations, such as law schools, government agencies and local bar associations, to fully support the President's Call;
- B. provide logistical support for those responding to the Call, including assistance in arranging meetings, and conferences, and facilitating distribution of relevant materials;
- C. collect relevant information and report on progress by the legal community on race and law issues;
- D. help provide technical support for start-up race and law programs;
- E. help prepare a report after one-year on the status of race and law issues in America; and
- F. administer a Presidential Awards Program to recognize outstanding achievements in the area of race and law.

V. Recommendation Five. That the President call the members of the Bar to make specific commitments, either collectively or individually, to take action in response to the Presidential Call. Some specific action items suggested by organizations and individual members of the Bar are set forth in Exhibit B.

VI. Recommendation Six. That the President or the Attorney General convene a public follow-up gathering of the Bar in 2000 to focus on race and the law.

- A. The President or Attorney General will convene a follow-up gathering of the Bar in 2000 to recognize its accomplishments, to issue a report on race and the law, to present Presidential Awards, and to encourage renewed action plans.