

The Pipeline Crisis

# Winning Strategies for Young Black Men

Winter Session 2007:  
The Next Steps

March 1, 2007

125 Broad Street  
New York





## Welcome

On behalf of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race & Justice at Harvard Law School (the “Institute”), welcome to the next phase in this initiative on strategies to address the widening black male achievement gap, *Winter Session 2007: The Next Steps*.

This initiative has generated a great deal of interest and a high level of expectation. Working with Richard Brown of the Goldman Sachs Foundation and Professor Charles J. Ogletree, Jr. and his team at the Institute, we have assembled an impressive group of highly accomplished people. Thank you for participating.

This session—purposely aimed at leaders and potential contributors—is the start of the process of identifying concrete action items to address the social and economic divide between young black men and the rest of society, and forming working groups with the means, know-how and resolve to tackle them. After presentations by experts on their research and experience in areas of urgent need, participants will join one of several working groups and begin to formulate a plan of action. *The Pipeline Crisis/Winning Strategies* initiative will host a summer forum at Chelsea Piers on July 13, 2007 to report on our progress and plan of action, which will be open to much wider participation.

We believe the extraordinary response to the *Winning Strategies* forum suggests that the energy and resources of the private sector can be harnessed to help solve one of the nation’s most difficult social, economic and political problems, and that solutions are within our reach.

Today, we ask only that some of the best thinkers in New York apply themselves to a difficult problem. But tomorrow presents more opportunities to contribute. Thus far, this initiative has been supported almost entirely—with financial resources, talent and support services—by three institutions: Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute. We hope you continue personally to participate in this effort and, when we call on you, that you will help the *Pipeline Crisis/Winning Strategies* initiative expand the base of support to other individuals and institutions who share our sense of urgency and resolve.

**William J. Snipes**

**William E. Schroeder**

## Mission Statement

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*The Pipeline Crisis/Winning Strategies* initiative seeks to pool the talents, knowledge and resources of the legal, financial, business and human services communities to help reverse the rising rates of school drop-outs, joblessness and incarceration among young black men, and to increase their representation in the pipeline to higher education.

Black men are falling further behind by virtually every important social and economic measure. They are more likely than others to repeat grades, score poorly on standardized tests and be suspended from or drop out of school. These are ominous warnings that the pool of young black men in the pipeline to higher education is at risk of drying up.

Over the last decade the enrollment of young black men in U.S. colleges and graduate schools has plummeted. Young black men are dropping out of school in droves, facing staggering urban unemployment rates, and going to prison in record numbers. *The Winning Strategies* initiative is a collaboration of committed people and organizations to address the stark social, economic and educational realities confronting young black men.

On July 14, 2006, well over 1,000 people from nearly every sphere of corporate and public life gathered in New York for an inaugural forum on *Winning Strategies* to address the alarming rate at which young black men are falling between the cracks. The interest and hope generated at this forum unveiled a palpable thirst for solutions, prompting a call to action in these areas of urgent need:

- early childhood and preschool education;
- public school education;
- employment and economic development;
- criminal justice, prison reform and re-entry; and
- opportunities for high achievers.

These are also the areas where the greatest opportunities for meaningful change can be mined.

This is an ongoing effort, and we welcome your participation and support.

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## Agenda

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9:00 am Welcome & Introductions

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9:15 am Plenary Session: **Overview of Challenges and Strategies**

**Prof. Charles J. Ogletree, Jr.** — Moderator

**Dr. Jack P. Shonkoff** — Early Childhood & Preschool

**Prof. Pedro A. Noguera** — Education

**Michael P. Jacobson** — Criminal Justice

**Prof. Henry M. Levin** — Employment & Economic Development

**Stephanie Bell-Rose** — High Achievers

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10:30 am Break

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10:45 am Working Group Sessions: **Winning Strategies**

**Early Childhood & Preschool**, Dr. Thelma Dye (Facilitator);

Dr. Jack P. Shonkoff (Co-Facilitator)

Margot Hammond (Featured Expert)

**Education**, Elisa Hyman (Facilitator);

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12:30 pm Break

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12:45-2:00 pm Lunch & Wrap-Up Session: **Action Items**

**Remarks**

H. Rodgin Cohen, Chairman, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

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**Working Group Reports**

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