

**New York University  
Student Bar Association**

**Bill No. 01-03**

**A Resolution Supporting Affirmative Action**

- Whereas:** On April 1, 2003, the United States Supreme Court will hear arguments in *Grutter v. Bollinger*, concerning the University of Michigan School of Law's Affirmative Action Policy; and,
- Whereas:** The decision in this case will impact whether law schools can continue to consider race and ethnicity among other factors in qualitative admissions decisions; and,
- Whereas:** In the years since the Supreme Court's decision in *Bakke v. Regents of the University of California*, students of color remain under-represented at American law schools as well as colleges, universities, other graduate programs and professional schools. This is particularly so for African American, Latino, and Native American students; and,
- Whereas:** We, as students, recognize the inherent value of higher education, and recognize the value of education as a means of betterment to individuals and social groups.
- Whereas:** Access to our institutions of higher education, for a myriad of reasons including racism; educational inequality; institutional reliance on LSAT scores as a factor in admissions decisions and social inequity, is not equally available to all students; and,
- Whereas:** The legacy of racism in this country, while addressed by such legal measures as the Civil Rights Act, remains a real and present concern in the day-to-day lives of many citizens and immigrants to this country; and,
- Whereas:** As students at a highly selective law school, we recognize the importance of diversity in the classroom and throughout the educational environment; and,
- Whereas:** A racially diverse student body provides invaluable educational and social benefits to all students; and,
- Whereas:** As the Supreme Court held in *Sweatt v. Painter*, a diverse student body insures that law students are not "isolated from the individuals and institutions that interact with the law."

**Whereas:** The promotion of diversity in higher education is a compelling state interest, and the consideration of race as one factor among many in qualitative admissions determinations is a permissible means of furthering diversity,

**LET IT THEREFORE BE RESOLVED THAT:**

- Section 1:** The Student Bar Association of the New York University School of Law supports the University of Michigan School of Law in its defense of its use of race as a qualitative factor in their admissions policies.
- Section 2:** The Student Bar Association of the New York University School of Law supports continued consideration of race and ethnicity as one important criterion among others in affirmative action policies in law school admissions.
- Section 3:** The Student Bar Association of the New York University School of Law calls on NYU Law's administration to maintain and strengthen our own affirmative action admissions policies, specifically, by increasing outreach to students of color and efforts to hire and retain faculty of color.
- Section 4:** The Student Bar Association of the New York University School of Law calls on the administration of the NYU School of Law to publicly support the University of Michigan Law School's defense of their admissions policies.
- Section 5:** The Student Bar Association of the New York University School of Law calls on all law students to participate to their own level of interest in the dialogues, panels, and activities in early April focusing on the April 1, 2003 hearing of the affirmative action cases. These activities include a protest march in Washington, D.C., on April 1, 2003 and a panel arguing both in support and against affirmative action that will be at the law school on April 2, 2003.

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Cara Edwards  
SBA President

Passed by a vote of 13-2-2 on March 11, 2003

## Voting Roll Call

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstained</b>
Cara Edwards	Andy Thau	Kartik Ganapathy
Shawn Shillington	Brian Granahan	Stephen Huggs
Jesse Devine		
Nick Kujawa		
Anita Girdhari		
Shelly Kohli		
Will Edmonson		
John Trinidad		
Suzanne White		
Eva Temkin		
Julie Rivchin		
Nik Kolodny		
Anika Singh (by proxy to Julie Rivchin)		