

# **Civil Rights Project issues Policy Brief**

## ***California: A Case Study in the Loss of Affirmative Action***

**August 8, 2012**

--Los Angeles—The Civil Rights Project announces the availability of a new policy brief, ***California: A Case Study in the Loss of Affirmative Action***, by CRP Co-director Patricia Gándara.

### From the Executive Summary:

This paper briefly reviews the various efforts undertaken by the University of California to maintain diversity in the institution, and especially at its highly competitive flagship campuses, UCLA and Berkeley, in the face of the loss of affirmative action during the mid-1990s. It demonstrates the continuing decline in representation of underrepresented minorities (URMs) in spite of these efforts, even as URMs have become the majority of all students in the state.

Although applications to these flagship campuses have doubled since 1995, and all groups have seen reductions in the percent of applicants offered admission, African American and Latino admittees have been reduced by 70 to 75 percent at UCLA and UC Berkeley, compared to just 35 and 40 percent for Asian and white applicants.

This disproportionate decline reflects the inequalities in the California educational system that fails to prepare African American, Native American and Latino students for highly competitive selection processes *irrespective of their intellectual ability or likelihood of succeeding in their studies*.

The consequences of continuing down the same path will likely result in the solidification of educational inequality and economic dislocations for the state.

"The case coming before the Supreme Court this fall, *Fisher v UT Austin*, provides the opportunity for the justices to reaffirm the critical importance of making opportunity available for all of our youth in order to create a stronger nation," states Gándara. "This policy report shows that that goal would be undermined by following California's path."

To read the Policy Brief, see <http://civilrightsproject.ucla.edu/research/college-access/affirmative-action/california-a-case-study-in-the-loss-of-affirmative-action>

### **About the Civil Rights Project**

Founded in 1996 by former Harvard professors Gary Orfield and Christopher Edley, Jr., the Civil Rights Project/Proyecto Derechos Civiles is now co-directed by Orfield

and Patricia Gándara, professors at UCLA. Its mission is to create a new generation of research in social science and law, on the critical issues of civil rights and equal opportunity for racial and ethnic groups in the United States. It has commissioned more than 450 studies, published 14 books, including five on access to higher education, and issued numerous reports from authors at universities and research centers across the country. The U.S. Supreme Court, in its 2003 *Grutter v. Bollinger* decision upholding affirmative action, cited the Civil Rights Project's research.