



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: **August 17, 2007**
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CHARLES HAMILTON HOUSTON INSTITUTE FOR RACE & JUSTICE AT HARVARD LAW SCHOOL PRESENTS:

“A GATHERING OF THE ELDERS: SHEROES, HEROES & SURVIVORS”

Harvard Law School's Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race & Justice is pleased to announce this historic event, which will bring together survivors of the 1921 Tulsa Race Riots, including 104-year-old Otis Clark, as well as an assemblage of African American leaders and visionaries whose combined wisdom, experience and accomplishments have paved the way for our collective successes in the 20th century, and on whose shoulders we continue to stand.

"In the spirit of Charles Hamilton Houston, we will host an event that reflects the challenges of the past and the hope for the future," said Professor Charles J. Ogletree, Jr., Founding & Executive Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race & Justice, who will host and emcee the event.

The event has been slated for August 29th for two important reasons. First, it will commemorate the second anniversary of Hurricane Katrina with a special tribute to the victims. Second, the event will include a salute to Oliver W. Hill, Esq., one of the great civil rights leaders, who passed away on August 5th at the age of 100. Mr. Hill was trained by Charles Hamilton Houston, attended Howard University School of Law with Thurgood Marshall, and was an instrumental figure in the *Brown v. Board of Education* case.

Ogletree continued, "Our hearts are with those who lost property, family and hope two years ago when Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans and the Gulf Region on August 29th. At the same time, we celebrate the life of Oliver Hill, a protégé of Charles Hamilton Houston, classmate of Justice Thurgood Marshall, and a lawyer in the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* case, who passed away on August 5th after having lived a rich and fulfilling 100 years in this country. Finally, we remember the survivors of one of the worst race riots in American history – the 1921 Tulsa Race Riots in Tulsa, Oklahoma – and we will hear and view firsthand accounts from African Americans who were in Tulsa at that painful moment in our nation's history. We will hear as well from a group of African American sheroes and heroes who lived through Jim Crow segregation and helped to pave a course of action for us all to follow. It is a celebration of our history and our sense of hope for the future."

Ticket information and additional details are available at <http://www.charleshamiltonhouston.org> or by calling 617-495-8285.

“A Gathering of the Elders: Sheroes, Heroes and Survivors”

Date: Wednesday, August 29, 2007

Time: 1:00pm-4:00pm

Location: Martha’s Vineyard Performing Arts Center, Oak Bluffs, MA

Featuring:

- **A Commemoration of the 2nd Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina**
- **A Salute to Oliver W. Hill, Esq. (1907-2007)**
- **The 1921 Tulsa Race Riot Survivors**
Otis Clark, Wess Young and Dr. Olivia Hooker
- **Film Screening of *Before They Die!*, The Tulsa Race Riot Documentary**
Reginald Turner, Producer
- **The Panel of Elders:**
Former Senator Edward W. Brooke (invited), Judge Benjamin Hooks (invited), Myrlie Evers-Williams (invited), Dr. Adelaide Cromwell, Dorothy Burnham and Dr. Kenneth Edelin
- **Vocal Performances by Recording Artist Lawrence Watson**
- **Host & Master of Ceremonies:**
Professor Charles J. Ogletree, Jr., Founding & Executive Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race & Justice, Jesse Climenko Professor of Law, Harvard Law School

Admission:

\$30 ticket includes Admission, Public Reception and Book Signing

\$100 ticket also includes Private Reception with Panelists

Additional Details and Ticket Information at <http://www.charleshamiltonhouston.org>

Established in the fall of 2005 at Harvard Law School by Professor Charles J. Ogletree, Jr., the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice (CHHIRJ) seeks to honor the extraordinary contributions of one of the great lawyers of the twentieth century. Charles Hamilton Houston dedicated his life to using the law as a tool to reverse the unjust consequences of racial discrimination. CHHIRJ is committed to marshalling the resources of Harvard and beyond to continue his unfinished work.

**PHOTOS, BIOS & MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.
PLEASE DIRECT ALL INTERVIEW REQUESTS TO COLIN OVITSKY AT
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