



Justice Clarence Thomas: Earns Buckwheat Award

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Thomas Shows His True Colors on Affirmative Action Ruling

When the smoke cleared in the halls of justice the United States Supreme Court had rendered a 5-4 decision in *Grutter v. Bollinger*, upholding the use of race in affirmative action for college and university admissions. The swing vote and heroine of the day? Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, a 70 year old white woman who is an unabashed conservative but has refused to be typecast by her ideological disposition. In contrast, Justice Clarence Thomas, the lone Black on the high Court, provided a brilliant performance as court jester, amusing his fellow conservative jurists by raising his voice in dissent to the University of Michigan specifically, and affirmative action in general.

For those of us who opposed Thomas' ascension to the Supreme Court we knew this day was coming. The Day of Reckoning. We have sat back for years, seething that this token minion would cast a dark cloud upon the legacy of the giant he followed to the Court, Justice Thurgood Marshall. We always knew that Thomas could never fill Marshall's shoes, let alone carry them. The warning of the late Judge Leon Higginbotham is a constant echo in our ears. Still, we held a glimmer of hope that this affirmative action baby would awaken out of his stupor just long enough to look in the mirror and discover that despite all of his best efforts, he was still Black. Alas, this was not to be. For Clarence has so sold out that like Dracula who's image is not reflected in a mirror, Thomas apparently sees a middle aged, white man of privilege when looking at his own reflection.

His position on *Grutter* smacks of the same hypocrisy of his appointment to the bench. The man who admitted to possessing a library of pornographic material, erotica as he preferred to call it, and who claimed to be the victim of a "high tech lynching" had the audacity, the utter gall to cite Frederick Douglass in opposition to a policy that Thomas himself was a beneficiary. To further flaunt his white privilege credentials, Thomas gives a nod toward Justice O'Connor but, in a slick and underhanded manner, suggests the eventual illegality of affirmative action while playing upon his colleagues rather sincere desire for the day when such policies would no longer be necessary to achieve equity in our society. Thomas proves once again to be the hand puppet of Justice Antonin Scalia, himself worthy of scorn for his association of tribalism with the manner in which Black students network among themselves on a college campus.

The clock has run out on Clarence. For too long Blacks have been hesitant to call him out for fear of violating the time honored code of not airing our dirty laundry. Not only is it time to air the laundry, we need to put this man through a second wash and rinse to see if we can ring out any Blackness in the process. Thomas has "earned" our contempt and scorn. This is no ordinary betrayal, this is of Judas magnitude. His position on *Grutter* is so fundamentally disingenuous that we can only be left to believe that his sole purpose on the Court is to undermine the significant advancements that Blacks have made armed with nothing more than the Constitution.

Whatever our cultural aversion to directing criticism toward one who resembles us, we need to get over it. The time has come to weed out those who may look like us but whose actions inflict more damage than anyone outside the race. Black faces in high places provide little comfort if they choose to sacrifice the futures of our children for their own advancement or to their own ignorance. We have no patience for Justice Thomas or any Blacks who pander to the very elements of our society who reminisce about Dixie and long for the day when Blacks had to seek permission to exist. This is a man who had he been alive when Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation would have cried for his oppressor and admonished his fellow slaves over their failure to recognize the virtue of their captive state.

Clarence Thomas is deserving of our anger and contempt. His position on *Grutter* is so vile, so reprehensible that he has earned a special place in the annals of **The NorthStar Network**. For some time we have contemplated how best to call out "race traitors", those Blacks who have shamelessly pawned our legacy, our history to curry favor with whites of privilege. We are not talking about Blacks who we may simply share a difference of opinion on matters of public policy or electoral politics. No, our disdain is reserved for those Blacks in positions of influence who have worked the hardest to put us back the

furthest. For these folks we have reserved a special honor: **The Buckwheat Award** or "**Bucky**", a special recognition for Blacks who excel in minstrelsy.

We are pleased to announce that for his continuing role in sacrificing the interests of our community, and in special recognition of his betrayal on *Grutter*, Justice Thomas has been chosen to be the recipient of a **Lifetime Achievement Buckwheat Award**. It is the lowest "*honor*" NorthStar can bestow and the one most appropriate for someone who has caused us pain more times than we care to remember.

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