

UIC Alumni Politics Forum 2008



Saturday, February 16, 2008
UIC Student Center West (West Campus)
828 South Wolcott (*corner of Wolcott & Polk streets*)
2nd Floor, Chicago Rooms B & C
Chicago, IL

**The University of Illinois at Chicago
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

Program

9:00 a.m. Registration
(Coffee & breakfast refreshments available in 2nd Floor Lobby)

9:15 a.m. **Evolution of the Courts and Civil Liberties**
Dr. Twiley W. Barker, Emeritus Faculty
Judge Raymond Funderburk, Circuit Court of Cook County
Thomas N. Todd, Esq., Civil Rights Attorney and Activist

10:15 Break

10:30 **The Immigrant Movement in Chicago**
Amalia V. Pallares, Associate Professor Political Science &
Visiting Associate Dean LAS
Nilda M. Flores-Gonzalez, Associate Professor Latin American
and Latino Studies, and Sociology

11:30 **Analysis of 2007 & 2008 Elections**
Bob Fioretti, City of Chicago 2nd Ward Alderman
Dick Simpson, Professor and Department Head, UIC Political Science
Don Rose, Journalist, Political Columnist, Political Campaign Manager

12:15 Break

12:30 Luncheon buffet

Keynote Speaker: Ambassador, Carol Moseley Braun
Running for the Office of the Presidency

PROFESSOR TWILEY WENDELL BARKER, JR.

Professor Emeritus UIC

Dr. Twiley Barker, renowned Professor of Civil Liberties and Constitutional Law, began his teaching career at Southern University in Louisiana and became one of the founding faculty members of the Department of Political Science at the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle campus. Upon retiring from UIC in 1994, he continued his service to the field of political science by taking on a visiting professorship at Howard University in Washington, D.C. His teaching career has spanned from 1955 – 2007.

Barker was one of the first recipients of the Silver Circle Award for Excellence in teaching here at UIC. In addition to publishing several articles, he and his brother, Lucius Barker, collaborated on two books – *Freedoms, Courts, Politics: Studies in Civil Liberties* and *Civil Liberties and the Constitution: Cases and Commentaries* now in its eighth edition. Professor Kevin Lyles of UIC joined them in that eighth edition.

Raymond Funderburk

Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County

The Honorable Raymond Funderburk has served as a Cook County Circuit Court Judge since 1993. After graduating from UIC in 1974, he received a JD degree from UIUC in 1978. He served with the Cook County Legal Assistance Foundation from 1978 to 1982, and then was in private practice in Chicago until joining the bench. In addition to long-term community service in Park Forest, Judge Funderburk has been very active in the University of Illinois Alumni Association, serving as a member of the Board of Directors, and President of the LAS Alumni Association. In 1995, he was named a City Partner by the Alumni Association, honoring “service and activities in the community where you live, ... dedicated commitment to the community where you studied, ... and professional accomplishment which serves all of the citizens in the metropolitan community.”

Dick Simpson

UIC Professor and Political Science Department Head

Professor Dick Simpson is a UIC Professor and Head of the Department of Political Science. A specialist in city politics and elections he came to UIC in 1967. He has won numerous teaching awards such as the Silver Circle and UIC Excellence in Teaching Award. He is author of 16 books and over 80 professional articles and films. His book entitled, *Rogues, Rebels, and Rubber Stamps* chronicles the history of the Chicago City Council from 1863 to the present.

CAROL MOSELEY BRAUN

U.S. Ambassador and Entrepreneur

Carol Moseley Braun was one of the first black women to graduate from the law school at the University of Chicago.

As an assistant United States Attorney, she was the first black woman to win the Attorney General's Special Achievement award.

As an Illinois state legislator, she was the first black woman to become an assistant majority leader and spokesperson for the Mayor of Chicago. (The late Harold Washington)

Carol Moseley Braun was elected to executive office in Cook County, the first woman to do so.

In an historic effort, she was elected to serve as the only black member of the United States Senate in 1992, and the first and only woman to be elected to the Senate from Illinois. She was also the first black Democrat to be elected from any state to the Senate.

As Senator, she became the first woman in history to receive an appointment to the powerful Finance committee, where she introduced the first legislation to federally fund the reconstruction and repair of our nations crumbling schools. Senator Braun amassed an impressive legislative record, winning approval of the first federal support to preserve and restore the Underground Railroad nationwide, environmental justice and Brownfields' remediation legislation, women's pension equity and lupus research funding. The farm bureau named her their "Ethanol Queen" for her work on that alternative fuel.

Senator Braun was confirmed by a vote of 98-2 as Ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa, and received our nations' highest security clearance. Ambassador Braun is the first and only United States Ambassador to be made a member of the Te Atiawa Maori (Tay Ah Tee Ah Wa Mah Orry) tribe.

Ambassador Braun is not the first, but the second African American woman to compete for the Democratic nomination for President of the United States, following the precedent set by her mentor, the late Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm. However, even though she withdrew from the race as a candidate, she qualified for more ballot positions than any female presidential candidate in US history.

Her fourth career is as an entrepreneur, and she is the founder and President of a biodynamic organic food company, Good Food Organics®/Ambassador Organics™. She calls herself a "recovering politician".

Thomas N. Todd

Civil Rights Attorney and Activist

THOMAS N. TODD, ATTORNEY AT LAW, Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Todd was born in Demopolis, Alabama and attended Central High School in Mobile, Alabama: He entered Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1955 and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science. He attended Southern University's School of Law and graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1963. He has received Honorary Doctorates from Grambling State University (1987), from Syracuse University (1990), from Wilberforce University (1993), Talladega College (1998), Southern University (1999), the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore (2000), and Bethune-Cookman College (2001). Mr. Todd has been admitted to practice before many courts including the Supreme Court of Louisiana; United States Court of Military Appeals; the Supreme Court of Illinois; and the United States Supreme Court. As the first full-time Black Law Professor at Northwestern University's School of Law, he taught from 1970 to 1974.

Mr. Todd has held many other positions which reflect his involvement with the Civil Rights Movement. He was president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Chicago Chapter, 1971; Executive Vice President of Operation P.D.S.H.; acted as President of Operation P.U.S.H. from 1983-1984. Mr. Todd has appeared on radio and television programs throughout the country and has been the subject of feature stories in major publications. He has written articles published in Dollars and Sense Magazine, Southern University Law Review, and the School Board News.

Mr. Todd has spoken for various organizations and institutions throughout the country and Africa and Mexico with much of the emphasis on Civil Rights and Education. He has also conducted Affirmative Action Seminars for various corporations. He is the recipient of over 500 awards and honors, including selected to The History Makers 2003, inducted into the Southern University Law Center Hall of Fame 2004, Lifetime Achievement Award, National Black Alumni Hall of Fame, Living Legend Award Civil Rights, National Urban League 2006.

Mr. Todd is married to Janis Roberts and has two children, Tamara Nicole and Traci Neuborne.

Don Rose

Journalist, Political Columnist, Political Campaign Manager

Don Rose is an independent political consultant heading Don Rose Communications and The Urban Political Group. The firms offer campaign consulting and management services including strategic message development and media production to candidates of both parties as well as independents. Based in Chicago the firms have operated in 13 states. Clientele has included Chicago Mayors Harold Washington and Jane Byrne, Illinois Senator Paul Simon, Supreme Court Justice Seymour Simon, Governor Jim Edgar, former State's Attorney Bernard Carey and numerous congressmen, state and municipal legislators, including Senator Carol Moseley Braun in her early career as a state representative. The firm has also consulted for governmental agencies such as the Illinois Housing Development Authority and the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission.

Rose has published widely on political and cultural affairs and currently writes a weekly column for the on-line newspaper Chicago Daily Observer. His writings have appeared in Social Policy, The Nation, George, Selling Magazine, Seven Days Magazine, Los Angeles, Times, Atlanta Constitution, Chicago Sun-Times, Tribune, Chicago Magazine, Chicago Reader and the Journal of the Illinois Political Science Association. He has contributed chapters to several books, including 20th Century Chicago: 100 years, 100 Voices; Sweet Home Chicago; The Making of the Mayor 1983 and Restoration: 1989. He has lectured at Harvard, the University of Chicago, University of Illinois, Northwestern University, Loyola of Chicago and other schools and colleges.

He has been an on-air commentator for WLS-TV (ABC), hosted a weekly community-affairs talk show for 22 years on WPNT-FM and its predecessor stations and was editor and co-publisher of the monthly Hyde Park-Kenwood Voices. He is a frequent guest on network as well as local television and radio programs.

During the 1960s he was active in the civil rights movement, acting as a midwest-states organizer for the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and later served as press secretary to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during his Chicago campaign. In 1968 he was an organizer for the National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam. In 1980 he was an organizer of the short-lived Citizens Party and was political director in 1992 of the National Committee to Draft Mario Cuomo for President. He is a founding member of Chicagoans Against the War in Iraq, organized a year before the wars outbreak (now known as Chicagoans Against War and Injustice).

Rose also has had a continuing ancillary career as a food and travel writer, publishing a weekly dining-out column in the Sun-Times for 16 years and comments frequently on jazz and the arts. A Paris travel letter and a selection of arts, cultural and political commentaries appear online at TheWeekBehind.com.

Bob Fioretti

City of Chicago, 2nd Ward Alderman

2nd Ward Alderman Bob Fioretti was elected on April 17, 2007 and took office on May 21, 2007. The 2nd ward encompasses parts of many Chicago communities including East Garfield Park, West Town, Tri-Taylor, Illinois Medical District, West Loop, South Loop, Historic Prairie District, and Bronzeville.

Bob has devoted his career to securing justice for people, and as Alderman, provides the same dedication to the people of the 2nd Ward. Prior to being elected Alderman, Bob was a seasoned civil litigator, and demonstrated through determination and compassion he was able to achieve results for his clients. In 2006, he settled a case for his client who spent 11.5 years in prison for a crime he did not commit, and was cleared based on DNA evidence. His client soon after received a pardon from the Governor. Bob also served as lawyer for the family of Baby Tamia, which led to changes in Illinois' adoption law. The Chicago mother of Baby Tamia phoned a toll-free number in a local newspaper for an adoption agency in Utah. The baby was temporarily placed in foster care in Utah to a parent with a prior drug conviction. For several months, Bob worked with state and local officials, and Baby Tamia was returned to her family.

Bob has litigated a wide variety of cases before federal and state administrative law judges as well as in the state and federal courts. He is a lawyer and partner in the firm of Fioretti, Lower & Carbonara and practices in the areas of governmental law, administrative law, zoning law and complex litigation. Prior to his career with Fioretti, Lower & Carbonara, he spent 15 years in private practice that encompassed environmental law, civil and criminal law, partnership, and corporate counseling. Bob has practiced in the public sector, as the former Senior Supervising Attorney of the General Litigation Division for the Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago. While there, Bob handled over 500 civil rights cases. As a result, Bob's personal trial experiences have led to over 100 state and federal verdicts and appellate court decisions.

Bob earned his law degree from Northern Illinois University (NIU) College of Law in 1978, and is a long-standing member of the adjunct faculty at NIU College of Law. He was President of the NIU National Alumni Association from 2000-2004 and is also Past President of the NIU College of Law Alumni Counsel. While serving as alumni president, he oversaw the establishment of a Chicago alumni office, the formation of a quarterly magazine, and was instrumental in the creation of the Barsema Alumni Center on campus. He has been a strong advocate in promoting the accessibility of higher education to many Chicago-area students through scholarship and outreach.

Bob Fioretti is an active member in several civic organizations and serves on numerous boards and committees including serving as Past President of the Historic Pullman Foundation, the Character and Fitness Committee of the Illinois Supreme Court and the Judicial Evaluation Committee of the Chicago Bar Association Executive Committee.

Bob's roots are in Chicago's south side. He was born and raised in Pullman/Roseland area. He is a first generation American whose father came through Ellis Island, moved to Pullman and got a job with the Pullman train car company. Bob received a Pullman scholarship to attend the University of Illinois-Champaign/Urbana where he earned his undergraduate degree in Political Science and served as Student Body President his senior year. He graduated from Mendel High School on 111th Street. Bob attended St. Anthony's Grammar School on Kensington Avenue in the Pullman district, and in 1966 was named one of the youngest Eagle Scout's in the state's history.

Amalia Pallares

Associate Professor Political Science and Latin American and Latino Studies UIC

Amalia Pallares is Associate Professor of Political Science and Latin American and Latino Studies. She has a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Texas. She studies social movements, ethnicity and race in Latin America and among Latinos in the U.S. She focuses particularly on the relationship between political activism and identity formation among newly politicized groups. Her book *From Peasant Struggles to Indian Resistance: the Ecuadorian Andes in the late Twentieth Century* analyzes the social, economic and political conditions that inform contemporary indigenous activism and identity in Ecuador. Her other areas of study in Latin American include rural development, civil society, and political change. Her past work on immigrant communities in the United States studies how notions of nation, region and race inform immigrants' social and political attitudes, behaviors, and organizing experiences. More recently, she has focused on immigrant activism in Chicago. She is co-editing a book manuscript entitled *Marcha: Latino Chicago and the National Immigrant Movement*, which explores the role played by institutions, collective organizing experiences, political coalitions and public policies in shaping immigrant activism and subjectivities. She is also developing a manuscript on how mixed-status families in Chicago and elsewhere are mobilizing to prevent family separations. Prof. Pallares teaches courses on Latin American Politics, comparative Politics, the Politics of Belonging, Latino Politics, social Movements, race, ethnicity and politics in the Americas, and state theory.

Nilda Flores-Gonzalez

Associate Professor Sociology and Latin American and Latino Studies UIC

Nilda Flores-Gonzalez is an associate professor with a joint appointment in Sociology and Latin American and Latino Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is the Associate Head of the Department of Sociology and a Co-Director of the Immigrant Mobilization Project, a research initiative studying the immigrant rights marches in Chicago that involves 20 UIC faculty and graduate students. Dr. Flores-Gonzalez studies race and ethnicity, identity, youth, education and U.S. Latinos. One of her projects focuses on media discourses on inner-city schools, particularly on how the media criminalizes inner-city schools, school activists and students, and how these images shape public opinion and policy. Another project examines youth participation in the immigrant rights marches to explicate how Latino youth create and articulate a political identity and how they reconceptualize citizenship and democratic rights. Her book, *School Kids, Street Kids: Identity Development in Latino Students* (2002) focuses on how kids construct identities in relation to school, how the school and its practices shape these identities, and how these identities influence educational outcomes. Additionally, she has published several articles on various topics such as Puerto Rican high achieving students, extracurricular participation and retention, race and Latino identity, youth and social justice, and the Puerto Rican community of Chicago. Her publications are included in journals such as *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*, *Anthropology and Education Quarterly*, *Research in Sociology of Education and Socialization*, *Centro Journal*, *Journal of Poverty*, and the *Latino Studies Journal*.