



WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON

January 25, 2002

Warm greetings to everyone gathered in New Haven for the Race, Values, and the American Legal Process conference in honor of the late Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr.

Our great nation was founded upon a deep belief in the promise of democracy and a commitment to freedom and opportunity for all. Throughout his extraordinary career, Leon Higginbotham strived to fulfill that promise and create a brighter future for people across America and around the world. From his tenure on the federal bench to his contributions to democracy in South Africa, he devoted his life to the fundamental values for which our nation has always stood.

Yet because America is still a work in progress, it is fitting that lovers of the law should join together to build on his legacy. Despite remarkable advances in recent decades, our society still faces profound, and at times seemingly intractable, disparities -- disparities in income, education, employment, health care, and the quality of legal representation. By studying these disparities and ways our legal system can be used to overcome them, you truly bring honor to Judge Higginbotham's good life and memory and take us ever closer to becoming the One America we were meant to be.

Best wishes for a productive conference.

*Bill Clinton*

