



Press Release

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BROWN RUDNICK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION HOSTS JUDGE ROBERT CARTER IN EVENING CONVERSATION

*Leading Civil Rights Advocate and Judge Is Interviewed by
Harvard Law School Professor Charles Ogletree*

Boston, MA, August 20, 2004 – Famed civil rights attorney and judge, **Robert L. Carter**, who argued the *Brown v. Board of Education* school desegregation case before the United States Supreme Court, was the guest of the **Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation** last evening. Judge Carter was interviewed by Harvard Law professor **Charles J. Ogletree**, following which he took questions from nearly 100 guests at Brown Rudnick's Event Center in Boston.

Attended by area business and civic leaders, as well as public interest advocates and students, the group heard Judge Carter share his recollections of giving the lead argument in *Brown* before the United States Supreme Court prior to its landmark 1954 decision. The judge also spoke of his personal experiences attending law school, serving in the military, arguing 22 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court (incredibly, he won 21 of them, many with enormous social significance), as well as his views on the state of race relations and the role of the Court today. He is now a Senior Judge in the Southern District of New York.

Judge Carter was interviewed by Harvard Law School Professor Charles Ogletree, a leading scholar and expert on the social changes that followed *Brown v. Board of Education*. He is the noted author of many journal articles and the recently published "All Deliberate Speed" about the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision and its aftermath. Professor Ogletree is also the Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice and served as legal counsel to Anita Hill in the confirmation hearings for Justice Clarence Thomas.

Albert W. Wallis, Executive Director of the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, welcomed the group. "We are honored to have the opportunity to spend the evening with Judge Carter and to celebrate



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his extraordinary contributions to the pursuit of justice. Improving inner-city education is the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation's focus, and so it is natural that we would have a keen interest in the legal changes brought about by *Brown v. Board of Education* and take a special pride in having Judge Carter visit Brown Rudnick to share his reflections with us."

Following the interview, Judge Carter answered many questions from the audience. He commented on the figures that most influenced his career; his experience working with the NAACP, both with and after the departure of Thurgood Marshall; and his reactions to recent statements in the press regarding social inequality, parental responsibilities and social change.

The evening concluded with two awards of recognition and support. First, on behalf of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation, Forrest Milder, the Foundation's treasurer and chair of the event organizing committee, presented a rosewood clock to the judge, with the inscription "To Robert Carter, whose vision, intellect, and eloquence changed the course of American history."

Then, in honor of Judge Carter's contributions to civil rights and educational opportunity, Foundation president and director Carl Axelrod presented the Foundation's check for \$5000 to the recently formed Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice Foundation. The Institute, chaired by Professor Ogletree, focuses on a variety of issues relating to race and justice.

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization making grants to improve inner-city education. Formed in 2000, the Foundation has made more than 30 awards to worthy programs in Boston, Hartford, Providence and New York City through its *Insight/Foresight* and *Relationship* programs.

The Foundation was established through the generous contributions of the partners of **Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP**, continuing the Firm's tradition of providing extraordinary service to its clients and community. The Firm also created The **Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest** in 2001 to serve as an umbrella organization for the Firm's pro bono legal work, charitable giving, community involvement and public interest efforts. The Center also provides legal, volunteer and administrative support for the Foundation's activities.

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