

Theodore M. Shaw, J.D.

Julius L. Chambers Distinguished Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Civil Rights, School of Law at UNC-Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, NC, US

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Theodore M. Shaw is the Julius L. Chambers Distinguished Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Civil Rights at the University of North Carolina School of Law at Chapel Hill. Professor Shaw teaches Civil Procedure and Advanced Constitutional Law/Fourteenth Amendment. Before joining the faculty of UNC Law School, from 2008-2014 Professor Shaw taught at Columbia University Law School, where he was Professor of Professional Practice. During that time he was also “Of Counsel” to the law firm of Norton Rose Fulbright (formerly Fulbright & Jaworski, LLP). His practice involved civil litigation and representation of institutional clients on matters concerning diversity and civil rights.

Professor Shaw was the fifth Director-Counsel and President of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., for which he worked in various capacities over the span of twenty-six years. He has litigated education, employment, voting rights, housing, police misconduct, capital punishment and other civil rights cases in trial and appellate courts, and in the United States Supreme Court. From 1982 until 1987, he litigated education, housing, and capital punishment cases and directed LDF’s education litigation docket. In 1987, under the direction of LDF’s third Director-Counsel, Julius Chambers, Mr. Shaw relocated to Los Angeles to establish LDF’s Western Regional Office. In 1990, Mr. Shaw left LDF to join the faculty of the University of Michigan Law School, where he taught Constitutional Law, Civil Procedure and Civil Rights. While at Michigan, he played a key role in initiating a review of the law school’s admissions practices and policies, and served on the faculty committee that promulgated the admissions program that was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2003 in *Grutter v. Bollinger*.

In 1993, Mr. Shaw returned to LDF as Associate Director-Counsel, and in 2004, he became LDF’s fifth Director-Counsel. Mr. Shaw’s legal career began as a Trial Attorney in the Honors Program of the United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division in Washington, D.C., where he worked from 1979 until 1982.

Education/Learning, Judiciary, Law Enforcement, Legal Services, Political Organization, Public Policy, Research, Public Safety

Political Law, Educational Litigation, Transitional Justice, Constitutional Government, Federal Law

The International Center for Transitional Justice, Legal Advisory Committee of the European Roma Rights Centre, Board of American Constitution Society, Board of Directors of The New Press, Board of Deacons of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in the City of New York

Columbia University

J.D. Law

Wesleyan University

B.A. Law

Honorary Doctorate of Laws
2014

Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Wesleyan University

Phyllis Beck Chair
2003

Phyllis Beck Chair at Temple Law School.

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