

**Invite Ms. Driver or another UEAALDF representative to speak to your organization:**



# Shanta Driver

UEAALDF's National Director, Shanta Driver, has been organizing for civil rights for the last 25 years. She graduated in Psychology and Social Relations from Harvard in 1975, and graduated from Wayne State University Law School in 2002. Ms. Driver is currently an attorney at Scheff and Washington, a leading Detroit civil rights and labor law firm.

From 1997 – 2003, Ms. Driver was responsible for directing the student-intervenor's defense in *Grutter v Bollinger*, the University of Michigan Law School affirmative action case. In the trial of *Grutter*, UEAA presented the broadest and deepest defense of affirmative action ever made in a court of law, exposing the separate and unequal quality of K-12 education, the bias inherent in the standardized tests, the effects of hostile racial climate on the academic performance of minority students, the failure of all attempted alternatives to affirmative action and the current impact and significance of race and racism in American society.

Relying on many of the arguments presented by the student defendants, the Supreme Court, in a historic victory for affirmative action and integration, ruled to uphold affirmative action at the University of Michigan Law School.

Building on the recent Supreme Court victory, under Ms. Driver's direction, UEAALDF is now developing a legal challenge to California's anti-affirmative action constitutional amendment, Proposition 209.

Ms. Driver is also the national spokesperson for the Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action and Integration and Fight for Equality By Any Means Necessary (BAMN). BAMN spearheaded the organizing of the 50,000 person March on Washington to Defend Affirmative Action and Save *Brown v Board of Education* on April 1, 2003. This march was the most integrated march ever in the history of this nation.

BAMN is currently organizing a national campaign to defeat Ward Connerly's attempt to reverse the civil rights movement's victory in *Grutter v Bollinger* through state-wide legislative and ballot initiatives.

Ms. Driver led BAMN and UEAALDF in sponsoring a National March on Washington to Realize the Promise of *Brown v. Board of Education* on May 15th, 2004. This march was organized to mobilize the nation to defeat all attempts to ban affirmative action, to resist attacks on public education and to revitalize the fight for school integration on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the *Brown* ruling.

Ms. Driver spends much of her time criss-crossing the country speaking on the contemporary challenges to civil rights and inspiring people to become active in their defense. Included among her many speaking engagements are: The U.S. Department of Transportation; the A. Phillip Randolph Institute; Rainbow/PUSH Coalition; NAACP National Convention; Tavis Smiley Foundation Youth2Leaders Conference; National Bar Association; American Sociological Association; Americans for Democratic Action; the National Organization for Women; American Association for Affirmative Action; Society of American Law Teachers and hundreds of colleges, high schools, churches and unions.

Ms. Driver has been a leader of civil rights struggles for the past 25 years, and has led campaigns against police brutality, for women's rights, and for workers rights.