

## **Points of View: Legacy Preferences in College Admissions**

(Quotations from Adam Liptak's New York Times article "A Hereditary Perk the Founding Fathers Failed to Anticipate")

- A. "**John Edwards** has written that they are 'something out of an aristocracy, not our democracy.'"
- B. "...being eligible for a legacy preference at most universities 'is a near-perfect proxy for being white,' said **Michael A. Olivas**, a law professor and authority on higher education at the University of Houston."
- C. "...**Jerome Karabel**, a sociologist at the University of California, Berkeley, demonstrated that preferences for the children of alumni were a relatively recent phenomenon, a result of anti-Semitism and xenophobia in the first part of the last century."
- D. "**Justice Clarence Thomas** said the Constitution's equal protection clause did not prohibit 'unseemly legacy preferences' because they did not directly involve race."
- E. "The preferences did not violate the Constitution, the judge, **Hiram H. Ward** ruled, because there was a rational reason for them—they generated 'monetary support for the university.'"
- F. "'Legal distinctions, titles, powers and privileges,' **John Adams** wrote in 1788, 'are not hereditary.'"