

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Charles Hamilton Houston, regarded by many as one of the fathers of the civil rights movement, understood the lawyer's role and responsibility as a social engineer advocating for civil rights through the courts. Heeding Houston's words, lawyers today continue to shape our discussion of diversity and the law in a variety of ways, including challenges to statutory rules such as those limiting adoption to heterosexual couples, attempts at perfecting existing rules such as the optimistic Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and advancements in immigration laws such as the U Visa.

The Modern American applauds the efforts of lawyers who advocate for civil rights today and who continue to honor, in the words of the 2008 presidential candidate Barack Obama, "the idea that this nation is more than the sum of its parts – that out of many, we are truly one." Our third annual symposium entitled "Civil Rights Movement 2.0: Reshaping and Rethinking the Role of the Civil Rights Movement in the 21st Century," addresses the need for a conversation among lawyers, and understands that the effective advancement of diversity depends on the combined work of lawyers in their role as social engineers.

As a reflection of our continued commitment to foster qualitative insights and discussions of diversity and the law, in this

issue of *The Modern American*, you will find an array of articles ranging from multi-ethnic identity, to health conditions for domestic workers, and diversity in the workplace. In addition, we are proud to announce that our reader base continues to expand, and now extends throughout the nation, including distribution to law practitioners, legal academics, law students, and prospective law students. Our availability on the Lexis Nexis online database, also contributes to the wide distribution of *The Modern American* to individuals in the legal profession and beyond.

In closing, *The Modern American* would like to thank our staff members who are graduating in May 2008. We commend them for their contribution to the prevalent discussion of legal issues affecting minorities in our country, and their outstanding dedication to our publication. We encourage them to keep moving forward in their role as social engineers by facilitating conversations about diversity and the law, and by challenging existing discrimination through education and action.

Sincerely,

The Executive Board
The Modern American

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