

FLETCHER FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES SEVENTH CLASS OF FELLOWS
Five Esteemed Individuals Awarded for Their Efforts to Improve Racial Equality

NEW YORK, July 5, 2011 – **Alphonse Fletcher, Jr., Chairman and CEO of Fletcher Asset Management, Inc.**, today announced the selection of the 2011-2012 class of Alphonse Fletcher, Sr. Fellows. A charitable initiative created in 2004, the Fletcher Fellowship program commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the United States Supreme Court’s landmark decision, *Brown v. Board of Education*. Each of this year’s five Fletcher Fellows will receive a stipend of \$50,000 for work that contributes to improving racial equality in American society and furthers the broad social goals of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Regarding the seventh class of Fellows, Mr. Fletcher said, **“Our five new fellows are looking at the complicated legacy of *Brown v. Board* in ways that push forward the work our earlier fellows have done. In diverse and fascinating ways, their projects challenge the popular idea that *Brown*’s work is done.”**

A description of the 2011-2012 Fletcher Fellows and their projects follows:

Ian Haney López is the John H. Boalt Professor of Law at the University of California, Berkeley, where he teaches in the areas of race and constitutional law. He is also on the Executive Committee of the Center for Social Justice. His current research examines the emergence and operation of colorblindness in U.S. constitutional law as what he calls a harbinger of a new racial ideology aimed at legitimating and preserving the racial status quo. His fellowship project is “The Blind Leading the Blind: The US Supreme Court’s Role in Promoting Reactionary Colorblindness.” His work has been groundbreaking in the study of the social, and specifically, legal construction of race. His books include *Racism on Trial: The Chicano Fight for Justice* (Harvard/Belknap, 2003), *White by Law: The Legal Construction of Race* (NYU, 1996, rev. ed. 2006), and the anthologies, *Race, Law and Society* (Ashgate, 2006) and *After the War on Crime: Race, Democracy, and a New Reconstruction* (NYU, 2008). In addition to the *Stanford Law Review*, *Yale Law Journal*, *California Law Review*, and *Pennsylvania Law Review*, his writing has also appeared in *The New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Times*.

Jonathan Holloway is Professor of History, African American Studies, and American Studies at Yale University, where he also serves as the eleventh master of Calhoun College, one of Yale’s twelve residential colleges. During the fellowship year, he will complete the monograph, *Jim Crow Wisdom: Memory, Identity, and Politics in Black America, 1941-2000*. He is the author of *Confronting the Veil: Abram Harris Jr., E. Franklin Frazier, and Ralph Bunche, 1919-1941* (UNC, 2002), the editor of Ralph Bunche’s *A Brief and Tentative Analysis of Negro Leadership* (NYU, 2005), and the co-editor of the anthology, *Black Scholars on the Line: Race, Social Science, and American Thought in the 20th Century* (University of Notre Dame, 2007). He received his Ph.D. in 1985 at Yale, where he teaches courses on post-emancipation social, cultural, and intellectual history.

Sharon D. Raynor is Assistant Professor of English at Johnson C. Smith University, where she is the Mott University Professor for 2010-2013. Her fellowship project is “Boots on the Ground: From the Legacy of *Brown* to the Battlefield for Freedom, Justice and Equality.” She is the author of *Memories of War: Trauma and Silence in the Narratives of Black Vietnam Veterans* (VDM Verlag, 2009). Since 1999, she has written and directed two oral history projects sponsored by the North Carolina Humanities Council entitled “Breaking the Silence: The Unspoken Brotherhood of Vietnam Veterans” and “Soldier-to-Soldier: Men and Women Share Their Legacy of War.” As a presenter for the Speakers Bureau and “Let’s Talk About It” Book Discussion Program, both sponsored by the North Carolina Humanities Council, she has worked extensively with Vietnam veterans in North Carolina.

Daniel J. Sharfstein is Associate Professor of Law at Vanderbilt University Law School, where he teaches courses on America legal history and constitutional law. His fellowship project is “Legalizing Massive Resistance: The Lawyers Who Litigated Against Civil Rights.” He is the author of *The Invisible Line: Three American Families and the Secret Journey from Black to White* (Penguin Press, 2011). His writing has also appeared in the *Yale Law Journal*, *Minnesota Law Review*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Economist*, *American Prospect*, and *Legal Affairs*. He was the inaugural recipient of the Raoul Berger Visiting Fellowship in Legal History at Harvard Law School and was a Samuel I. Golieb Fellow in Legal History at New York University School of Law. A graduate of Harvard College and Yale Law School, he clerked for the Honorable Dorothy W. Nelson, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the Honorable Rya W. Zobel, United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts. He worked as a journalist in West Africa and Southern California prior to law school.

Rachel L. Swarns is a Washington correspondent for *The New York Times* and is currently a Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies at the Catholic University of America. Her fellowship project, “The Roots of Michelle Obama: The Story of a Family and a Nation,” stems from an article she wrote for *The New York Times*. She served as the South Africa bureau chief from 1999 to 2003, where she covered the challenges of racial reconciliation in South Africa, the civil war in Angola, and conflict in Zimbabwe. She was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for a series about the emergence of South Africa’s professional black elite. Prior to joining the *Times*’ staff, she was a reporter for *The St. Petersburg Times* and *The Miami Herald*. In 2010 and 2011, she was also a Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

Henry Louis Gates, Jr., chair of the fellowship program’s selection committee and the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and Director of the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard, commented: “Drawing from legal history, social history, and American history and genealogy, these five fellows are committed to telling the full story of *Brown*’s history and *Brown*’s legacy.” He added, “They will bring further honor to this singular fellowship program, which is so deeply

invested in understanding the impact of *Brown v. Board* on education, achievement, and citizenship in the U.S.”

The Selection Committee is chaired by Gates and includes Professor K. Anthony Appiah, Laurance S. Rockefeller University Professor of Philosophy, Princeton University; Professor Lawrence D. Bobo, W. E. B. Du Bois Professor of the Social Sciences at Harvard University; Dr. James P. Comer, Maurice Falk Professor of Child Psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine’s Child Study Center, Director of the School Development Program, and Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Yale School of Medicine; Thelma Golden, Director and Chief Curator, The Studio Museum in Harlem; and Dr. Amy Gutmann, President of the University of Pennsylvania. This year’s Committee selected the five Fletcher Fellows from a pool of more than 70 applicants.

About the Fletcher Fellowships

Named for Mr. Alphonse Fletcher, Sr., The Fletcher Fellowships are awarded to scholars, writers, and artists whose work contributes to improving race relations in American society and furthers the broad social goals of the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Brown v. Board of Education* decision of 1954. Dr. Bettye Fletcher is the director of the Fletcher Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Fletcher Asset Management, which administers the fellowship program.

The Alphonse Fletcher, Sr. Fellows Program was created in 2004 on the 50th Anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. In 2004, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the decision, Alphonse Fletcher, Jr., the Chairman and CEO of Fletcher Asset Management, Inc., announced a \$50 million philanthropic initiative, of which the Fellowship Program is the centerpiece. The announcement of the seventh class of fellows brings to 44 the number of Fletcher Fellows working in diverse fields including literature, history and the social sciences, the visual and performing arts, journalism, science, and the law. Previous recipients include Stanley Crouch, Anna Deveare Smith, Anita Hill, Brent Staples, Elizabeth Alexander, Kathleen Cleaver, Glenn Ligon, and Hilton Als.

About the Fletcher Foundation

The Fletcher Foundation is a not-for-profit private charitable organization created by Alphonse Fletcher, Jr. in 1993. The Foundation, in conjunction with charitable contributions from Fletcher Asset Management and Mr. Fletcher, supports a wide variety of programs and charitable activities and is most strongly committed to projects that better the community at large. Information on the Fletcher Fellowship is available at the Fletcher Foundation website (www.fletcherphilanthropy.org).