

# Immigration and the Black Community: Conflict or Common Interest?

Presented by the Equal Justice Society and Black Alliance for Just Immigration  
Co-Sponsored by Latino Issues Forum, Greenlining Institute and Centro Legal de la Raza

**Tuesday, July 31, 2007**

Oakland Museum of California

1000 Oak St, Oakland, CA

Reception 6 p.m.

Program 7 p.m.

Followed by

Open Discussion/Reception

Event is free to the public but  
RSVP required. Call 415-288-8700  
or visit:

[equaljusticesociety.org/events](http://equaljusticesociety.org/events)



A counter-demonstration in favor of immigration lined the sidewalks of Crenshaw Boulevard on June 23, 2007. LAPD officials called the nearly 500 protestors an "illegal assembly." (Photo by Anne-Marie McReynolds)

Our country is experiencing increased conflicts between Blacks and Latinos:

- In Austin, a group of men assaulted the driver of a car that accidentally hit a child. The passenger of that car was killed while trying to intervene.
- In Los Angeles, gangs target youth of the other communities - and each other.
- Black-Latino political alliances are straining in rapidly changing communities.

This growing tension between Latino and Black communities stems from many sources — including the right wing offensive against civil rights law that seeks to drive a wedge between different communities engaged in a common struggle for equality.

Karl Rove and others are expert at distracting the public. Recall that the recent focus on immigration was not on the radar of the current Administration until the scandal broke about wireless surveillance. In the blink of an eye, public attention was redirected to immigration and increased tensions surfaced between communities fighting for social equality.

We invite you to an informative, open and frank discussion of the relationship between immigration, civil rights, tensions between the Latino and African American communities, and social justice.

In the wake of the recent discussions of immigration reform and recent Supreme Court cases that directly bear

on the future of racial justice, Latino immigrant and African American communities must decide how to best alleviate the barriers to opportunity we face.

Audience members will be invited to submit questions online and during the event.

**Our discussants include:**

- Eva Paterson (President, Equal Justice Society)
- Reverend Phil Lawson (Black Alliance for Just Immigration)
- Prof. Bill Ong Hing (Law Professor, UC Davis)
- Nora Vargas (Executive Director, Latino Issues Forum)
- Larisa Casillas (Director, Bay Area Immigrant Rights Coalition)