# SARAH PITLYK AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

#### **Highlights:**

- Sarah Pitlyk opposed equal opportunity affirmative action programs.
  - o Pitlyk wrote an amicus brief on behalf of right-wing organization American Civil Rights Union in which she opposed affirmative action programs in Michigan.

# Pitlyk Opposed Affirmative Action

# PITLYK OPPOSED AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN AN AMICUS BRIEF TO THE U.S. SUPREME COURT

## 2006: Michigan Ballot Initiative Proposal 2 Banned Affirmative Action

2006: Michigan Initiative Proposal 2 Passed, Amending The State Constitution To Prohibit Affirmative Action In Public Education, Government Contracting, And Public Employment. According to the New York Times, "The Michigan initiative, known as Proposal 2, was a response to Grutter v. Bollinger, a 2003 Supreme Court decision that upheld the use of race as one factor among many in law school admissions to ensure educational diversity. Proposal 2, approved in 2006 by 58 percent of Michigan's voters, amended the State Constitution to prohibit discrimination or preferential treatment in public education, government contracting and public employment. Groups favoring affirmative action sued to block the part of the law concerning higher education." [New York Times, 4/22/14]

#### 2012: The United States Court of Appeals For The Sixth Circuit Ruled Against Proposal 2

2012: The United States Court of Appeals For The Sixth Circuit Ruled Against The Michigan Affirmative Action Ban, Deciding It Violated The Constitution's Equal Protection Clause. According to the New York Times, "In 2012, the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, in Cincinnati, ruled by a vote of 8 to 7 that the initiative violated the federal Constitution's equal protection clause. The appeals court majority said the problem with the law was that it restructured the state's political process by making it harder for disfavored minorities to press for change." [New York Times, 4/22/14]

#### 2013: Pitlyk Wrote A Brief Opposing Affirmative Action Programs In Michigan

2013: Pitlyk Wrote An Amicus Brief On Behalf Of Right-Wing Organization American Civil Rights Union (ACRU) Opposing Affirmative Actions Programs In Michigan. According to the Amicus Brief For The American Civil Rights Union And The American Rights Institute, "State-imposed racial classifications pose a basic affront to the diginity of the persons classified. [...] Members of preferred groups suffer from the unjust stigma that they are inherently incapable of competing on an even footing." [Brief For The American Civil Rights Union And The American Rights Institute As Amici Curiae In Support Of The Petitioner, "Schuette v. Coalition To Defend Affirmative Action," U.S. Supreme Court, 572 U.S. 291 (2014), Filed 7/1/13

### 2014: The Supreme Court Upheld Michigan's Ban On Affirmative Action In Admissions

2014: In A 6-2 Decision, The Supreme Court Upheld The Michigan Ban On Affirmative Action In Admissions. According to the New York Times, "In a fractured decision that revealed deep divisions over what role the judiciary should play in protecting racial and ethnic minorities, the Supreme Court on Tuesday upheld a Michigan constitutional amendment that bans affirmative action in admissions to the state's public universities. The 6-to-2 ruling effectively endorsed similar measures in seven other states. It may also encourage more states to enact measures banning the use of race in admissions or to consider race-neutral alternatives to ensure diversity." [New York Times, 4/22/14]