

Grutter v. Bollinger

S.Ct. (June 23, 2003)

In a split decision, the Supreme Court upheld the University of Michigan Law School's narrowly tailored use of race in admissions decisions. The Court further ruled that a compelling interest in obtaining the educational benefits that flow from a diverse student body is not prohibited by the Equal Protection Clause.

The Law School admission criteria differs from that used by the university's College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (*Gratz v. Bollinger*) in that (1) it does not automatically assign a significant number of points based solely on race, and (2) it considers a whole range of individualized factors that constitute diversity, such as recommenders' enthusiasm, the quality of the undergraduate institution and the applicant's essay, and the areas and difficulty of undergraduate course selection. The Law School's policy does not define diversity solely in terms of racial and ethnic status and does not restrict the types of diversity contributions eligible for "substantial weight."