

Bakke shuns publicity during court process

By his own choice, Allan Bakke remained silent during the Supreme Court's consideration of his historic reverse discrimination suit.

When previously pressed for a statement, Bakke once told newsmen, "I prefer to stay out of it in a personal sense. I'm not participating in the publicity aspect of it. I prefer to let the case stand on its own merits and let the discussion proceed."

That he did.

On Wednesday, the Supreme Court ruled the 38-year-old white engineer must be admitted to the University of California Medical School, but said the school can take race into account in future admissions.

Bakke filed his suit after he was kept out of the UC Medical School at Davis in 1972 because 16 admissions places were reserved for minorities who entered under less strict standards.

From the day he took his case to court, Bakke has shunned personal publicity, refusing to grant interviews and declining to be photographed.

Bakke was born in Minneapolis, Minn., Feb. 4, 1940, but moved as a child to Florida.

As a student in the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps program, he was obligated to go on active duty and served four years in the U.S. Marine Corps, including seven months in Vietnam as commander of a combat anti-aircraft missile unit.

He returned to the United States as a captain and moved to California to work at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Ames Research Center in Sunnyvale in 1967.

He completed work for a masters degree in engineering at Stanford in 1970 and began taking premedical courses while

Opinions vary across nation on decision in Bakke case

United Press International

The high court ruled Bakke must be admitted to medical school but also said race may be considered in future admissions.

"We're elated that the court has ordered Mr. Bakke into medical school," said Robert D. Links, an attorney for the aspiring medical school student who went to court contending he would have won admission to medical school but for a minority admissions program.

Dr. John A.D. Cooper, president of the Association of American Medical Colleges representing 122 accredited medical schools in the United States, said members were "disappointed with the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Bakke versus the University of California."

Minorities gained increased admission to medical schools because the schools "took into consideration the need for broad representation in medicine from all segments of our society," Cooper said in a statement. "The association will continue to use every legal means to improve for minorities the opportunities for access to medical education."

Nathaniel Jones, chief counsel to the NAACP, said in San Francisco the organization planned a meeting of legal scholars to assess the impact of the ruling.

The court, he said, "made it clear there can be continued use of race in shaping remedial programs."

Had the court rejected affirmative action programs, he said, the Constitution "would have been converted from a sword and shield for our protection into an instrument of our decapitation."

State officials question discrimination decision

United Press International

Some of the state's top officials Wednesday said the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on the Allan Bakke reverse discrimination suit may have done more to complicate matters than clarify them.

The high court Wednesday ruled Bakke was discriminated against in his attempts to enter medical school at the University of California at Davis.

The court said the school was wrong to reject Bakke, but it also ruled the school could continue to allow special admission of minority students.

In Fort Worth, the outgoing president of the State Bar of Texas, Travis Shelton, said the ruling was ambiguous.

"The Supreme Court said in effect that California school officials went too far in relying on race in determining entrance qualifications for some candidates. The question now is how far is too far?"

Mark G. Yudof, a University of Texas at Austin law professor and an expert in education law and the Constitution said the court avoided the primary issue.

"The court decided the case on statutory grounds — the Civil Rights Act of 1964."

He said Congress could alter that statute, therefore the court's decision only affects institutions subject to statute — such as those funded in whole or in part by federal funds.

"You may see an exodus of minority students from public to private institutions," he said.

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