

HOST



Tavis Smiley
Television and Radio Host,
Author, Philanthropist

With his award-winning television talk show, *Tavis Smiley* on PBS, and his radio show, *The Tavis Smiley Show* from PRI, Smiley is the first and only American to simultaneously host signature talk shows on both public television and public radio. In 2006, Smiley made

publishing history when the book he edited, *Covenant with Black America*, reached #1 on the *New York Times* Best-seller list. Smiley also offers political commentary twice weekly on the *Tom Joyner Morning Show* and has authored 11 books, including his current releases, *What I Know for Sure* (Double-day), *Never Mind Success . . . Go for Greatness!* and *THE COVENANT: In Action*, published by his own imprint (Smiley Books) with Hay House. Texas Southern University recently honored Smiley with the opening of The Tavis Smiley School of Communications and The Tavis Smiley Center for Professional Media Studies.

MODERATOR



Raymond M. Brown
Trial Lawyer and Law Professor

Raymond Brown is a partner in the Litigation Department of Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith, and Davis, LLP; chair of the White Collar Defense and Corporate Compliance Practice Group; and host of the Emmy Award-winning New Jersey Network program *Due*

Process. Brown has also taught international criminal law in the Seton Hall/American University Program in Cairo, Egypt. He completed undergraduate studies at Columbia University and received a JD from the University of California, Berkeley.

PANELISTS



Dr. Darlene Clark Hine
Professor, Northwestern
University; Director of the
Comparative Black History
PhD program at Michigan State
University

Dr. Darlene Clark Hine is the Board of Trustees Professor of African American Studies at Northwestern University and director of the

Comparative Black History PhD program at Michigan State University. Her book *Black Women in White* was named Outstanding Book by the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Human Rights. Hine's forthcoming book is *Freedom is Our Business: Black Professionals and the Origins of the Civil Rights Movement 1890-1955*. She received her BA degree from Roosevelt University and PhD from Kent State University.



Dr. Ira Berlin
Professor,
University of Maryland

Dr. Ira Berlin teaches at the University of Maryland, and is the founder of the Freedmen and Southern Society Project. In 2000, President Clinton appointed Berlin to the Advisory Council of the National Endowment for the

Humanities. His study of African American life between 1619 and 1819, *Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in Mainland North America*, was awarded the Bancroft Prize for the best book in American history by Columbia University. Berlin received his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin.





Dr. Ernesto Cortés Jr.
Southwest Regional Director,
Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF)

Ernesto Cortés Jr. is the Southwest Regional Director of the Industrial Areas Foundation, which he founded in 1982. Cortés also envisioned and launched the Alliance Schools Initiative, an innovative education initiative

to engage communities in public education that includes approximately 35 districts and 250 schools in four states. Cortés's work has been featured in numerous magazines and newspapers, and he has served on many distinguished panels, commissions, and boards. He received his BA from Texas A&M University.



Karenne Wood
Tribal Speaker and Author

Karenne Wood serves on the Tribal Council of the Monacan Indian Nation and is director of the Virginia Indian Heritage Program. Wood has a gubernatorial appointment as chair of the Virginia Council on Indians and was selected as Writer of the Year

in Poetry by the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers in 2002. She holds an MFA in poetry from George Mason University and is a PhD candidate at the University of Virginia.



Dr. Farah Jasmine Griffin
Professor of English and
Comparative Literature,
Columbia University; Author
and Speaker

Dr. Farah Jasmine Griffin is a professor at Columbia University where she served as director of the Institute for Research in African American Studies from 2003 to 2006

and received one of the first Columbia University Distinguished Faculty Awards. Her essays and articles have appeared in *The New York Times*, the *Guardian*, *Harper's Bazaar*, and *African American Review*. She graduated from Harvard University and received her PhD from Yale University.



Dr. Rex Ellis
Vice President of the Historic
Area at Colonial Williamsburg

Dr. Rex Ellis is a teacher, historian, storyteller, and vice president of the Historic Area at Colonial Williamsburg. He is the former chairman of the Division of Cultural History at the National Museum of American History at the

Smithsonian Institution. Ellis is the author of seven books, and has directed the Department of African American Interpretation and Presentations at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. He received his doctoral degree in higher education from The College of William and Mary.



Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander
Author and Professor,
Norfolk State University

Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander is an author and professor at Norfolk State University. Her coauthored book, *Black America Series: Portsmouth*, was the first to examine the history of African Americans in

Portsmouth. In 2005, *American Legacy* magazine selected Newby-Alexander as one of the nation's top teachers in African American history at a Historically Black College or University. She received her BA from The University of Virginia and PhD from The College of William and Mary.

