**WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT IS THE STORY BEHIND THE CASE?**

Allan Bakke, a thirty-five-year-old white man, had twice applied for admission to the University of California Medical School at Davis. He was rejected both times. The school reserved sixteen places in each entering class of one hundred for "qualified" minorities, as part of the university's affirmative action program, in an effort to redress longstanding, unfair minority exclusions from the medical profession. Bakke's qualifications (college GPA and test scores) exceeded those of any of the minority students admitted in the two years Bakke's applications were rejected. Bakke contended, first in the California courts, then in the Supreme Court, that he was excluded from admission solely on the basis of race.

**HOW DID THE SUPREME COURT RULE IN THE CASE?**

1978 Supreme Court case which held that a university's admissions criteria which used race as a definite and exclusive basis for an admission decision violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

**NAME OF CASE**

Regents of the University of California v. Bakke

**YEAR OF CASE**

**1977-1978**

**INVOLVED (ex. people, states, amendments, laws)**

Allan Bakke, California, 14th Amendment, Civil Rights Act of 1964

**WHAT IS THE CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE IN THIS CASE?**

Did the University of California violate the Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection clause, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, by practicing an affirmative action policy that resulted in the repeated rejection of Bakke's application for admission to its medical school?