

Regents of UC v. Bakke / How the Case Moved Through the Court System

Supreme Court of the United States

The Supreme Court held that the quota system used by the UC Davis School of Medicine is unconstitutional. However, it also said that race could be used as a “plus” in the application process.

Regents of the University of California v. Bakke (1978)



Supreme Court of California

The California Supreme Court agreed with the Superior Court and declared the special admissions program unconstitutional. In addition, the court ordered that Bakke be admitted to UC Davis’ medical school.

Bakke v. Regents of the University of California v. Bakke (1976)



Superior Court of Yolo County, California

After being rejected by the University of California Davis School of Medicine for the second time, Bakke files his case in trial court. The Superior Court declared that the school’s special admissions policy “operated as a racial quota” and violated federal and state constitutions and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Superior Court also said that race cannot be used as a factor in admissions. However, the court does not order Bakke’s admission because he did not prove that he would have been admitted if the special admissions policy did not exist.

Bakke v. Regents of the University of California v. Bakke (1974)