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Panel: Current Issues at Historically Black Colleges and Universities - Handout: The State of Maryland \$2.3B HBCU Lawsuit

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iAM Solutions, LLC

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The State of Maryland \$2.3B HBCU Lawsuit

This episode of "The Greatest Stories Never Told" focuses on the \$2.3B HBCU lawsuit vs. the State of Maryland. The story is brought to life by former Morgan State University President Dr. Earl Richardson and John C. Brittain a tenured professor of law at the University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law.

As we prepare to celebrate "Black History Month" the release of this episode illustrates the underlying challenges that most HBCUs have conquered as they produced some of the most outstanding individuals in America.

Excerpt from: Urban Mecca Article

Maryland is attempting to renege on its obligation to provide sufficient funding to make its historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) comparable and competitive with other public universities in Maryland in terms of mission, academic program offerings, library services, information technology infrastructure, and other facets of their operations. For five years, the state has vigorously opposed a lawsuit by HBCU students and alumni that seeks to dismantle remnants of the formerly segregated higher education system. **The case, the Coalition for Equity and Excellence in Maryland Higher Education v. Maryland's Higher Education Commission**, is the first of its kind in the state and the first of its kind in the nation to go to trial in some 16 years.

[Click here to view Video](#)

The state is fighting efforts to bring parity to its HBCUs despite historical documentation pledging to do so. Maryland's 2009 State Plan for Higher Education commits the state to providing substantial additional funding for its four historically black institutions. The plan states: "The State of Maryland has identified as a priority for higher education the goal of providing the funding necessary to ensure that its four public HBIs - Bowie State University, Coppin State University, Morgan State University, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore - are comparable and competitive with the state's public [traditionally white institutions]."

This commitment flows from the conclusions of a blue ribbon commission of higher education experts that Maryland assembled to compare its HBCUs to Maryland's other

public universities. The report was part of Maryland's 2008 Bohanan Commission and is generally referred to as the "HBI Panel Report."

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