

# Ruth Chance Lecture Series

Presents:

## John Burris on the Oscar Grant Case

*On January 1, 2009, a BART police officer shot and killed Oscar Grant, as he lay prone and surrounded by several BART police officers.*

*His family has filed a multi-million dollar lawsuit against BART and the BART police officer.*



**John Burris**, the attorney for Oscar Grant's family, and an authority on police brutality will present the Ruth Chance lecture about the case.

Mr. Burris is a renowned and accomplished civil rights lawyer who has prevailed in some of the most notorious cases of police misconduct and civil rights violations in recent history.

He first became involved in police misconduct cases in April, 1979, when Oakland's Mayor and City Council hired him to conduct an independent investigation into the fatal police shooting of 15-year-old Melvin Black, and the Oakland Police Department's

entry into the NAACP's Oakland office.

He went on to handle the notorious Oakland Riders class action that resulted in the implementation of several reforms in the Oakland Police Department, as well as a consent decree that placed the Oakland Police Department under a court monitor for five years. He represented Rodney King in the civil suit against the City of Los Angeles. He is the author of *BLUE vs. BLACK: Let's End the Conflict between Police and Minorities*.

Mr. Burris's law practice includes employment discrimination law, and criminal defense. He was co-counsel against the Department of Corrections in a hostile work environment that resulted in a series of reforms designed to protect female correctional officers against sexual harassment by prisoners. He succeeded in a multi-million dollar class action against two international, package delivery companies that resulted in a series of reforms that set hiring and promotional goals for minority employees.

He earned a law degree from Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley, and an MBA from the University of California Berkeley Haas School of Business.

**Feb. 23, 2009**

**Boalt - 140**

**12:45 - 1:45 p.m.**

**Thelton E.  
Henderson  
Center for  
Social Justice**

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