



## **Sandra Stotsky, the right-wing professor from Arkansas that Arizona will use to ban Ethnic Studies in Tucson**

by [DA Morales](#) on Sep. 23, 2011, under [Ethnic Studies](#), [Headline news](#)

Earlier this week we learned that there will be a Day 4 of testimony in the Ethnic Studies Trial in Arizona and that the judge's decision will be made by the end of October.

We also learned of the state's "expert witness" who will help the Arizona Republican leaders try to ban Mexican American Studies in Tucson.

The state's expert witness expected to testify on Oct. 17 is University of Arkansas professor **Sandra Stotsky**, author of *Losing Our Language: How Multicultural Classroom Instruction Is Undermining Our Children's Ability to Read, Write, and Reason*.

So far the state has called people like Michael Hicks and Mark Stegeman as witnesses, both who admit they do not know much about the material.

TUSD school board member [Michael Hicks](#) is still too afraid to accept Mexican American Studies literature teacher Curtis Acosta's invitation to observe his MAS classroom, and thus gain more first-hand knowledge rather than repeating second-hand reports.

In March, the anti-MAS group TU4SD gave a survey to the TUSD board members. Question number 4 was:

### **Explain what critical pedagogy means to you and does it have a place in elementary and secondary education?**

Michael Hicks' response was "I am not an expert on this topic." Mark Stegeman responded "I am probably not the best person to ask... I emphasize again that my understanding is limited: critical theory is an advanced intellectual exercise."

*Advanced intellectual exercise?*

You mean the MAS courses in TUSD are not “remedial” where “easy A’s” are given to the students? Both Hicks and Stegeman go on to suggest that the minority students in these classes do not have minds that are capable of understanding the material. Too bad they have lowered expectations of minority students who actually grasp the material just fine even though some in ivory towers, such as UA Economics Professor Mark Stegeman, cannot.

Below is an essay by Professor Rudy Acuña who is a real expert on the field, and whose book is used in the MAS classrooms since the teachers know the students are capable of understanding college-level material, just like the mostly non-minority students at University High School can grasp material they will confront in a few months when they themselves are in college.

Perhaps Dr. Sandra Stotsky should write a book about how *lowered expectations* of students in multicultural classrooms, code word for “minority students,” by educational leaders such as Stegeman, Hicks, and Huppenthal is undermining the student’s ability?

---

## **Paid Testimony**

*by Rodolfo F. Acuña*

In the now infamous Watergate scandal Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein were advised by deep throat to “Follow The Money” to find those culpable for the Watergate break-in.

In the 1990s Jean Stefancic and Richard Delgado in *No Mercy: how conservative think tanks and foundations changed America’s social agenda* follow this advice and trace the role of family foundations in destroying bilingual education, anti-affirmative action and funding eugenics scholarship. *No Mercy* is a fascinating account how right wing extremists and think tanks are funded by billionaire zealots who want to protect their tax privileges and power.

The involvement of the Tea Party and neo-fascist organization has been well documented in the Republican Party’s political takeover of Arizona as well as the war on Mexicans. These groups are wedded by a community interests with the prison industry and gun dealers and manufacturers who profit from the vicious hate Mexican crusade.

Many articles have drawn direct ties between the Tea Party and Charles and David Koch who fund this racist campaign. The strategy is to use race and lies to undermine school integration as well as programs that have improved the educational performance of not only Mexican American students but others.

A case in point is the Mexican American Studies program of the Tucson Unified School District that has had incredible results. Failed businessmen and politicians Tom Horne and John Huppenthal have ridden this anti-Mexican wave by sowing racism by spreading

outright lies. Horne and Huppenthal are the past and present Arizona superintendents of public instruction. Nowhere else but in Arizona would these two gentlemen have been elected to statewide office.

In the case of Huppenthal, he has taken mendacity to new heights. He ordered a study of the Tucson program, squandered \$170,000 on a study that contradicted his conclusions. In order to vindicate himself he is now holding hearings at the state capital; this time goes too far and shows his hand by exposing who is pulling his strings. Using deep throats advice to “follow the money,” the connections are clear.

One of his expert witnesses is Sandra Stotsky, a professor at the University of Arkansas, who has made a career as an expert on multicultural education of which she knows nothing about.

She is heavily funded by right wing foundations and has served on various commissions under Republican presidents. Like my lawyer Moe Vasquez would say, she has biases and is a paid gun, she’ll say anything for a buck.

Stotsky is part of that right wing conspiracy to kill multicultural studies. If this were a trial and not just hearings a case could be made by following the money: who has funded her research? What are her qualifications?

What do we know about Stotsky?

The thing that came leaping out at me is that she is on the board of directors of the National Association of Scholars. Founded in 1987 the NAS was spearheaded by Stephen Balch who believed that Western Civilization was under siege and he had to defend it. From the beginning the NAS attacked anything that advocated critical thinking. Among the funders are the Sarah Scaife Foundation, the Olin Foundation, the Bradley Foundation, Koch brothers, and the Earhart, and Coors foundations. The Kochs since the mid-90s when it funded the Cato Institute have become major players on the funding of right wing foundations.

Stotsky’s testimony will come as no surprise. Unlike the Cambium National Academic Educational Partners she does not have a commitment to the truth and objectivity but has been paid for. Only in Arizona could a person who knows nothing about Mexican American children, never taught them, and has a well-documented prejudice against Mexican American Studies testify as an expert witness. In Arizona Horne and Huppenthal served as superintendents of public instruction without knowing nothing about education. Now they are paying to have their biases affirmed by a bought witness.

This could happen only in Arizona, or is could it happen elsewhere?