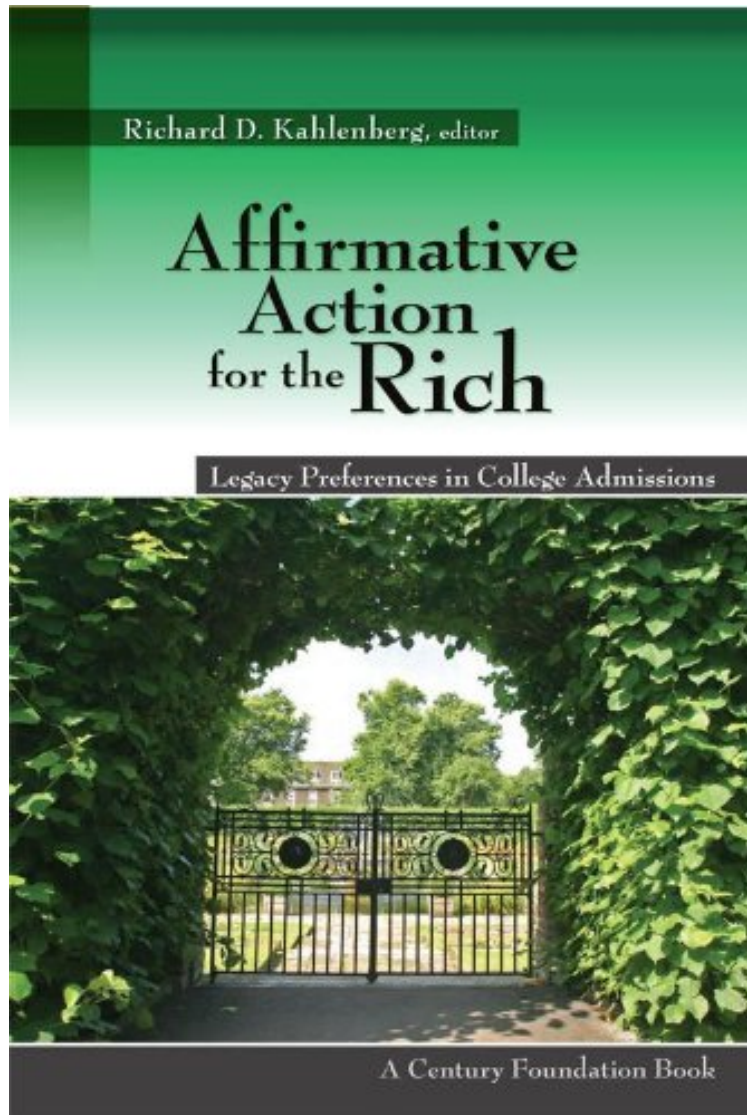


(Free) Affirmative Action for the Rich: Legacy Preferences in College Admissions

## Affirmative Action for the Rich: Legacy Preferences in College Admissions

*Richard D. Kahlenberg*

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**Richard D. Kahlenberg : Affirmative Action for the Rich: Legacy Preferences in College Admissions** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Affirmative Action for the Rich: Legacy Preferences in College Admissions:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Terrific History of Affirmative Action For The Rich At Elite CollegesBy alanhoustonThis is a thoughtful and well documented history of "affirmative action for the rich" whereby Ivy League colleges and other elite colleges admitted as many as 80% of applicants whose parents were "legacy"

graduates and/or wealthy donors to the colleges while taking only token numbers of Black, Hispanic, and Jewish students from public high schools. The book was published in 2010, a time when many colleges were beginning to require legacy applicants have high school records comparable to all other applicants. As of 2016, colleges that accept 20% of all applicants are accepting perhaps 30% or 40% of legacy applicants, and the majority of legacy applicants are rejected. The book does not give enough weight to the arguments for why legacy status and wealth might be something a private college should consider. At many private colleges, half or even more than half of all students are on financial aid, with some low income students attending at no cost to their families. That financial aid is possible because of the huge endowments and generous annual giving of legacy families and other wealthy families seeking to buy an edge in the admissions process. Letting less than bright rich kids fund the education of more talented low income students is a good deal for those students who could not attend a private college without financial aid. Colleges value diversity, so balancing out brilliant kids who earn their place in the Ivy League with hard work and outstanding talent with the often lazy and sometimes less than bright offspring of the rich provides diversity that colleges such as Cal Tech, filled with geniuses, may lack. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A superb analysis of alumni preferences

By David Boyle This book says it all, or much of it all, about how terrible, and maybe illegal, alumni-child preferences ("legacy preferences") in college admissions are. An enjoyable read, and crucial if you want to understand some of the "dark side" of university admissions practices.

*Affirmative Action for the Rich* sketches the origins of legacy preferences, examines the philosophical issues they raise, outlines the extent of their use today, studies their impact on university fundraising, and reviews their implications for civil rights. In addition, the book outlines two new theories challenging the legality of legacy preferences, examines how a judge might review those claims, and assesses public policy options for curtailing alumni preferences. The book includes chapters by Michael Lind of the New America Foundation; Peter Schmidt of the Chronicle of Higher Education; former Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Golden; Chad Coffman of Winnemac Consulting, attorney Tara O'Neil, and student Brian Starr; John Brittain of the University of the District of Columbia Law School and attorney Eric Bloom; Carlton Larson of the University of California—Davis School of Law; attorneys Steve Shadowen and Sozi Tulante; Sixth Circuit Court Judge Boyce F. Martin Jr. and attorney Donya Khalili; and education writer Peter Sacks.