

# CLARENCE THOMAS' MOST IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO DATE

Every time I see mention of the Jena 6, I can't help but think of Clarence Thomas' single most positive contribution of his tenure on SCOTUS, as brought to you by Dahlia Lithwick.

Out of nowhere booms the great, surprising "Luke-I-am-your-father" voice of He Who Never Speaks. Justice Clarence Thomas suddenly asks a question and everyone's head pops up and starts looking madly around, like the Muppets on *Veterinarian Hospital*. "Aren't you understating the effects ... of 100 years of lynching?" he booms. "This was a reign of terror, and the cross was a sign of that. ... It is unlike any symbol in our society. It was intended to cause fear, terrorize." [my emphasis]

I presume Justice Thomas might say the same thing about three nooses.