Pursuing the Dreams of Brown and the Civil Rights Act: A Living History of the Fight for Educational Equality

On April 10-11, 2014, Michigan State University College of Law and College of Education, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law will co-host a two-day symposium addressing the origins, complexities, and intersections of law, education, race/ethnicity, and society.

This symposium will be anchored in reflections on the Supreme Court’s 1954 decision in Brown v. Board of Education and the federal 1964 Civil Rights Act. It will analyze the way school desegregation and integration have unfolded across the country by examining the Supreme Court’s decisions in desegregation cases arising out of Detroit, Michigan; Kansas City, Missouri; and Seattle, Washington.

Finally, it will consider how the problems and potentials identified could continue to unfold in the years to come.

Speakers in blue will speak at UMKC. Speakers in green will speak at MSU. The speakers who are live at MSU will be viewed by real-time video-conference at UMKC, and vice-versa.

Symposium Schedule

Wednesday, April 9
Welcome receptions and evening events
- Separate at both locations
  - 5 p.m. EST Steven Calabresi, Northwestern Law
  - 6:30 p.m. Brown - A one-act play depicting a fictional conversation between Earl Warren and Thurgood Marshall

Thursday, April 10
8:10-8:25 CST / 9:10-9:25 EST
Welcoming remarks
  • Dean Joan Howarth, Dean Don Heller, and Kristi Bowman
  • Mayor Sly James (invited) and Dan Weddle

8:30-10:00 CST / 9:30-11 EST
Mendez v. Westminster (1946)
  - Moderator: Dan Weddle
  - Litigant: Sylvia Mendez
  - Litigant: Sandra Mendez
  - Litigant: Gonzalo Mendez
  - Janice Nunemitsu, Participant in 1947 events surrounding the litigation
  - Philippa Strum, Princeton Woodrow Wilson School
  - Frederick Aguirre, Judge, Superior Court of Orange County
  - Sandra Robbe, Archivist, Chapman University
  - Q&A (both locations, alternating questions)

10-10:15 CST / 11-11:15 EST
Break
10:15-11:45 CST / 11:15-12:45 EST

Brown v. Board of Education (1954)
Part I: Litigants and Attorneys
- Moderator: Steve Brown
- Cheryl Brown Henderson, daughter of Oliver and Leola Brown
- Leola Montgomery, wife of Oliver Brown
- Jack Greenberg, Columbia Law, NAACP attorney for Oliver Brown, et al
- Bob Green, retired MSU faculty
- Pat Edwards, MSU Education
- Q&A (both locations, alternating questions)

11:45-12:45 EST / 12:45-1:45 EST

Lunch
- Screening of Daniel Kiel's “The Memphis 13: The Story of the Civil Rights Movement’s Smallest Pioneers”

12:45-2:15 EST / 1:45-3:15 EST

Brown v. Board of Education (1954)
Part II: Scholarly Perspectives
- Moderator: Danielle Holley Walker, South Carolina Law
- Charles Ogletree [invited], Harvard Law
- Thurgood Marshall, Jr. [invited]
- Vanessa Siddle Walker, Emory Education
- Q&A

2:15-2:30 EST / 3:15-3:30 EST

Break

2:30-4 CST / 3:30-5 EST

The Education Provisions in the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Moderator: Atiba Ellis, West Virginia Law
- Bob Green, retired MSU faculty; drafter and editor of the Act
- Howard Glickstein, Touro College of Law; drafter and editor of the Act
- Kenneth Teasdale, retired partner, Armstrong Teasdale; drafter and editor of the Act
- Judge Nathaniel Jones, Retired 6th Circuit judge and the general counsel for the NAACP during Miliken
- Cornelius Kennedy [invited]
- Allison Brown, Allison Brown Consulting, former attorney at US Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Education Opportunities Section
- Kristi Bowman, MSU-Law
- Q&A

Dinner and Keynote Speaker
- independent events, both locations
- 6:30 EST Dinner at MSU College of Education for speakers and law review staff
- 8:00 EST Gary Orfield, UCLA Education-Civil Rights Project
- 6:30 Reception and Lecture: Jack Greenberg, Columbia Law, Brown litigation team member
Friday, April 11

8:30-10 CST / 9:30-11 EST

*Milliken v. Bradley (1974)*
- Moderator: Daniel Kiel, Memphis Law
- Judge Nathaniel Jones, Retired 6th Circuit judge /general counsel for the NAACP
- Ray Litt, litigant (parent of a child in the district at the time)
- Mark Litt, litigant (child in the district at the time)
- **George Roumell** [pre-recorded comments]
- Joyce Baugh, Central Michigan Education
- Derek Black, South Carolina Law
- Charlie Clotfelter, Duke Public Policy
- Q&A

10-10:15 CST / 11-11:15 EST

Break

10:15-11:45 CST / 11:15-12:45 EST

*Missouri v. Jenkins (1995)*
- Moderator:
- Burnebe Powell, South Carolina Law
- John Munich, Stinson Leonard Street
- Arthur Benson, Benson and Associates
- Wendy Parker, Wake Forest Law
- Michele Foster [invited], UMKC Education
- Q&A

11:45-12:45 CST / 12:45-1:45 EST

Lunch

12:45-2:15 CST / 1:45-3:15 EST

*Parents involved v. Seattle (2007)*
- Moderator: Darryl Jackson, Wyoming Law
- Litigant/attorney:
- Attorney: Paul Clemmons
- Attorney: Harry Korell [pre-recorded comments]
- Julie Nelson, Seattle Office of Civil Rights
- Erwin Chemerinsky, UC-Irvine Law
- Michael Dumas, NYU Steinhardt School
- Q&A

2:15-2:30 CST / 3:15-3:30 EST

Break

2:45-4:15 CST / 3:45-5:15 EST

*Looking to the Future*
- Moderator: Kimberly Jenkins Robinson
- John Borkowski, partner at Hogan Lovells
- Maurice Dyson, Thomas Jefferson law
- Erica Frankenburg, Penn State Education
- David Hinjosa, attorney at MALDEF
- Ben Superfine, UIC Education
- Dennis Parker, ACLU legal counsel
- Q&A

4:15 CST / 5:15 EST

Concluding Remarks
- Separate, live in both locations