

Brown v. Board of Education: "The Case of the Century"



TIMELINE

- 1619 First record of blacks in North America. Twenty Africans arrive at Jamestown, Virginia.
- 1641 Massachusetts becomes first colony to authorize slavery by statute.
- 1691 Virginia passes first law against miscegenation, outlawing marriage between whites and blacks or between whites and Indians.
- 1705 Virginia slaves deemed real estate that passes to heirs.
- 1740 South Carolina passes statute allowing killing of rebellious slaves.
- 1775 Earl of Dunmore/Governor of Virginia passes proclamation liberating all slaves willing to fight for England in Revolutionary War.
- 1776 Declaration of Independence. More than 5,000,000 persons, or about 1 out of every 6 persons in the American colonies, enslaved.
- 1777 Slavery abolished in Vermont.
- 1787 United States Constitution adopted. Black slaves counted as 3/5 of a person for purposes of Congressional representation, apportionment of taxes among states.
- 1793 First Fugitive Slave Law enacted.
- 1808 Congress passes law prohibiting further importation of slaves from Africa.
- 1830 More than 2 million slaves in United States.
- 1842 Supreme Court holds in *Prigg v. Pennsylvania*, that states need not assist in return of fugitive slaves, angering southern states.
- 1848 *Roberts v. City of Boston* filed to desegregate Boston public schools.
- 1857 Supreme Court rules in *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, that blacks are not citizens.
- 1860 Abraham Lincoln elected President.



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TIMELINE (cont'd)

- 1861 Civil War begins. Slave population of United States stands at 4 million.
- 1863 President Lincoln issues Emancipation Proclamation
- 1865 Civil War ends. Thirteenth Amendment outlaws slavery.
- 1866 Civil Rights Bill of 1866 passes.
- 1868 Fourteenth Amendment granting equal protection of law to African-Americans ratified.
- 1870 Fifteenth Amendment establishing right of African-American males to vote ratified.
- 1875 Civil Rights Act of 1875 grants equal access to public accommodations.
- 1876 Codification of Kansas School Law does not mention segregated schools.
- 1878 Exoduster movement begins as slaves migrate to Kansas. Approximately 30,000 blacks will move to Kansas from 1878 through 1879.
- 1879 Kansas passes law permitting cities with populations of more than 15,000 to maintain racially segregated elementary schools.
- 1890 Mississippi imposes poll tax and reading requirement on voters.
- 1896 U.S. Supreme Court upholds "separate but equal" facilities under Fourteenth Amendment challenge in *Plessy v. Ferguson*.
- 1905 Niagara Movement develops action plan to fight for school integration and voting rights, and to assist African-American political candidates.
- 1910 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) founded by coalition of blacks and whites.
- 1920 Nineteenth Amendment gives women right to vote.
- 1924 American Indians granted citizenship.
- 1935 Charles Hamilton Houston and Thurgood Marshall take first of series of cases challenging segregation in public universities.



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TIMELINE (cont'd)

- 1940 Thurgood Marshall becomes Director Counsel of NAACP Legal Defense Fund.
- 1951 Oliver Brown and other parents file lawsuit against Topeka Board of Education. United States District Court in Topeka hears case, which is appealed with four similar cases to the Supreme Court of the United States.
- Fall 1952 Election of new Board of Education in Topeka, reflecting majority desire to do away with segregated schools in Topeka.
- Dec. 1952 First oral arguments in *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education*.
- 1953 Second round of oral arguments in *Brown*.
- May 17, 1954 Supreme Court rules in *Brown* that "separate but equal" public schools violate the Fourteenth Amendment.
- Spring 1955 Third round of oral arguments in *Brown* focuses on remedies for segregation of schools.
- 1955 Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott.
- 1961 Freedom Riders travel on buses though the South to protest segregation.
- 1963 March on Washington.
- 1964 24th Amendment outlaws poll taxes for national elections; Civil Rights Act outlaws racial discrimination in public accommodation and by employers.
- 1965 Voting Rights Act nullifies local laws and practices preventing minorities from voting.
- 1967 Thurgood Marshall appointed to U.S. Supreme Court.
- 1968 Martin Luther King, Jr., assassinated.
- 1968 Civil Rights Act outlaws discrimination in sale or rental of housing.
- 1970 Voting Rights Act of 1965 renewed.



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TIMELINE (cont'd)

- 1971 Supreme Court upholds busing as legitimate means of achieving public school integration in *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education*.
- 1992 President George H.W. Bush signs *Brown v. The Board of Education National Historic Site Act of 1992*, establishing a national park at the site of Monroe Elementary School in Topeka.
- 1994 U.S. District Judge Richard Rogers enters order approving remedy plan for Topeka Board of Education.
- 1999 Judge Rogers enters order ending federal court's supervision of Board of Education's compliance with desegregation plan. *Brown* case is closed.

