The Legacies and Unfinished Business of Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka

Sunday–Wednesday
MARCH 14–17, 2004
Lawrence, Kansas

March 14
Lawrence High School
1901 Louisiana Street

March 15–17
Kansas Union
The University of Kansas

Washington Elementary School, 1956, Topeka, Kansas

NAACP Protest March, 1960s, Topeka, Kansas
The 1954 Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka U.S. Supreme Court decision is considered one of the most important judicial opinions in the country’s democratic history. It revolutionized the legal framework for race relations, extended the protection of equal rights to all U.S. citizens, and inspired oppressed peoples around the world to believe in the United States’ creed of freedom and equality. However, the country continues to struggle with fulfilling the decision’s many promises.

We hope you will take information from this conference back to your communities and organizations and engage in discussions about contemporary issues related to Brown v. Board. The goal is to foster greater understanding about ways to solve related social and economic challenges.

We hope you enjoy the conference. While you are here, we offer you our hospitality and invite you to explore our lovely campus and community.

Special thanks for the dedicated volunteer efforts and contributions of the Conference Planning Committee:

Victor Bailey, director, Hall Center for Humanities and history professor, University of Kansas
Janet Crow, executive director, Hall Center for Humanities, University of Kansas
Joyce McCray Pearson, director, Wheat Law Library, University of Kansas
Dorthy Pennington, associate professor, Department of African and African-American Studies, University of Kansas
Paul K. Stuewe, teacher, USD 497, Lawrence, Kansas
Sheryl Williams, curator, Kansas Collection, Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas
Norman Yetman, Chancellors Club teaching professor of American studies and sociology, chair, American Studies Program, courtesy professor of African and African-American studies, University of Kansas

Deborah Dandridge
Conference Chair
University of Kansas Libraries
50th Anniversary National Commission Appointee

The National Commission was created in 2003 through federal legislation introduced and supported by the Kansas House and Senate delegations.

ROOM ASSIGNMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

Lawrence High School Auditorium, 1901 Louisiana

Sunday events are open to all conference registrants and to the public (at no charge, but tickets are required).

1:30 p.m.  Public Registration (Space-available basis only; no reserved seating)
2:00 p.m.  Doors Open
3:00 p.m.  Welcome—Deborah Dandridge
           Introduction—Dorthy Pennington
           Our Nation’s Diverse Musical Heritage
           —Rust College A Cappella Choir
4:00 p.m.  Refreshment Break • Lobby and Cafeteria
4:15 p.m.  The Significance of Brown v. Board to Today’s Society—Tony Brown
           Moderator: Hank Booth
5:15 p.m.  Adjournment

Rust College A Cappella Choir, award-winning a cappella collegiate choir, Holly Springs, Mississippi

Tony Brown, host of “Tony Brown’s Journal,” longest-running program on PBS

Hank Booth, Executive Director, Kansas Wildscape Foundation, Lawrence, Kansas, and local radio personality
Monday, March 15
Kansas Union, Level 5

Daytime sessions: Seating is available first to registered conference attendees. Full-time KU students will be admitted with free tickets (available at the registration table in the Level 5 lobby one hour before each session) if space is available.

Refreshment breaks: Available to registered conference attendees.

Dinner: Available to attendees with prepaid tickets.

Books: Books will be available throughout the day in the Big 12 Room.

11:00 a.m. Registration • Jayhawk Room
2:30 p.m. Plenary Session • Woodruff Auditorium
   Welcome—David Shulenburger
   Introduction—Tony Sawyer
2:40 p.m. Education, Diversity, and Affirmative Action
   Robert Hemenway and Walter Broadnax
   Public debates, laws, and court cases about affirmative action and diversity are major legacies of Brown v. Board. Education is most frequently the focal point of these issues. Two distinguished education leaders will explore the significance of these issues to public education for today's students.
3:40 p.m. Refreshment Break • Jayhawk Room
4:00 p.m. Stories of Struggle and Triumph: Brown v. Board Plaintiffs and the Kansas Defense • Woodruff Auditorium
   Invited Speakers:
   Joseph A. DeLaine, Briggs v. Elliot (South Carolina Case)
   Maurita Burnett Davis, Zelma Henderson, Leola Montgomery, Vicki Lawton Benson, and Harriet Wilson, Brown v. Board (Kansas Case)
   Alonzo Smith, Bolling v. Melvin Sharpe (Washington, D.C.)
   John Stokes, Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County (Virginia Case)
   The Brown decision represented court challenges from Delaware, Kansas, South Carolina, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. This session will feature the individual stories of the participants in these cases.
   Moderator: Sherrie Tucker
5:15 p.m. Break
   Note: Registration Tables have moved to the Level 5 Lobby
5:30 p.m. Reception • Ballroom
6:00 p.m. Dinner • Ballroom
   Speaker: Stella Bentley
6:30 p.m. Public Registration (No reserved public seating)
7:00 p.m. Doors Open (Conference registration or free ticket required)
7:30 p.m.  *The Legacies of Race and Law in the United States • Woodruff Auditorium
Lani Guinier
Ms. Guinier will discuss the interplay between legal and political solutions to social justice challenges, focusing on the relationship between Thurgood Marshall, then director counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and later Supreme Court justice, and Martin Luther King, Jr. She also will discuss the role of education in a democracy and how recent Supreme Court decisions in the Michigan affirmative action cases continue that ongoing conversation between lawyers, public officials, and grass-roots activists.
*CLE credit is available for this session.
Moderator: Stephen R. McAllister

8:30 p.m.  Lani Guinier Book-Signing • Big 12 Room

**Tuesday, March 16**

*Kansas Union, Levels 4 & 5*

**Continental Breakfast:** Available to registered conference attendees.

**Daytime Sessions:** Restricted to registered conference attendees. Full-time KU students will be admitted with free tickets (available at the registration table in the Level 5 lobby one hour before each session) if space is available.

**Lunch:** Available with prepaid tickets.

**Refreshment Breaks:** Available to registered conference attendees.

**Note:** Books will be available throughout the day in the Big 12 Room.

7:30 a.m.  **Registration • Level 5 Lobby**

**Continental Breakfast • Ballroom**

8:30 a.m.  **Discussion: Race, Ethnicity, and U.S. Public Education • Woodruff Auditorium, Level 5**
Ray Hiner, John H. Jackson, Cornel Pewewardy
This session will examine the unique role of public education in the historical development of the United States and explore how, in the past and today, educational opportunities and experiences in this nation are shaped by “race” and “ethnicity.”
Moderator: Angela Lumpkin

9:30 a.m.  **Refreshment Break • Jayhawk Room**

9:45 a.m.  **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

1.  **Primary and Secondary School Resources for Teaching Brown v. Board • Alderson Auditorium, Level 4**
William Guillermo Luna, Janet Sims-Wood, La Tonya Miller, Alonzo Smith
Diverse teaching resources on Brown will be discussed and demonstrated.
Moderator: Paul Stuewe
2. Proposals and Technical Assistance for Achieving Equity in Public Schools • Big 12 Room, Level 5
   John H. Jackson, Charles Rankin
This session will present information about the NAACP's National Call for Action in Education to Governors project and the Midwest Equity Assistance Center. The center provides technical assistance, professional development, and information dissemination on race equity, gender equity, and national origin equity to local educational agencies, including public school districts and charter schools in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. The NAACP project seeks to reduce education-related racial disparity by 50 percent over the next five years.
Moderator: Steve Ramirez

3. Images of Race and Ethnicity in Film • Woodruff Auditorium, Level 5
   Madison Lacy, Kevin Willmott
National film award-winners will demonstrate how their art and industry shape views of race and ethnicity.
Moderator: Chuck Berg

10:45 a.m. Refreshment Break • Jayhawk Room, Level 5
11:00 a.m. Practices and Policies of “Whiteness” • Woodruff Auditorium
   Kevin Fox Gotham, Norman Yetman
Two scholars will explore how the socially determined category of “White” determines public policies and practices in American society, especially in education. This session topic establishes the intellectual framework for examining historical and contemporary issues of equal opportunity, privilege, and diversity.
Moderator: Chico Herbison

11:50 a.m. Adjourn for Lunch
Noon Lunch • Ballroom, Level 5

1:15 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSIONS
1. Race and Today's Media • Woodruff Auditorium, Level 5
   Karen Bates
This session will focus on how issues of race are portrayed in today's print and electronic media. The presenter will emphasize the media's influence in shaping views and attitudes of “race.”
Moderator: Janet Campbell
2. **Isolated by Law and Language: Latinos in the U.S.**
   - Alderson Auditorium, Level 4
   
   **Norma Cantu**

   Law and the use of language have shaped the Latino experience in the United States. This session will describe how and will explore ways to meet these challenges.

   Moderator: **Antonio Augusto**

2:00 p.m. **Refreshment Break** • Jayhawk Room, Level 5

2:30 p.m. **Discussion: The Latino Pursuit of Excellence and Equity in U.S. Public Schools, Before and After Mendez (1946)** • Woodruff Auditorium, Level 5

   **Norma Cantu, William Guillermo Luna**

   The prominent historical role of Latinos in U.S. school desegregation court challenges and contemporary Latino educational concerns will be examined in this session, which will foster discussion about achieving educational excellence and equity.

   Moderator: **Ann Weick**

3:30 p.m. **Refreshment Break** • Jayhawk Room, Level 5

3:45 p.m. **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

1. **Race and U.S. Foreign Policy** • Alderson Auditorium, Level 4
   
   **Mary Dudziak**

   U.S. foreign policy concerns played a central role in shaping the social and political context for the Brown decision. This session will explore the relationship of U.S. law to race relations and the Cold War.

   Moderator: **Reginald Robinson**

2. **CARE: Recognizing the Culture, Abilities, Resilience, and Efforts of Culturally Diverse Students** • Woodruff Auditorium, Level 5

   **Linda Cabral**

   This research-based, interactive session will explore how teachers influence student achievement in culturally diverse schools. It will emphasize English-language learning, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, and culture.

   Moderator: **Christy Levings**

5:00 p.m. **Reception** • Ballroom

   *Sponsored by the Brown Foundation*

6:30 p.m. **Public Registration** (No reserved public seating)

7:00 p.m. **Doors Open** (Conference registration or free ticket required)

7:30 p.m. **The Economics of Brown v. Board** • Woodruff Auditorium, Level 5

   **Julianne Malveaux**

   Moderator: **David Katzman**

8:30 p.m. **Julianne Malveaux Book-Signing** • Jayhawk Room, Level 5

   **Julianne Malveaux**, nationally syndicated columnist on economic and socio-political issues, commentator, and author

   **David Katzman**, professor of American studies, University of Kansas

   **Christy Levings**, President, Kansas NEA, Topeka, Kansas

   **Reginald Robinson**, president and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents

   **Linda Cabral**, senior professional associate, Human and Civil Rights Division, National Education Association, Washington, D.C.
Wednesday, March 17
Kansas Union, Level 5

Continental Breakfast: Available to registered conference attendees.

Daytime Sessions: Restricted to registered conference attendees. Full-time KU students will be admitted with free tickets (available at the registration table in the Level 5 lobby one hour before each session) if space is available.

Note: Books will be available in the Big 12 Room all morning.

8:00 a.m.  Registration • Level 5 Lobby
Continental Breakfast • Jayhawk Room, Level 5

9:00 a.m.  *Brown v. Board Origins and Legacies • Woodruff Auditorium, Level 5
Theodore M. Shaw
This session will cover Brown v. Board of Education in its historical context, as a cold war imperative, and as a key constitutional development. Brown’s intellectual underpinnings have been criticized as vague and its legacy is mixed. The presenter will argue that, while Brown stands as one of the most important decisions in American jurisprudence, public schools are intensely segregated today and Brown's legacy is largely a legal fiction—a break between pre-Brown de jure segregation and current de facto segregation. While this effect is more than symbolic, and while governmentally sanctioned racial subordination is undeniably consigned to the trash bin of history, the real-life connection between American history and slavery, segregation and present inequality, endures. This endurance is largely attributable to the limitations of constitutional doctrines. Moreover, the Fourteenth Amendment has been severed from its historical moorings, turned on its head, and applied in a decontextualized and ahistorical manner that would foreclose any attempts to achieve even voluntary desegregation. We are left with the end of remediation, as witnessed in the recent affirmative action cases involving the University of Michigan. The presenter will end with an appeal for the resurrection of the Fourteenth Amendment and its remedial objections.

*CLE credit is available for this session.

Moderator: Bill Tuttle

10:15 a.m.  Refreshment Break • Jayhawk Room, Level 5
10:30 a.m.  Race, Public Education, and Public Policy • Woodruff Auditorium
Gary Orfield, John H. Jackson
This session will explore the unfinished business of the Brown decision as it pertains to public education. The current research findings of the Harvard Project on School Desegregation will be presented, with an exploration of how today’s issues of race and education may be addressed and resolved.

Moderator: Bill Tuttle

Noon  Adjournment
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS LIBRARIES PROUDLY PRESENT this historic conference commemorating the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka U.S. Supreme Court decision. The Libraries' African American Collections in the Kansas Collection include the papers of Charles S. Scott, who participated in the case as one of the local attorneys for the Kansas plaintiffs, as well as papers from Oliver L. Brown, the named plaintiff, and papers from the Brown Foundation, a nonprofit established as a living tribute to the attorneys and plaintiffs of the case.

THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES ACKNOWLEDGE the contributions of many partners in presenting this conference. The students and school teachers in attendance are the primary beneficiaries of these partners' generous support. Please join us in thanking them.

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Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka Web Site

www.kuce.org/brown

An important component of the conference is the establishment of an educational Web site. It is our hope that the conference will foster discussion about contemporary issues related to the Brown v. Board Supreme Court decision. The site will be updated as conference resources become available.