

THE WINDING ROAD TO *BROWN*: AN LDF CHRONOLOGY

1933 Thurgood Marshall graduates first in his class from Howard University's School of Law. Oliver Hill, also a classmate and one of the *Brown* counsels, graduates second. Marshall and Hill were both mentored by the Law School's vice-dean Charles Hamilton Houston.

1934 Houston joins the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as part-time counsel.

1935 After having been denied admittance to the University of Maryland Law School, Marshall wins a case in the Maryland Court of Appeals against the Law School, which gains admission for Donald Murray, the first black applicant to a white southern law school.

1936 Marshall joins the NAACP's legal staff.

1938 Marshall succeeds Houston as special counsel. Houston returns to his Washington, D.C. law practice but remains counsel with the NAACP.

1938 *Missouri ex rel. Gaines v. Canada*
The U.S. Supreme Court invalidates state laws that required African-American students to attend out-of-state graduate schools to avoid admitting them to their states' all-white facilities or building separate graduate schools for them.

1940 Marshall writes the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund's corporate charter and becomes its first director and chief counsel.

1940 *Alston v. School Board of City of Norfolk*
A federal appeals court orders that African-American teachers be paid salaries equal to those of white teachers.

1948 *Sipuel v. Oklahoma State Regents*
The Supreme Court rules that a state cannot bar an African-American student from its all-white law school on the ground that she had not

requested the state to provide a separate law school for black students.

1949 Jack Greenberg graduates from Columbia Law School and joins LDF as a staff attorney.

1950 Charles Hamilton Houston dies. He was the chief architect of the NAACP LDF legal strategy for racial equality, Thurgood Marshall's teacher and mentor, and Dean of Howard University's Law School.

1950 *McLaurin v. Oklahoma State Regents*
The Supreme Court holds that an African-American student admitted to a formerly all-white graduate school could not be subjected to practices of segregation that interfered with meaningful classroom instruction and interaction with other students, such as making a student sit in the classroom doorway, isolated from the professor and other students.

1950 *Sweatt v. Painter*
The Supreme Court rules that a separate law school hastily established for black students to prevent their having to be admitted to the previously all-white University of Texas School of Law could not provide a legal education "equal" to that available to white students. The Court orders the admission of Heman Marion Sweatt to the University of Texas Law School.

1954 *Brown v. Board of Education*
The Supreme Court rules that racial segregation in public schools violates the Fourteenth Amendment, which guarantees equal protection, and the Fifth Amendment, which guarantees due process. This landmark case overturned the "separate but equal" doctrine that underpinned legal segregation.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs in the five cases that comprised the Supreme Court case were: Thurgood Marshall, Director-Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.; Harold Boulware - *Briggs v. Elliott* (South Carolina); Jack Greenberg, Louis L. Redding - *Gebhart v. Belton* (Delaware); Robert L. Carter, Charles S. Scott - *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* (Kansas); Oliver M. Hill, Spottswood W.

Robinson III - *Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County* (Virginia); James M. Nabrit, Jr., George E. C. Hayes - *Bolling v. Sharpe* (District of Columbia).

Attorneys Of Counsel: Charles L. Black, Jr., Elwood H. Chisolm, William T. Coleman, Jr., Charles T. Duncan, William R. Ming, Jr., Constance Baker Motley, David E. Pinsky, Frank D. Reeves, John Scott, and Jack B. Weinstein.

1955 *Brown v. Board of Education (II)*
Court orders desegregation to proceed with "all deliberate speed."

1955 *Lucy v. Adams*
A federal district court orders the admission of Autherine Lucy to the University of Alabama, and the Supreme Court quickly affirms the decision.

1957 President Eisenhower orders National Guard to Little Rock, Arkansas, to escort nine black students to Central High School to enforce *Brown*.

1958 *Cooper v. Aaron*
LDF wins a Supreme Court ruling that barred Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus from interfering with the desegregation of Little Rock's Central High School. The decision affirms *Brown* as the law of the land nationwide.

1959 Prince Edward County, Virginia, closes all of its public schools rather than desegregate them.

1961 President John F. Kennedy appoints Thurgood Marshall to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Jack Greenberg is selected as LDF's Director-Counsel.

1961 *Holmes v. Danner*
LDF wins admission to the University of Georgia for two African Americans: Charlayne Hunter and Hamilton Holmes.

1962 *Meredith v. Fair*
James Meredith finally succeeds in becoming the first African-American student to be admitted to the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) through

the efforts of a legal team led by LDF attorney Constance Baker Motley.

1967 Thurgood Marshall is appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, becoming the first African-American to sit on the bench.

1968 *Green v. County School Board of New Kent County (Virginia)*
The Supreme Court holds that "freedom of choice" plans were ineffective at producing actual school desegregation and had to be replaced with more effective strategies.

1970 *Turner v. Fouche*
The Supreme Court holds unconstitutional Taliaferro County's (Georgia) requirement of real property ownership for grand jurors and school board members.

1971 *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenberg Board of Education*
The Supreme Court upholds the use of busing as a means of desegregating public schools. Julius Chambers, LDF's first intern and later its Director-Counsel, argues *Swann* before the Supreme Court.

1973 *Norwood v. Harrison*
The Supreme Court rules that states could not provide free textbooks to segregated private schools established to allow whites to avoid public school desegregation.

1973 *Keyes v. School District No. 1, Denver*
The Supreme Court establishes legal rules for governing school desegregation cases outside of the South, holding that where deliberate segregation was shown to have affected a substantial part of a school system, the entire district must ordinarily be desegregated.

1973 *Adams v. Richardson*
A federal appeals court approves a district court order requiring federal education officials to enforce Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act (which bars discrimination by recipients of federal funds) against state universities, public schools, and other institutions that receive federal money.

1974 *Milliken v. Bradley*

The Supreme Court rules that, in almost all cases, a federal court cannot impose an inter-district remedy between a city and its surrounding suburbs in order to integrate city schools.

1978 *Bakke v. Regents of the University of California*

The Supreme Court rules that schools can take race into account in admissions, but cannot use quotas.

1982 *Bob Jones University v. U.S.; Goldboro Christian Schools v. U.S.*

The Supreme Court appoints LDF Board Chair William T. Coleman, Jr. as “friend of the court” and upholds his argument against granting tax exemptions to religious schools that discriminate.

1984 *Geier v. Alexander*

As part of a settlement of a case requiring desegregation of its public higher education system, Tennessee agrees to identify 75 promising black sophomores each year and prepare them for later admission to the state’s graduate and professional schools. A federal court of appeals approves this settlement in 1986 despite opposition from the Reagan Administration.

1984 Julius L. Chambers is named LDF’s Director-Counsel.

1993 Elaine R. Jones is named LDF’s first female Director-Counsel.

1995 *Missouri v. Jenkins*

The Supreme Court rules that some disparities, such as poor achievement among African-American students, are beyond the authority of the federal courts to address. This decision reaffirms the Supreme Court’s desire to end federal court supervision and return control of schools to local authorities.

1996 *Sheff v. O’Neill*

In this LDF case, the Supreme Court of Connecticut finds the State liable for maintaining racial and ethnic isolation, and orders the legislative and executive branches to propose a remedy. LDF would have to return to the Court in 2003

to force the legislative body to fulfill the Court’s mandate.

1996 *Hopwood v. Texas*

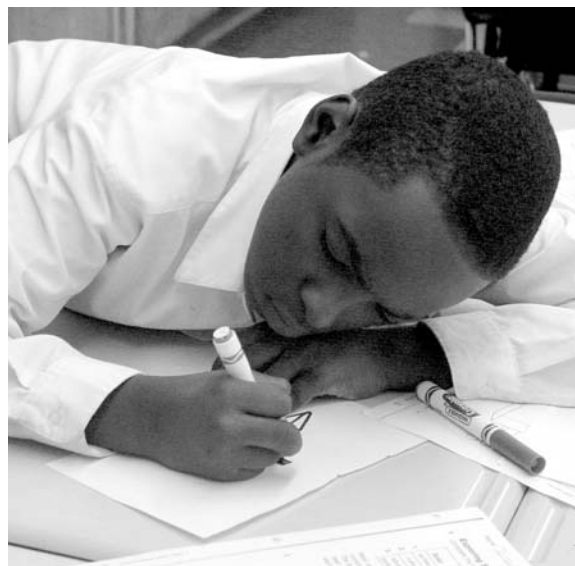
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit rules that the affirmative action plans used by Texas universities are unconstitutional; the Supreme Court refuses to review the case.

1999 Thirty years of court-supervised desegregation ends in Charlotte-Mecklenburg school district.

2003 *Gratz v. Bollinger; Grutter v. Bollinger*

The Supreme Court considers challenges to the University of Michigan’s affirmative action program for its undergraduate and law schools, respectively. LDF represents African-American and Latino student intervenors in the *Gratz* undergraduate school case; LDF Associate Director-Counsel Theodore M. Shaw is lead counsel. In *Grutter*, the Court preserved the core principle of affirmative action, finding that the consideration of race in pursuit of a diverse student body is a compelling state interest.

2004 Theodore M. Shaw becomes LDF’s fifth Director-Counsel.



NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC. Board of Directors

Co-Chairs

Julius L. Chambers
Martin D. Payson

Co-Vice Chairs

Daniel L. Rabinowitz
Roger W. Wilkins

Secretary

James M. Nabrit III

Treasurer

Clifford P. Case III

President and Director-Counsel

Theodore M. Shaw

Board of Directors

Billye Suber Aaron
Gerald S. Adolph
Eleanor S. Applewhaite
Clarence Avant
Mario L. Baeza
Mary Frances Berry
Patrick A. Bradford
Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr.
Kenneth C. Edelin
Toni G. Fay
Gordon G. Greiner
Quincy Jones
Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.
David E. Kendall

Caroline B. Kennedy
Tonya Lewis Lee
William M. Lewis, Jr.
John D. Maguire

Cecilia S. Marshall
David Mills
Richard M. Moss
Lawrence Newman
C. Carl Randolph
Judith T. Sapers
Judith McCartin Scheide
John W. Walker
George Wallerstein
Theodore V. Wells, Jr.
Karen Hastie Williams

Senior Directors

Anthony G. Amsterdam
William K. Coblenz
Theodore L. Cross
Nannette B. Gibson
Jack Greenberg
Louis Harris
Anna Faith Jones
Jetta N. Jones
David S. Lindau
Robert O. Preyer
Norman Redlich
Charles B. Renfrew
William H. Scheide
Frederick A.O. Schwarz, Jr.
Andrew Young

Co-Chairs Emeritus

William T. Coleman, Jr.
Robert H. Preiskel

Directors Emeritus

Alice M. Beasley
Anita Lyons Bond
William H. Brown III
Talbot D’Alemberte
Ossie Davis
Peter J. DeLuca
Adrian W. DeWind
Anthony Downs
Robert F. Drinan
Marian Wright Edelman
Clarence Finley
H. Minton Francis
Norman C. Francis
John Hope Franklin
Ronald T. Gault
Lucy Durr Hackney
Patricia L. Irvin
Nicholas DeB. Katzenbach
George E. Marshall, Jr.
Glendora McIlwain Putnam
Gilbert T. Ray
Henry T. Reath
Wayman F. Smith III
Michael I. Sovern
Bonnie Kayatta Steingart
Chuck Stone
Jay Topkis
E. Thomas Williams, Jr.

ABOUT THE NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC. (LDF)

LDF was founded in 1940 under the leadership of Thurgood Marshall, who led the legal team that won *Brown v. Board of Education*. LDF’s mission is to transform the promise of equality into reality for African Americans and, ultimately, all individuals in the areas of education, political participation, economic justice and criminal justice.

Although LDF works primarily through the courts, its strategies include advocacy, educational outreach, monitoring of activity in the executive and legislative branches, coalition building and policy research.

Fifty years after *Brown*, education is still LDF’s main program area. LDF continues to play a major role in the decades-long struggle to win equal access to primary, secondary and higher education for all of our nation’s youth. Additionally, through its scholarship and fellowship programs, LDF has helped over 4,000 exceptional African-American students to graduate from many of the nation’s best colleges, universities and law schools.

LDF is based in New York City, with offices in Washington, DC and Los Angeles.

99 Hudson Street, Suite 1600
New York, NY 10013

212.965.2200

212.226.7592

www.naacpldf.org

www.brownmatters.org



the
winding
road to
BROWN
and beyond

AN LDF CHRONOLOGY
OF THE STRUGGLE
FOR EDUCATIONAL EQUITY:
THE LEGACY OF
BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

LDF

NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC.