

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LDF VICTORIOUS IN HAWKINS V. TOWN OF SHAW

Shaw, Mississippi --- NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund attorneys were notified of their victory today in the Hawkins v. Town of Shaw case.

The January 1971 decision by three Fifth Circuit panel judges that the town of Shaw, in Mississippi, must provide municipal services on a racially equal basis to its black and white residents, was upheld yesterday; by all sixteen judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Legal Defense Fund Director-Counsel, Jack Greenberg indicated that "LDF plans to sue other cities, large and small, North and South, for municipal failures generally, and particularly in the areas of police protection, fire protection, and garbage collection." Greenberg explained that "the Legal Defense Fund has been awaiting this decision, in order to launch similar campaigns throughout the country."

Jonathan Shapiro, one of the LDF attorneys handling the case stated that, "the affirmance of the original panel decision in the case of Hawkins v. Town of Shaw by all sixteen judges of the Fifth Circuit, adds immeasurably to the significance of that decision. Because of the agreement of all the judges, the decision will unquestionably be binding in all of the deep Southern States over which the Fifth Circuit has jurisdiction."

"The message is now clear to cities and towns throughout the South and hopefully throughout the nation; that the federal courts will no longer tolerate any inequality in the provision of municipal services to black and minority group citizens."

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NOTE: Please bear in mind that the LDF is a completely separate and distinct organization even though we were established by the NAACP and those initials are retained in our name. Our correct designation is NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., frequently shortened to LDF.