

Sixty-Six Years Since *Brown*

*John Q. Barrett**

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May 17, 2020, marks the sixty-sixth anniversary of the United States Supreme Court's decisions in *Brown v. Board of Education* and its companion cases. These unanimous decisions were right then, and they still are right today and going forward. They are among the most important events in U.S. history.



L-R: NAACP lawyers George E.C. Hayes, Thurgood Marshall, and James M. Nabrit, Jr.

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The Court—Chief Justice Earl Warren and eight Associate Justices, including Robert H. Jackson—held unanimously that government segregation by race of school children was, henceforth, barred by the U.S. Constitution. The Court declared that state government school segregation was barred by the Fourteenth Amendment’s Equal Protection Clause, and that federal government school segregation was barred by the Fifth Amendment’s Due Process Clause.



L-R: Back row: Associate Justices Tom C. Clark, Robert H. Jackson, Harold H. Burton & Sherman Minton; Front: Associate Justices Felix Frankfurter, Hugo L. Black, Chief Justice Earl Warren, & Associate Justices Stanley Reed & William O. Douglas.

For reading on *Brown* Day and at other times, here are the decisions:

- * [*Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*](#) (and companion cases from Delaware, South Carolina, and Virginia -- the State cases); and
- * [*Bolling v. Sharpe*](#) (from the District of Columbia -- the Federal case).

And [click this link](#) to get to relevant pieces in the Jackson List archive, including:

- * from 2010, [“May 17, 1954”](#);
- * from 2011, [“Brown Day”](#), about winning attorney Thurgood Marshall; and
- * from 2018, [“Nine Votes, Nine Present: The Unanimity of *Brown v. Board of Education*”](#).

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CALENDAR OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

MONDAY, MAY 17, 1954

8:30 a. m.	
9:00 a. m.	
9:30 a. m.	
10:00 a. m.	
10:30 a. m.	
11:00 a. m.	
11:30 a. m.	
12:00 noon	Court convened
12:30 p. m.	
1:00 p. m.	Recess
1:30 p. m.	Lunch with Justice Douglas and group - Justices' dining room
2:00 p. m.	
2:30 p. m.	Jack King and Judge MacGregor of Hawaii
3:00 p. m.	Miss Kathleen Parker of Los Angeles
3:30 p. m.	Congressman Hillelson of Kansas
4:00 p. m.	Ira Wheeler and Robert Kelleher of Beverly Hills, his
4:30 p. m.	son-in-law
5:00 p. m.	
Evening 7:30 p. m.	Dinner - Norwegian Society
Dress:	Black tie
Place:	Willard Hotel

Calendar of Chief Justice Earl Warren, May 17, 1954, in the Earl Warren Papers, Library of Congress, Manuscript Division, Washington, D.C., Box 29.