

American Bar Association
Commission on the 50th Anniversary of
Brown v. Board of Education

Projects Currently Planned

Justice Talking event at the ABA Midyear Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, on Saturday, February 7, 2004

- To reach a broad listening and viewing audience, the Commission will co-sponsor a program on the impact and legacy of *Brown v. Board of Education* with National Public Radio's *Justice Talking*. The program will use a debate format, moderated by Margot Adler, to discuss the present state of racial equality in education
- The Commission will also produce with *Justice Talking* 30-second public interest spots highlighting the *Brown* anniversary to air throughout the month of April 2004 and the week of May 17, 2004. *Justice Talking* reaches approximately 160,000 National Public Radio listeners in 98 domestic markets, and also is broadcast via satellite and Armed Forces Radio to 140 countries.
- The ABA will distribute a minimum of 1,000 specially packaged CDs of the *Justice Talking* program and related materials on race and education to high school classrooms around the country.

"Brown and Its Legacy: A Student Dialogue" at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, Thursday, March 24-25, 2004

- The Detroit metropolitan typifies much of America in the demographic contrast between its mostly African-American urban center and its mostly white surrounding suburbs. The public schools reflect that racial divide, with virtually all-black and all-white schools commonplace. To engage students who experience that reality everyday in a discussion about *Brown v. Board of Education*, lawyers and judges will visit high school classes in Detroit and two adjacent counties to lead discussions about *Brown*. Then representatives from those classes will assemble to discuss the subject in a televised exchange with community leaders, including ABA President Dennis Archer.
- That activity will be followed by a daylong, multi-disciplinary academic symposium dedicated to the *Brown* decisions and their impact, conducted under ABA *Brown* Commission auspices in conjunction with the National Bar Association and Wayne State University. A reception and dinner will be held on March 24. ABA President Dennis Archer, Commission member Judge Damon Keith, and journalist/historian Roger Wilkins will be among those participating.

Public Seminar on *Brown v. Board of Education* at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on April 29, 2004

- In partnership with the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, the ABA will conduct a “Fred Friendly”-style seminar focusing on *Brown v. Board of Education*. This public program will be held at the Center’s Kirby Auditorium on the afternoon or evening of Thursday, April 29. It will feature a moderated panel discussion by experts in various fields responding to hypothetical scenarios constructed around legal, ethical, and public policy issues emanating from *Brown*. Harvard law professor Charles Ogletree, who chairs the ABA *Brown* Commission, will moderate the program. Since 1990 Prof. Ogletree has moderated dozens of similar programs, many of which have been nationally televised on PBS. The program will be presented to a live audience of approximately 300, including lawyers, judges, bar leaders, educators, and the general public.
- The moderated discussion seminar will be filmed for national broadcast on public television as a one-hour program (prospective broadcast partner: WHYY-Philadelphia). It will also be distributed on videocassette and DVD for school, community, and home viewing. (Projected public TV audience of 1 million+ viewers, and a projected video viewership of 100,000.)
- To facilitate educational use of the video program, the ABA will produce a 12-page discussion guide available to instructors on the ABA *Brown* website and in print. The guide will be online from July 2004 on, and the print version will be distributed starting in August 2004 to a projected audience of 5,000 educators and community leaders nationwide.

“Reargument” of *Brown v. Board of Education* at the ABA Annual Meeting (August 6 or 7, 2004).

- This event will feature a mock argument before the Supreme Court, set in the present day, which will look at a jurisdiction or group of jurisdictions where the resegregation of school districts in 2004 meets or exceeds the level of segregation that existed in 1954. Prominent lawyers and judges will be asked to play the roles of advocates and justices in the argument. Over 300 people are expected in the audience for this event.
- The Damon J. Keith Collection’s exhibit, “Marching Toward Justice: The History of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution,” will also be displayed at the Annual Meeting.

***Brown v. Board of Education* 50th Anniversary Book**

- The Commission will develop a 150- to 175-page mass-market paperback original containing 5- to 25-page essays reflecting on the legacy of the Supreme Court's 1954 decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*. Essays will be contributed by a broad range of scholars and civil rights leaders, and will be augmented by period photos and archival materials. The volume will be edited and designed to ensure that it is accessible to a broad audience of interested readers. (Estimated distribution of 15,000 copies to bookstores, schools, and libraries across the United States.)

***Brown v. Board of Education* Informational Resources**

- As a service to educators and researchers, the Commission will maintain and update an ABA *Brown* Commemoration resource website (www.abanet.org/brown) as an online informational clearinghouse with annotated links to high-quality *Brown*-related programs and resources (print, video, audio, electronic). The Web site will be available throughout the country from September 2003 and ongoing thereafter, with a projected monthly average in 2004 of 20,000 page views.