

UCSD symposium on May 9 to examine school integration in recognition of 40th anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education

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UCSD SYMPOSIUM ON MAY 9 TO EXAMINE SCHOOL INTEGRATION IN RECOGNITION OF 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

Forty years after the United States Supreme Court ruled on the landmark Brown v. Board of Education case, which made it illegal for school districts to segregate students on the basis of race, legal scholars and experts will convene May 9 at the University of California, San Diego to examine how the case has impacted education in America.

Forty Years After Brown: The Promise and Reality of School Integration, is free and open to the public, and will be held from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in UCSD's Price Center Ballroom. The symposium, which is being sponsored by UCSD's Thurgood Marshall College and its newly founded Marshall Institute, will include the participation of former members of the NAACP legal team that were involved in the Brown v. Board of Education case, as well as scholars, educators, and actual litigants in school desegregation cases.

The symposium will include two keynote addresses and two panel discussions. The first keynote address will be given by Jack Greenberg, an experienced litigator and one of the lawyers on the NAACP legal defense team in 1954 who argued one of the Supreme Court consolidated cases that led to the unanimous Brown v. Board of Education decision. A close collaborator of Thurgood Marshall, the NAACP's chief counsel in the case, Greenberg played a key role in developing the legal strategy that would successfully challenge school segregation. In 1961, Greenberg succeeded Marshall as chief counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, a position he held until 1984. Under Greenberg's direction, the Fund pressed the courts relentlessly to fulfill the promise of equality not only in schools, but in all areas of American life. Greenberg is currently a professor of law at Columbia University Law School in New York City.

A keynote address will also be given by Judge Robert L. Carter, the NAACP attorney who represented Linda Brown in the Brown v. Board of Education case, and personally argued the case before the Supreme Court. Carter was one of the key participants in the overall legal attack on school segregation. A graduate of Howard Law School, Carter is currently a United States District Judge in New York City.

The panel discussions will be moderated by UCSD Professor Peter Irons, director of the Marshall Institute. Irons, an attorney and an authority on constitutional law, is the coauthor, with Stephanie Guitton, of *May It Please the Court*, a package of audiotapes and transcripts of 23 landmark Supreme Court cases published in 1993.

"The 40th anniversary of this historic and legal landmark decision is an appropriate time for us to assess the current status and value of the school integration effort," said Irons. "In some respects, school integration -- especially in the South -- has been accompanied by improvements in education. But in many other respects, the

promise held by school integration -particularly in the Northern U.S.--has been frustrated: de facto segregation, with all its inequalities still persists."

A panel discussion on "The Aftermath and Implementation of Brown" will be held from 1:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. The panelists will include:

University of California President Jack W. Peltason, former chancellor of UC Irvine and professor of political science, and the author of *Fifty-Eight Lonely Men*, which examines the role of Southern federal judges in implementing the Brown decision;

Melba Patillo Beals, one of the first Black students enrolled in Little Rock's (Ark.) first integrated school, and the author of *Warriors Don't Cry*, her new book about her experience as one of the "Little Rock Nine";

Mario G. Obledo, former president and general counsel of the Texas MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense Fund), who argued the landmark school funding case *San Antonio v. Rodriguez*;

Kenneth Karst, a renowned constitutional scholar and law professor at UCLA School of Law, as well as the author of several books about equality in America, including the recently published *Belonging to America*.

The second panel discussion focusing on "Current and Future Status of School Integration," will take place from 3:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m., and will include the following legal and education experts:

Connie Rice, western regional counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund in Los Angeles;

Peter Brown, a San Diego County teacher and an advocate for bilingual education;

Ernest McCray, a longtime teacher and the principal of Marvin Elementary School in San Diego.

The symposium will also include readings by the authors of the four winning essays in the Thurgood Marshall College Essay Contest. All California High School students have been invited to participate in the contest by submitting an essay on how public education in America has changed since the Brown decision in 1954, and how they feel the goals of equal access to education can be met today. Award winners will receive UCSD scholarships.

Forty Years After Brown: The Promise and Reality of School Integration is part of the inaugural year activities of Thurgood Marshall College. The Thurgood Marshall Institute was established by the college to support scholarly research, organize and support student group research projects, and to host and sponsor conferences and symposia on issues related to law and education.

For more information on the May 9 program or the Thurgood Marshall Institute call Stephanie Guitton, programs coordinator for the Institute, at (619) 534-2353.

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