

The Quest for Equal Educational Opportunity: *Brown* Nears 50, *San Antonio* Turns 30

**Thursday, March 20 and Friday, March 21, 2003
American University Washington College of Law**

It has been nearly 50 years since the landmark decision of *Brown v. Board of Education* held out the promise of equal educational opportunity for all. It has been 30 years since the Supreme Court redefined and limited the parameters of that equal opportunity in *San Antonio Independent School District v. Rodriguez*. This conference will look back on the history, impact, and legacy of these two critically important rulings, and ahead at how access to equal educational opportunity may be shaped in the future.

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Brown v. Board of Education: A Moot Court Argument

Advocates will consider the problem of racially segregated education in light of the factual and legal circumstances that existed in 1954, and with the benefit of hindsight regarding what we have learned in the ensuing decades about the politics of race, law and education, the difficulty of and resistance to desegregation efforts, and the current status of students of color in public schools today.

Lawyers: Professor Erwin Chemerinsky, for petitioners
Professor Derrick Bell, for respondents

Judges: Judge Paul L. Friedman
Judge Nathaniel R. Jones
Judge Damon J. Keith
Professor Earl M. Maltz
Professor Jamin Raskin
Judge Inez Smith Reid

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Friday, March 21, 2003**Panel I—*Brown*: History, Context, Current Assessment.***

Professors Erwin Chemerinsky, Genna Rae McNeil, John Charles Boger, and Judith A. Winston.

Moderated by Professor Stephen J. Wermiel.

Panel II—*San Antonio*: History, Context, Current Assessment.*

Professors Earl M. Maltz, James Edward Ryan, Erwin Chemerinsky and Judge Nathaniel R. Jones.

Moderated by Judith A. Winston.

Luncheon Panel—The Civil Rights Era: A Look Back by Those Who Lived and Litigated Through It.

Judge Damon J. Keith, Judge Nathaniel R. Jones, and William Taylor.

Moderated by Professor Stephen J. Wermiel.

Panel III—Looking Ahead: Ideas for the Future of Equal Educational Opportunity.*

Professors Charles R. Lawrence, Susan Low Bloch, Roslyn Arlin Mickelson, and Jamin Raskin.

Moderated by Professor Thomas O. Sargentich.

* Transcripts on file with the American University Law Review