



HUMANITIES  
KANSAS

# *Brown v. Board of Education* 70th Anniversary Speakers Bureau

In 1954, the United States Supreme Court unanimously overturned the “separate but equal” doctrine in America’s public schools and declared racially segregated schools unequal and unconstitutional. What social and educational progress has our nation made since this historic ruling, and where do disparities still persist? Commemorate the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision by honoring the courage of those who fought for justice and equality.



## THE POWER OF IMAGERY AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS EXPERIENCE

Presentation can be conducted in person or online.

Since its inception, photography has been used for raising awareness of social issues, provoking emotions and thoughts, and reshaping our perceptions of the world. This presentation will delve into the impact of photography on the civil rights movement in the aftermath of the landmark Supreme Court case, *Brown v. Board of Education*, tracing the evolution of how Black individuals and communities have been portrayed from historical beginnings to the era of *Brown v. Board* and up to the present day. Presented by Ann Dean.

Ann is a freelance photographer and artist who also teaches photography at the Lawrence Art Center.

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## THE WOMEN OF BROWN

Presentation can be conducted in person or online.

Twelve Black women were at the forefront of the civil rights movement as plaintiffs in the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* case. Unfortunately, their contributions to the civil rights movement have often been overlooked, yet they are essential to the story of the Brown decision and its impact on American society. This presentation will shine a light on their stories and ensure that their names are not forgotten. Presented by Donna Rae Pearson.

Donna Rae is a museum specialist at the Kansas Historical Society.

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## BEYOND BROWN: MEXICAN STRUGGLES FOR EQUALITY BEFORE AND AFTER BROWN V. BOARD

Presentation can be conducted in person or online.

The struggle for equal rights is often characterized as a black and white issue, but Mexicans and Mexican Americans also experienced discrimination and segregation. Across the country, parents fervently advocated for an equal education for their children, and the momentous 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* case dismantled segregation in education and many other aspects of daily life. Yet, Latino communities continued to band together to fight discriminatory practices. This talk highlights the struggles by Mexicans and Mexican American communities demanding equal protection under the law, focusing special attention on Kansas examples. Presented by Valerie Mendoza.

Valerie is a historian and lecturer at Kansas City Kansas Community College.

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## REMEMBERING *BROWN V BOARD OF EDUCATION*

Presentation can be conducted in person or online.

In 1954, Topeka, Kansas became the epicenter for the Supreme Court decision of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, a pivotal moment in American history. The lead plaintiff was Oliver Brown, a father and pastor, whose daughter Linda was denied entrance to a nearby elementary school for white children. Brown along with plaintiffs from four similar cases across the United States sought to dismantle racial segregation in education, arguing that segregated schools were inherently unequal and violated the 14th Amendment's guarantee of equal protection under the law. This presentation will explore the intricacies of the five cases included in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* case and explore the transformative impact of this landmark decision. Presented by Eric Sexton.

Eric Sexton serves as a governmental affairs consultant to Foulston Siefkin's Governmental Affairs & Public Policy practice group.

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