

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 18, 2024**

**THE DELAWARE JUDICIARY MARKS 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF LANDMARK  
*BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION* RULING**

***Delaware Justices and Bar members participate in a reenactment of part of the  
Delaware case that became part of Brown***

The Delaware Judiciary marked the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1954 United States Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education* on by re-enacting a key part of the trial in one of the Delaware cases that became part of *Brown*.

Two Delaware cases, *Belton v. Gebhart* and *Bulah v. Gebhart*, brought by civil rights attorney Louis L. Redding, challenged the segregation doctrine of “separate but equal” in public education in Delaware. The Court of Chancery’s decision in those actions were the only cases in the *Brown* appeal where the African American plaintiffs prevailed in a lower-level court.

Friday’s re-enactment of expert testimony in the *Belton* case took place in courtroom 7E of the Leonard L. Williams Justice Center before an audience of about 200. Delaware Supreme Court Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr. portrayed his father, Chancellor Collins J. Seitz, Sr., who presided over both the *Belton* and *Bulah* cases, and Justice N. Christopher Griffiths portrayed Louis Redding.

“On the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of one of the most important decisions from the United States Supreme Court, it is important to remember Delaware’s contribution to this historic decision,” said Chief Justice Seitz. “From the individual plaintiffs, to the fearless African American attorney Louis Redding, to the courageous Court of Chancery decisions by my father, we honor those who ended up on the right side of history. The trial testimony re-enacted today led Chancellor Collins Seitz to predict that the United States Supreme Court would eventually find that segregation itself, and not just unequal educational institutions, violated the United States Constitution and its guarantee of equal protection for all.”

Retired Superior Court Judge Charles H. Toliver IV introduced the 60-minute program providing context and personal recollections about the state of education and racial segregation in the 1950s. Other members of the bar that participated in the recreation included: Nicholas D. Mozal, Maame Boateng, and Caneel Radinson-Blasucci, all of Potter Anderson, and Wali W. Rushdan II of Barnes & Thornburg LLP, who portrayed the expert witness, psychologist Dr. Kenneth Clark. Ryan P. Newell, of Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP, coordinated the re-creation. Organizers also thanked Magna Legal Services and Parcels for their donations to this re-creation.