

# Law School Case Briefs

Bennett Westfall

# Contents

<b>Brown v. Board of Education</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Plessy v. Ferguson</b>	<b>4</b>

# Brown v. Board of Education

347 U.S. 483 (1954)

## Keyword Subject

Separate but Equal, Education

## Facts

Segregation in public education, under separate-but-equal laws.  
Brown challenged the constitutionality of segregation in public schools.

## Procedural History

District court upheld segregation under *Plessy v. Ferguson*

## Issue

Does segregation violate the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment?

## Holding

Yes. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal

## Reasoning

Segregation generates a feeling of inferiority, harmful to education

## Separate Opinions

Concurring opinions emphasized psychological harm

# Plessy v. Ferguson

163 U.S. 537 (1896)

## Keyword Subject

Separate but Equal, Train

## Facts

Plessy, a man of mixed race, sat in a "whites only" train car and was arrested under Louisiana's segregation laws.

## Procedural History

State courts upheld the conviction; Plessy appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

## Issue

Does state-imposed racial segregation violate the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment?

## Holding

No. Laws requiring racial segregation do not imply the inferiority of either race and are therefore constitutional.

## Reasoning

The Court held that "separate but equal" facilities did not violate the Constitution, legitimizing segregation.

## Separate Opinions

Justice Harlan dissented, warning the decision would become as infamous as Dred Scott.

## Index

Education, 3

Separate but Equal, 3, 4

Train, 4