

# Law School Case Briefs

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# 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

## Principle

Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal

## Reasoning

Segregation generates a feeling of inferiority, harmful to education

## Separate Opinions

Judges: Concurring opinions emphasized psychological harm

## Notes

# Plaintiff1 v. Defendant1

1943

## Keyword Subject

Education

## Facts

Defendant1 refused service to Plaintiff1 on the basis of race *Brown v. Board of Education*

## Procedural History

County: In favor of Defendant1

Appeal: In favor of Plaintiff1

Supreme Court: In favor of Plaintiff1

## Issue

Can you deny service on the basis of race?

## Holding: No

## Principle

Seperate but equal is inherently unequal

## Reasoning

Facts

## Separate Opinions

Racist1: Nuh Uh

Racist2: Im going to appeal to *Plessy v. Ferguson*

## Notes

# 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

## Principle

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

## Notes