



For Educational Equity,  
Excellence and Research

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“In Commemoration of  
*Brown v. Board of Education*  
May 17, 1954.”

#### **BROWN CASES**

*Bolling v. Sharpe*, Washington D.C.  
*Briggs v. Elliot*, South Carolina  
*Brown v. Board*, Kansas  
*Belton(Bulah) v. Gebhart*, Delaware  
*Davis v. Prince Edward County*, Virginia

#### Message From the Founding President:

For nearly three decades my family, together with community volunteers, has worked tirelessly to preserve the legacy of *Brown v. Board of Education*. Oliver L. Brown, for whom *Brown v. Board of Education* is named, was my father. In 1988, we established the Brown Foundation to serve as a living tribute to the attorneys, community activists and plaintiffs who were part of this court decision. Beginning in 1990 our work with Congress resulted in the creation of an historic site filled with exhibits which displayed our knowledge and understanding of *Brown v. Board of Education*. Congress provided funding to enable the Foundation to develop interpretive exhibits, educational resources, public programs and outreach activities. Our outreach has included providing the 14,000 plus school districts, numerous colleges/universities, and educational associations across the nation with access to educational resources about *Brown v. Board of Education*.

By establishing an historic site, we succeeded beyond our dreams. However, unanticipated negative reactions have recently taken aim at dismantling our accomplishment. Our family name has been publicly maligned and a campaign ensued to sever association of The Brown Foundation from the legacy of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

This campaign began by removing The Brown Foundation and living plaintiffs in *Brown v. Board of Education* from the historic site we had established to share our story. Statements were made fostering the notion that the Brown Foundation's financial records were in question, although the Foundation's finances have been audited annually by independent accounting firms without issue for the past 19 years.

We have refuted these false claims and made it clear that The Brown Foundation as a 501(c)(3), is governed, in accordance with all legal requirements, by a volunteer Board of Directors, and since its inception the Foundation has taken and continues to take great care to ensure oversight of funds provided by individual contributions, corporate and governmental support. We have years of multilevel financial oversight including internal bookkeeping staff and two independent accounting firms; one to provide monthly review of our records and bank

reconciliations and another to prepare tax filings and conduct annual financial audits. Our past three annual financial audits are posted on our web site.

In the face of these challenges, The Brown Foundation has remained solidly engaged in its mission and continues to provide all necessary oversight. We are grateful for all continued support, honors and recognition and assure you that great care is taken with managing financial contributions.

Through our work the legacy of *Brown vs. the Board of Education* will not be forgotten.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cheryl".

Cheryl Brown/Henderson  
Founding President