

**Democracy cannot be legislated;
It must be burned in the hearts of man.**



NAACP Administrator Roy Wilkins, Executive Secretary Walter White, *Ebony* writer Wesley South, Special Counsel Thurgood Marshall, Assistant Counsel Robert L. Carter and *Ebony* writer Allan Morrison are shown at a victory celebration at NAACP headquarters on night of May 17, 1954, following *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision. (Photo courtesy of *Ebony* Magazine.)



National Association for the Advancement of Colored People battery of lawyers who argued the school desegregation case, *Brown vs. Board of Education*, which resulted in the U.S. Supreme Court decision of May 17, 1954: Howard Jenkins, James M. Nabrit, Spottswood W. Robinson III, Frank Reeves, Jack Greenberg, Thurgood Marshall, Louis Redding, U. Simpson Tate, George E.C. Hayes, Robert Carter.

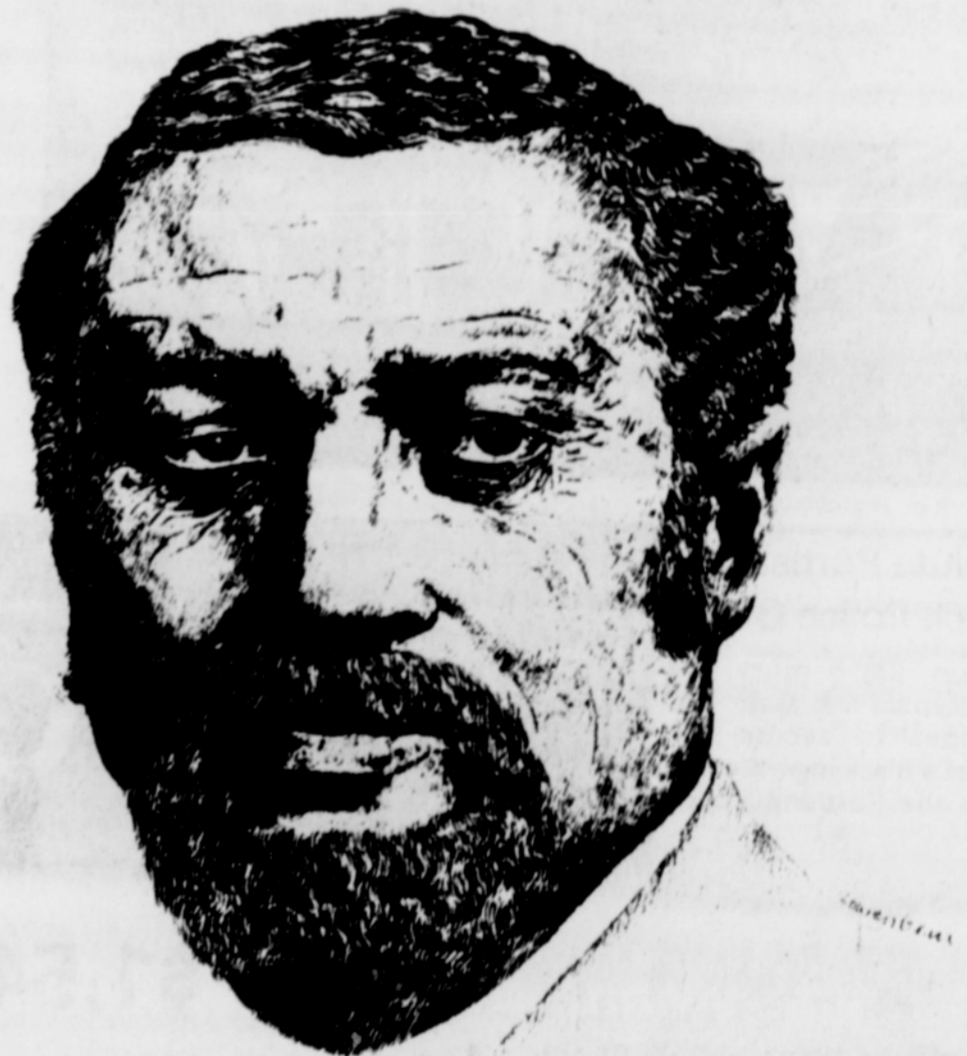
The 1954 Supreme Court Decision -- *Brown vs Board of Education* -- brought an end to the era of "separate but equal".

The Decision was the culmination of many years of legal effort and was the hope of Black parents who believed that at last their children would receive the quality of education they needed to participate fully in the economic, artistic and political life of the nation.

Across the south, schools were desegregated and colleges opened to Black students. But resistance was great in both the north and the south and the Court's "all deliberate speed" had little meaning. Today school desegregation is still a burning issue in the halls of Congress and in the citadels of education.

Blanche Kelso Bruce (1841-1898)

U.S. SENATOR FROM MISSISSIPPI. Born in slavery in Framville, Va., he escaped to freedom during the Civil War. He attended Oberlin College and became a Mississippi planter after the Civil War. He then followed a political career, becoming Sergeant-at-Arms to the Mississippi State Senate in 1870, and assessor, sheriff and tax collector of Bolivar County, Miss., until 1872. From 1875 to 1881 he was a U.S. Senator, and member of Senate Committees on Pensions, Education, Labor Manufacturers, and Improvement of the Mississippi River and its tributaries. He was trustee of Howard University for many years, and was the first Black to be appointed Register of the Treasury (in 1881).



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