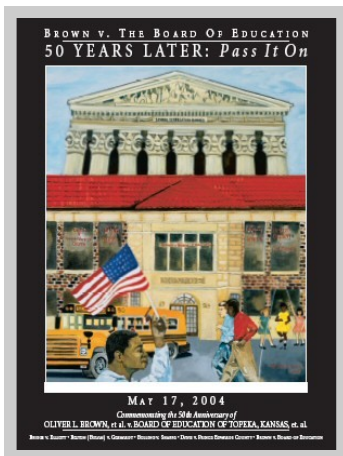


Deborah Dandridge
Archivist and Researcher
Former Brown Board President

The 1954 United States Supreme Court decision in *Oliver L. Brown et al. v. the Board of Education of Topeka (KS) et al.* is among the most significant judicial turning points in the development of our country. Originally led by Charles H. Houston, and later Thurgood Marshall and a formidable legal team, it dismantled the legal basis for racial segregation in schools and other public facilities.



By declaring that the discriminatory nature of racial segregation ... "violates the 14th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees all citizens equal protection of the laws," *Brown v. Board of Education* laid the foundation for shaping future national and international policies regarding human rights.

Brown v. Board of Education was not simply about children and education. The *Brown* decision inspired and galvanized human rights struggles across the country and around the world.

What this legal challenge represents is at the core of United States history and the freedoms we enjoy. The U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Brown* began a critical chapter in the maturation of our democracy. It reaffirmed the sovereign power of the people of the United States in the protection of their natural rights from arbitrary limits and restrictions imposed by state and local governments. These rights are recognized in the Declaration of Independence and guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

While this case was an important historic milestone, it is often misunderstood. Over the years, the facts pertaining to the *Brown* case have been overshadowed by myths and mischaracterizations:

- *Brown v. Board of Education* was not the first challenge to school segregation. As early as 1849, African Americans filed suit against an educational system that mandated racial segregation, in the case of *Roberts v. City of Boston*.
- Oliver Brown, the case namesake, was just one of the nearly 200 plaintiffs from five states who were part of the NAACP cases brought before the Supreme Court in 1951. The Kansas case was named for Oliver *Brown* as a legal strategy to have a man head the plaintiff roster.

Kansas Collections—University of Kansas Libraries
Lawrence, KS 66045-2800
(785) 864-4274

ddandrid@ku.edu

Information taken from www.brownvboard.org

The Office of the Governor

KAAAC

Kansas African American Affairs Commission

900 SW Jackson—Room 101
Landon State Office Building
Topeka, KS 6612
(785) 296-4874 (o)
(785) 296-1795 (f)
Web Site: www.kaaac.ks.gov

Black History Month

Advocacy Days at the Capitol

African American Kansans

and Social Empowerment

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

10:30 a.m.—12:00 noon

142 South Capitol

Kansas African American Affairs Commissioners

Curtis Whitten (4th District), Chairperson
James Barfield (4th District)
Latoria Chinn (3rd District)
Deborah Dandridge (2nd District)
Harriett Johnson (2nd District)
Jerome Williams (4th District)

Staff

Mildred Edwards, Ph.D., Executive Director

Kevin Myles State President NAACP

Kevin Myles was born on Fort Ord Army base in Monterey California. Raised in Cleveland since early childhood, Kevin left Cleveland after high school to pursue a career in the military. He is a veteran of two conflicts, having served in Operation "Just Cause" (The invasion of Panama and the deposition of Manuel Noriega) and Operation "Provide Comfort" (a companion mission to Desert Storm to rescue the Kurdish Refugees from the mountains of Iraq during the first Persian Gulf War). After being honorably discharged from the Army, Kevin and family settled in Wichita, Kansas.



Kevin went to work for Ryan International Airlines; a privately held airline which specialized in Charter and Military flights. Kevin now serves as the Director of Fleet Management for Sedgwick County, Kansas; managing an \$11,000,000.00 budget and 742 County owned vehicles and pieces of equipment. Kevin is also the President and CEO of Myles & Associates, which provides public policy solutions to non-profit and community organizations. He serves on Governor Sebelius's State Wide Racial Profiling Task Force, the Sedgwick County Sustainability Task Force, the Community Corrections Advisory board, the City of Wichita Citizens Advisory Board, and the Wichita Airport advisory board.

Since January of 2003, Kevin Myles has served as the President of the Wichita Branch NAACP. He also serves as the Political Affairs Chairman for the Kansas State Conference of NAACP Branches. In this role, he works to shape and guide the political strategies and activities of the 12 NAACP units in the State of Kansas, and he serves as the State Conference's chief lobbyist. Additionally Kevin is now serving a fifth term as President of the Wichita Chapter of Mensa.



*Wichita Location 829 North Market
Street Wichita, KS 67214-3519
(316) 219-6996
www.naacp.org*



Chester Daniel President/CEO

Chester Daniel was born in Barbados, West Indies — a small island state in the eastern Caribbean. In 1982, Chester received a diploma in Marketing Management from the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity (BIMAP). The following year, he migrated to the United States and by the fall of 1984 was accepted as a freshman at Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey. He received a Bachelor of

Science degree from that institution in 1988.

In 1991, Chester moved to Jacksonville, Florida. In 1992, he joined the Jacksonville Urban League (JUL). At the JUL, he held several positions to include Fair Housing Director and Director of Programs, Planning and Development. For the past ten years, he directed the JUL's strategic planning and organizational development efforts, agency assessments, and reflective practice process. Most recently, he served as Vice President for Economic and Strategic Initiatives focusing on ways to sustain the agency through social entrepreneurial efforts.

Never a person to rest on his laurels, Chester achieved several distinctions and accomplishments while at the JUL. He graduated with a Masters Degree from the University of North Florida; he received Housing Professional Finance Certification from the National Development Council; and in 2006 earned first honors in the National Urban League Economic Opportunity Institute Social Venture Plan Competition at the Clark Atlanta University.

Chester has also served on several local boards and committees in Jacksonville. Most notably, he served and is a current board member of the Jacksonville Economic Development Corporation (JEDCO); served as Chair of First Coast Counseling and Education Center; and, he is a recent member of Toastmasters. Since March of 2008, Chester has held the position of President & CEO of the Urban League of Kansas, Inc. In 2009 he led the Urban League through the continued development of a three-prong strategy that was adopted to maximize the Urban League's expertise in housing, education and workforce development. Under his leadership the Urban League plans to launch a venture in 2010. Also in 2009 under Chester's direction the Urban League reinforced their productivity measures by benchmarking performance standards for each program hiring a COO to manage the process.

*2418 E 9th Street North
Wichita, KS 67214-3150
(316) 262-2463
www.kansasul.org*

