

Case Brief

Parties: Brown (plaintiff) v. Board of Education of Topeka (defense)

Facts:

This case includes more cases from Kansas, South Carolina, Virginia and Delaware. Parents of several black children suit Board of Education because they wouldn't let their children study with white students. They claimed that this segregation is unconstitutional under the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment.

Legal issue:

Is the race-based segregation of children into "separate but equal" public schools constitutional?

Procedural history:

The court ruled on the base of „separate but equal“ doctrine before. They used for model a case Plessy vs. Ferguson which stated that race-based division of public transportation is constitutional. However, this case went to the Supreme Court which ruled that this kind of segregation is unconstitutional.

Reasoning of the court:

The verdict of Supreme Court was that this race-based segregation of educational system is unconstitutional and violates the Equal Protection Clause of 14th Amendment. If public schools would be divided on the part where white children would study and other part where black children would study, it is unlawful. Education must be available to all on equal terms. Doctrine „separate but equal“ has no place in cases like this. This segregation would have bad impact on black children in future and also on their results at school.