



Superior Court of California, County of Alameda
René C. Davidson Alameda County Courthouse
1225 Fallon Street
Oakland, California 94612

For Immediate Release

April 30, 2004

**Alameda County Courts and Board of Supervisors
Commemorate Law Day**

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At the May 4th Alameda County Board of Supervisor's meeting, the County and the Superior Court will formally commence this year's county-wide celebration of Law Day.

Law Day, nationally proclaimed by the American Bar Association since 1958, is a time set aside to honor the rule of law. Each year a theme is selected by the ABA to commemorate the need for all to appreciate and understand our liberties under law. This year's theme is: "To Win Equality by Law: Brown v. Board of Education at 50" celebrating the landmark U. S. Supreme Court decision in 1954 which found that segregated schools are inherently unequal, violating equal protection guarantees of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

The May 4th ceremony will take place at approximately 10:30 a.m. in the Chambers of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. President Gail Steele will read into the record a joint proclamation (signed by all five board members and Presiding Judge Barbara Miller and Assistant Presiding Judge Robert Freedman) in honor of Law Day and the Brown decision. The ceremony includes a presentation of the proclamation to Presiding Judge Miller.

The Proclamation (see page two) will be prominently placed in each courthouse within the county.

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Superior Court of California
County of Alameda
Resolution

Law Day 2004
Proclamation

Whereas, Law Day is a celebration of our great heritage of liberty, justice, and equality under law; and,

Whereas, this year's Law Day theme throughout the nation is **To Win Equality by Law: *Brown v. Board of Education* at 50**; and,

Whereas, the 1954 United States Supreme Court case of *Brown v. Board of Education* is a landmark in the nation's march towards equality and a testament to the legal system's ability to establish and protect our rights; and,

Whereas, the work of the dedicated lawyers in *Brown v. Board of Education* and in hundreds of other cases challenging segregation demonstrated the highest standards of advocacy in the service of a great cause; and,

Whereas, *Brown v. Board of Education* not only ended legally imposed segregation in the schools but was instrumental in ending it in parks, libraries, and all other public institutions; and,

Whereas, the decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* inspired and gave heart to the civil rights movement and helped usher in an unprecedented era of progress; and,

Whereas, May 17, 2004, is the fiftieth anniversary of the decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*;

NOW THEREFORE, as we celebrate the 47th anniversary of Law Day, we acknowledge this great milestone case and its moral and legal imperative of equality under law, and we renew our commitment to a society of equality of opportunity and to a recognition of the value and richness of our diversity as a people.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, in collaboration with the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, do hereby proclaim Saturday, May 1, 2004, as Law Day. We urge our residents, schools, businesses, and the media to use this occasion during the month of May to promote, preserve, and strengthen the rule of law.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands this 1st day of May, in the year of two thousand and four.

Barbara J. Miller
Presiding Judge

Robert B. Freedman
Assistant Presiding Judge

Gail Steele, President
Board of Supervisors

Scott Haggerty
Board of Supervisors

Alice Lai-Bitker
Board of Supervisors

Nate Miley
Board of Supervisors

Keith Carson, Vice President
Board of Supervisors