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## Cooley offers perspectives on historic civil rights case

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously in 1954 that racial discrimination in public schools violated the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which says that no state may deny equal protection of the laws to any person within its jurisdiction.

**Cooley Law School** and Oakland University are celebrating the 50th anniversary of this landmark case with "Brown vs. The Board of Education: A Dramatic Interpretation" on Tuesday, Feb. 3, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms.

Members of the Cooley Student Bar Association Diversity Coalition will present the event through a series of historical interpretations. Attendees will learn about some of the events surrounding the case and hear different perspectives on how segregation should be challenged. An exhibit displaying key moments in civil rights history also will be shown as well as clips from the 1991 film "Separate But Equal," in which Sidney Poitier plays future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, then a lawyer for the NAACP.

"Those who attend will gain a better understanding of the challenges individuals faced when dealing with the injustices of segregation," said Melissa Pope, deputy director of Cooley's OU campus. "Today, a lot of people take those struggles for granted. This case was really a tremendous victory for all Americans.

"I also hope that this event will allow us to have a continued remembrance of improvements that have been made to our educational system and also inspire us to examine the challenges it faces today."

"Brown vs. The Board of Education: A Dramatic Interpretation" is part of OU's **African-American Celebration Month** and is being held in recognition of National Minority Law Student Recruitment Month.

For more information on the event, contact Melissa Pope at (248) 370-3630 or [popem@cooley.edu](mailto:popem@cooley.edu). Visit the **Cooley Law School at Oakland University** Web page for more information on its courses, faculty and programs.

### SUMMARY

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously in 1954 that racial discrimination in public schools violated the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which says that no state may deny equal protection of the laws to any person within its jurisdiction. Cooley Law School and Oakland University are celebrating the 50th anniversary of this landmark case with "Brown vs. The Board of Education: A Dramatic Interpretation" on Tuesday, Feb. 3, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Oakland Center Banquet Rooms.

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