Francesca Lanza Monroe elementary classroom

In this photograph we see Monroe elementary classroom, in 1949.

The case was initiated by some parents in Topeka, Kansas in 1950.

They sent their children to schools in their neighbourhoods, acting like everything was regular. None of the children was admitted.

They were told to go to one of the four schools for African Americans in the city: the parents were obviously angry, so they decided to file suit against Topeka Board of Education.

Oliver Brown was the first parent nominated in the suit, so the case took its name after him. The U.S. District Court ruled against the plaintiffs, but placed in the record its acceptance of the psychological evidence that African American children were adversely affected by segregation. These findings later were quoted by the U.S. Supreme Court in its 1954 opinion.



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