

Brown v. Board of Education

National Historic Site

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Attorney James Nabrit Jr.

Born: September 4, 1900

Died: December 27, 1997

Undergraduate Degree: Morehouse College, 1923

Law Degree: Northwestern University Law School

Case Argued: *Bolling v. Sharpe*



As an instructor at Howard University, James Nabrit Jr. taught the first formal civil rights law course offered in the country. After receiving degrees from Morehouse College and Northwestern University Law School, he joined the Howard University law faculty in 1936. While teaching at Howard University, he had Robert Carter and Spottswood Robinson as students, each of which would go on to contribute to civil rights law by arguing portions of the *Brown* case.

In 1950, civil rights lawyer Charles Hamilton Houston became ill, and could no longer work on obtaining equal facilities in Washington D.C. Houston trusted Nabrit to take over his work. One of those cases was *Bolling v. Sharpe*. This case, along with four others would come to the U.S. Supreme Court at the same time and become known as *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Nabrit continued to work at Howard University after *Brown v. Board of Education*. He served as dean of the Howard University School of Law from 1958 to 1960. He also served as president of the University from 1960-1965, as well as 1968-1969.

References:

Howard University School of Law. (2007, August 4). *Brown@50*. Retrieved August 4, 2007, from <http://www.brownat50.org/BrownBios/BioJamesNabritJr.html>.

Kluger, Richard. *Simple Justice*. New York: Vintage Books, 2004.