NAACP and 14th amendment

1951

The NAACP launches its "Equality Under Law" campaign to overturn racial segregation at its roots in elementary and secondary schools.

NAACP Special Counsel Thurgood Marshall responds to complaints from black Gls by personally investigating the conditions of segregated units in Korea. He confers with soldiers and top-level army personnel in Japan and Korea, including Gen. Douglas MacArthur, and uncovers a shocking pattern of racial discrimination.

Ralph Bunche wins the Nobel Peace Prize.

1952

An NAACP delegation calls upon President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower, who gives assurances that he will use his executive powers to eliminate racism in federal agencies.

Dec. 9-11 - Five precedent-shattering school desegregation cases are argued before the Supreme Court. The cases now involve Clarendon County, S.C.; Topeka, Kan.; Prince Edward County, Va.; Wilmington, Del.; and Washington, D.C.

A Tuskegee Institute report concludes that for the first time in its 71-year survey, no lynchings occurred in the United States in 1952.

1953

The NAACP's Board of Directors launches its "Fight For Freedom" fund campaign at the annual convention in St. Louis. The convention's slogan is "Free by '63." The goal was to eliminate all state-imposed racial discrimination and segregation by the time of the centennial observance of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

1954

President Eisenhower nominates J. Ernest Wilkins, a black from Chicago, to be assistant secretary of labor.

May 17 - A LANDMARK STEP IN THE COURSE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY TAKES PLACE WHEN THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT ISSUES ITS LONG-AWAITED BROWN V BOARD OF EDUCATION DECISION, WHICH DECLARES THAT RACIAL SEGREGATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

When Thurgood Marshall succeeded Houston as NAACP's Special Counsel, he continued the Association's legal campaign. During the mid-1940s, in Smith v. Allwright, Marshall successfully challenged "white primaries," which prevented African Americans from voting in several southern states. In Morgan v. Virginia (1946), Marshall won a case in which the Supreme Court struck down a state law that enforced segregation on buses and trains that were interstate carriers. In 1948, Marshall and other cooperating attorneys won an important victory in Shelley v Kraemer, which ended the enforcement of racially restrictive covenants, a practice that barred blacks from purchasing homes in white neighborhoods. In 1950, Marshall won cases that struck down Texas and Oklahoma laws requiring segregated graduate schools in Sweatt v. Painter and McLaurin v. Oklahoma. In those cases, a unanimous U.S. Supreme Court held that the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment required those states to admit black students to their graduate and professional schools.