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NEWS RELEASE

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Appellate Court to Reenact *Brown v. Board of Education* on August 4

Lecture and Reenactment Sponsored by Fourth Appellate District in Riverside

Riverside—In celebration of the August 28, 2011, dedication of the Martin Luther King National Memorial and the 60th anniversary of the filing of the lead suit in the landmark school desegregation case *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) 347 U.S. 483, Presiding Justice Manuel A. Ramirez today announced that the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division Two will commemorate the oral argument in the *Brown* case at 3 p.m. on Thursday, August 4, 2011, at the appellate courthouse here.

The reenactment of the oral argument will be accompanied by historical, legal, and personal perspectives and followed by a reception and open house. The event is the second of the Justice John G. Gabbert Historic Oral Argument and Lecture Series, a series of reenactments of significant and historic oral arguments of cases that shaped and defined this country. The first reenactment in the series remembered the decision in *Korematsu v. United States* (1944) 323 U.S. 214 concerning the internment of Japanese-American citizens during World War II.

Following introductory remarks by Presiding Justice Ramirez, constitutional law scholar Erwin Chemerinsky, dean of the University of California, Irvine, School of Law, will place the famous decision in its historical context and comment on its continuing and future influence. Argument on behalf of the plaintiffs will be presented by André Birotte Jr., U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California and Marcellus McRae and Julian W. Poon, both partners in the law firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher.

Argument on behalf of the boards of education that participated in *Brown* will be reenacted by Christian C. Buckley, a partner in the law firm of

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Buckley & Buckley. The decision will be presented by retired Justice John G. Gabbert and Presiding Justice Ramirez. Senior U.S. District Court Judge Terry J. Hatter, Jr., of the Central District of California, will present a historical perspective. Presiding Justice Ramirez will make the closing remarks.

Before and after the presentations, historical and artistic displays and informational videos will be presented at various locations within the courthouse, with special recognition and thanks to the Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence and Research, the Skirball Cultural Center, and the Administrative Office of the Courts and Dia S. Poole, a senior analyst in the AOC's Office of Governmental Affairs. After the courtroom presentations, a reception will be held in the library and courtyard. Tours of the courthouse will be provided as well.

Speaking about the historic reenactment of the oral argument in *Brown*, Presiding Justice Ramirez said, "In 1951, sixty years ago this year, Oliver L. Brown and 12 other parents filed a class action suit against the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas, seeking to enroll their children in their neighborhood schools, which were maintained as exclusively white schools by the Board of Education. They were eventually joined before the Supreme Court by parents filing similar lawsuits in three other states. The parents' causes were vindicated by one of the most important and well-known opinions ever issued by the United States Supreme Court. This historic reenactment of the oral argument in *Brown* will celebrate the courage and perseverance of the children, parents, lawyers, and justices in this famous case, as well as of all those who strove for liberty and equal protection in the civil rights movement."

In comparing the first reenactment of the historic oral argument series, which focused on the *Korematsu* Japanese-American internments, he commented, "Revisiting the oral argument in *Korematsu* was a sensitive undertaking, but one with an important purpose. In the history of this country, there have been a number of major court decisions that set into motion events that would change the face of the nation. Some, like *Korematsu*, have been bad decisions, decisions that in retrospect represent retreats in the overall advance toward the founding fathers' goals of due process, equal protection, and liberty. These bad decisions that fell short of those ideals should not be forgotten, so that by remembering the errors of the past they may better be avoided in the future. Others, though, like *Brown v. Board of Education*, have propelled our country forward toward 'liberty and justice for all.'

"While the *Korematsu* decision is to be remembered rather than celebrated, the decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* is one to be both remembered and celebrated. It is my hope with this reenactment and the other presentations to inspire and uplift our community with the success story of this famous desegregation case and the civil rights movement, so that we can keep progressing in the realization of the ideals on which this country was founded."

The public is invited, but seating is very limited. The doors will open at 2 p.m. and close promptly at 3 p.m. For more information or to make a reservation for this event, please contact Paula Garcia, Assistant Clerk/Administrator, at 951-248-0212.

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