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POLITICIANS AND PUNDITS AGREE: PROMISE OF *BROWN* STILL NOT MET

While our schools are no longer segregated by law, they are still not equal in opportunity and excellence. Justice requires more than a place in a school. Justice requires that every school teach every child in America.

President Bush

The decision struck down an American apartheid system founded in ignorance and hatred ... Brown opened the door to our schools, but the educational equality we seek still eludes us. Now we have to build on the Brown decision.

U.S. Education Secretary Rod Paige

The Constitution belongs, not to the majority or to the lawyers or to the judges, but to each of us. Brown helped us to understand that the constitution is ours, whoever we may be.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer



Today, there are little children sitting in classrooms throughout this country; they're saying, 'It's my turn.' They're saying to us adults, 'Give us a chance. It's our turn to learn. We realize that Brown was decided 50 years ago, but please breathe life into Brown.'

U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings, Representative of Maryland,
Chairman, Congressional Black Caucus.

Brown began to tear down the walls of inequality. The next great challenge is to put up a ladder of opportunity for all, because as far as we have come, we still have not met the promise of Brown.

John Kerry, Senator from Massachusetts

If we are honest with ourselves, we must feel compelled to ponder as well the challenges still before us and our failure to satisfy the rising expectations borne out of that great court decision.

Dennis Hayes, General Counsel, National Association for
the Advancement of Colored People Commissioner,
Brown v. Board of Education 50th Anniversary Commission



ROLLA EIGHTH GRADER WINS *BROWN v. BOARD* CONTEST By Stephen E. Sowers



Chamal Samaranayake, an eighth grade student at Rolla Junior High School, is the winner of the *Brown v. Board* essay contest sponsored by National History Day, the *Brown* Foundation, and the *Brown v. Board of Education* 50th Anniversary Commission.

COMMISSIONER PROFILE

Joseph A. De Laine Jr., the State of South Carolina



"Fifty years ago, these United States embarked upon an era of change by acknowledging, through the courts, that all citizens of this country should enjoy those rights defined in our Constitution. Although significant progress has been made, our society has yet to fulfill the dream of those who so valiantly pressed for equity in their desire to enjoy the benefits of our constitutional rights. As we celebrate this anniversary, the inequities remain most evident in the field of public education, the primary focus of the May 17, 1954 decision."

INTERESTING *BROWN* LINKS

- [Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development \(ASCD\)](#)
- [MSNBC](#)

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