



Attorney Oliver W. Hill

Born: May 1, 1907

Died: August 5, 2007

Undergraduate degree: Howard University

Law Degree: Howard University School of Law, 1933

Case argued: *Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County*



As a student of Charles Hamilton Houston at Howard University, Oliver Hill was being prepared to obtain equal rights for all. Hill graduated second in his class behind friend Thurgood Marshall. This would not be the last time that they would work together. Hill worked with Marshall for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

In 1951, a group of students from Farmville, Virginia, was striking to obtain equal facilities at their school. Two student leaders contacted the NAACP to get help. Oliver Hill and Spottswood Robinson were assigned to the case, and agreed to help them if they would try to integrate the schools, as opposed to obtain equal facilities. This case, *Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County*, 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*.

Hill continued to practice law after the *Brown* decision. He was active in his law firm until 1998. He was honored with the NAACP's highest honor, the Spingarn Award, as well as the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

References:

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