

May 12, 2004
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DIGNITARIES FROM LAW AND GOVERNMENT TO CELEBRATE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF *BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION***

WHO: Dignitaries from law, government, academia and the media, including Supreme Court Justice Charles E. Freeman.

WHAT: A re-enactment of excerpts of oral arguments in the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision returned by the Supreme Court of the United States on May 17, 1954.

WHEN: Monday, May 17, 2004, at 9 a.m.

WHERE: Chicago State University, 9501 S. King Drive, Chicago, IL, Breakey Theatre

Justice Freeman, the first African American to sit on the Illinois Supreme Court, will represent the voices of Chief Justices Fred Vinson and Earl Warren of the Supreme Court of the United States; Senate President Emil Jones and House Speaker Michael Madigan will make welcoming and introductory remarks, pending the press of legislative business in Springfield.

Other judges of the Illinois Appellate Court and the Circuit Court of Cook County will sit as associate justices of the U.S. Supreme Court. Attorney James Montgomery will play the part of Thurgood Marshall, the head of the NAACP who argued the case for the plaintiffs and later became the first African American to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court. Attorney Lawrence Jay Weiner, will play the part of John W. Davis, the lawyer who represented the defendant school districts.

Warner Saunders, Diann Burns, Harry Porterfield and Allison Payne also will participate. A musical interlude will be provided by the Homewood Flossmoor High School Choir. The event will be televised and broadcast live on several stations in Illinois.