



Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

200 SE 4th Street, Abilene, KS 67410-2900
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Colleen Cearley
(785) 263-6700

NEWS RELEASE

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Brownell Memorial Lecture

The Eisenhower Center will host the Herbert Brownell Lecture series on Tuesday, February 21, with guest speaker, Dr. David Nichols, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dean of Faculty Emeritus at Southwestern College. His paper, titled *Eisenhower's Civil War: The Politics of Civil Rights in the 1950s,* will discuss the role of President Eisenhower and Attorney General Herbert Brownell in the ongoing struggle of civil rights during the 1950s, arguing that the Eisenhower administration developed the legal framework for civil rights legislation and government policies of the 1960s. Dr. Nichols holds a Ph.D. in history from College of William and Mary and an M.A. in history with honors from Roosevelt University.

This lecture was first presented on November 15, 2005, at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and received high praise for the new information presented, and the revised interpretation of Civil Rights during the Eisenhower Administration. Dr. Nichols also presented a lecture as part of the *Brown v. Board of Education* 50th anniversary celebration in Topeka, Kansas on May 18, 2004. Time will be allocated for questions and answers following the presentation by Dr. Nichols.

The Brownell Lecture series continues the legacy of Herbert Brownell (1906-1996), who served as the United States Attorney General under President Eisenhower from 1953-1957. His most noteworthy role was in support of civil rights in the *Brown v. Board of Education* of Topeka Supreme Court case, arguing on behalf of the Eisenhower administration. The lecture series hopes to continue his legacy of staunch support for civil rights issues and his participation in constructing the Civil Rights Act of 1957, the first civil rights legislation since Reconstruction and enforcing the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

This event is sponsored by the Eisenhower Center and the Eisenhower Foundation, and will be held at 7 p.m. in the Visitors Center auditorium. A reception will follow the lecture, which is free and open to the public. For reservations, please call 785-263-6700 or toll free 877 RING IKE. The Eisenhower Center is one of twelve presidential libraries operated by the National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.