



Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

200 SE 4th Street, Abilene, KS 67410-2900
<http://eisenhower.archives.gov>

Colleen Cearley
(785) 263-6700

NEWS RELEASE

August 24, 2007

"The Civil Rights Act of 1957: Catalyst for Little Rock"

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1957, the first Civil Rights legislation enacted since the Civil War, the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Eisenhower Foundation and the Herbert Brownell Memorial Lecture Series present *The Civil Rights Act of 1957: Catalyst for Little Rock* at 7:00 PM, September 6, in the Library auditorium, Abilene, Kansas.

David A. Nichols, author of the new book from Simon and Schuster, *A Matter of Justice: Eisenhower and the Beginning of the Civil Rights Revolution* and Irwin Gellman, author of *The Contender: Richard Nixon: The Congress Years*, and a forthcoming multi-volume biography of Richard Nixon, will present the inside story of how Eisenhower, Vice President Nixon, and Attorney General Herbert Brownell redefined the legal foundation for the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s, through the passage of the 1957 Act and federal intervention to integrate Central High School in Little Rock. Ann Brownell Sloane, daughter of the late Herbert Brownell, will make remarks. Brownell's son Jim and granddaughter Margaret Sloane will also be in attendance.

A reception in the Presidential Gallery of the Eisenhower Museum will follow the lecture. The original Civil Rights Act of 1957, on limited loan from the National Archives and Record Administration, will be featured at the reception and Dr. Nichols will sign copies of his new book. The lecture and reception are free and open to the public.

The Brownell Memorial 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* 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.

For reservations, please call 785-263-6700 or toll free 1-877-RING IKE or email the Library at Eisenhower.Library@nara.gov.

The Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum is one of twelve presidential libraries operated by the National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.