

Title: "Psychology and the Supreme Court: Celebrating the Legacy of Mamie Phipps Clark"

Speaker: Loretta Neal McGregor, Arkansas State University

Abstract

Dr. Mamie Phipps Clark is a notable psychologist who was born and reared in the State of Arkansas. At 16, she moved to Washington, D. C. to attend Howard University. She was the first African American woman and the second African American (after her husband) to receive a PhD from Columbia University. Dr. Clark is recognized for her pioneering research on race, segregation, and prejudice and their effects on early childhood development. Dr. Clark's passion for her research was shared by her husband, Dr. Kenneth Bancroft Clark. Together, the Clarks published numerous research papers on the topic. In 1954, their work became the foundation for Mr. Thurgood Marshall's argument before the U.S. Supreme Court and ultimately helped change the laws regarding segregation in this country. This remarkably humble woman, from Hot Springs, Arkansas, helped change the face of our country and the lives of millions.

Bio

Loretta Neal McGregor, Ph.D. is Professor of Psychology at Arkansas State University, in Jonesboro and President of the Society for the Teaching of Psychology, Division 2 of the American Psychological Association. She has been a member of the A-State Faculty for 15+ years and served as chairperson in the Department of Psychology and Counseling for eight years. Dr. McGregor has taught in higher education for 30+ years. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree, in psychology, from Ouachita Baptist University; completed a Master of Science in General Experimental Psychology at Emporia State University, in Emporia, KS; and earned a Ph.D. in Human Factors Psychology from Wichita State University, located in Wichita, KS. Dr. McGregor is a fellow of the American Psychological Association and the Southern Region Educational Board's (SREB) Doctoral Scholar's Program. Dr. McGregor has become one of the foremost scholars on the life and contributions of Dr. Mamie Phipps Clark, the notable psychologist, whose research was instrumental in the landmark 1954 Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka ruling which led to the dismantling of racial segregation in the United States. Dr. McGregor has given numerous presentations, in the US and abroad, about Dr. Clark.