

[Heman Marion Sweatt] because of race and color to the University of Texas School of Law?<sup>52</sup>

The Supreme Court granted review and scheduled *Sweatt* for consideration

along with *Henderson v. United States*<sup>53</sup> and *McLaurin v. Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education*,<sup>54</sup> both cases involving physical isolation of blacks admitted to schools for whites.

## Quotable

### From an Oral History of Judge Barefoot Sanders:

**Q:** *Are there any cases that stand out?*

**A:** Well, of course, I had the Dallas school desegregation suit, which I inherited through a draw from the hat [in 1981]. ... Back then, there was a lot of controversy about busing. ... I didn't order much more busing. I re-zoned a few school areas, which added some to the mix of integration. I did not feel, in this big city, that it was worthwhile trying to bus kindergarten through third grade. We had time-distance studies showing that it was going to take 45 minutes each way. That is just too much. We went through all that and then we cut out most of the busing in 1985 and 1986, because as it developed, African-American children from South Dallas were going to school in Northeast Dallas with other African-Americans. That made no sense at all, so we brought them back. We established what we called Learning Centers with more emphasis on smaller classes.

**Q:** *It must be gratifying to start out your career in the Texas Legislature in the early 1950s working on school desegregation and then at this point in your career being able to work on it even more effectively?*

**A:** Well, actually, down there, at that time, it was more than schools, it was the whole desegregation process in the Legislature, because the public hostility to desegregation was pretty big.

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**Q:** *You're in a good position, then, to talk about all the changes that have happened over the legal field since you've been practicing?*

**A:** ... I mentioned women, but the minorities coming into the profession, particularly African-Americans, has been another welcome change. I say "particularly" because that's where the thrust of discrimination was in this part of the state. ... I remember the Dallas Bar finally let African-Americans in during the 1950s. But now there's a lot of emphasis and there should be. It is the whole diversity idea. I think it has added a whole lot to what we all know about the country and about the profession. It's a very good thing. Progress comes slowly, but it comes.

*From an oral history of Judge Barefoot Sanders conducted by the Texas Bar Foundation in 2002 when Sanders was honored as an Outstanding 50-Year Lawyer. Special thanks to the Gov. Bill and Vara Daniel Center for Legal History.*

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