

Guide to
the Microfilm Edition
of the

FBI File on Thurgood Marshall

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Introduction

The first African-American Supreme Court justice, Thurgood Marshall was an architect of the Civil Rights movement. He served as the chief counsel for the NAACP from 1938 to 1961. He argued more than thirty cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, culminating with the landmark 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* decision that made segregation in public schools illegal. In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed him to the Supreme Court.

This file contains information on Thurgood Marshall's civil rights activities in Texas during the 1950s and his allegations of harassment by Texas Rangers and the Texas attorney general. Material reproduced here includes hate mail received by Marshall, background checks on Marshall and his supposed Communist sympathies, and details on the FBI's surveillance of Marshall. The file also details his acrimonious relationship with the FBI and J. Edgar Hoover.

The documents reproduced here were drawn from the Washington files of the FBI and have been released under the Freedom of Information Act; certain documents or portion of documents have been deleted by the FBI pursuant to provisions of that legislation. The material has been filmed in the exact order and condition in which it was released, and every effort has been made to publish the most legible copies available.

This file is in approximate chronological order, and the FBI did not index documents. The Roll Notes is not a complete inventory of the file; however, it gives an indication of the types of materials or specific documents that may be particularly worthwhile for research.

Roll Notes

FBI File: 9-0-23636 **Roll 1, 0001-0009**

Feb. 1975

Handwritten invitation to FBI Director Clarence Kelley

FBI File: 9-67085 **Roll 1, 0011-0035**

Oct. 1982-Mar. 1987

Investigation of hate mail

Thurgood Marshall, extortion victim

FBI File: 9-HQ-70566 **Roll 1, 0036-0056**

Feb.-Mar. 1987

Thurgood Marshall, extortion victim; Investigation of threats made against Thurgood Marshall

FBI File: 44-0-A **Roll 1, 0057-0059**

News article:

New York Mirror (Sept. 1958)

"Marshall: Timetable for Integration"

FBI File: 44-HQ-10894 **Roll 1, 0061-0316**

VOLUME 1

Oct. 1956-Nov. 1960

Investigation of complaint made by Attorney Marshall for the NAACP that individuals who had instituted suit against the Dallas, Texas School Board had been intimidated by Texas Rangers

News article:

The Dallas Morning News (Sept. 1956)

"Court of Inquiry Hears 6 Negroes"

"Five Negro Witnesses Deny Agreeing to School Suit"

"Suit Plaintiff Backs Down on Statement" (Nov. 1956)

"NAACP Secretary Denies Soliciting School Units"

Dallas Times Herald (Nov. 1956)
"Ex-NAACP Aide Gives Deposition"
The Dallas Morning News (Dec. 1956)
"NAACP Plans Appeal of New Court Rebuff"
"Atwell on School Integration"

FBI File: 44-HQ-10894

Roll 1, 0061-0316

VOLUME 1 (*continued*)

News article:

Dallas Times Herald (Dec. 1956)
"Atwell Again Denies Plea for Integration"
The Dallas Morning News (Dec. 1956)
"U.S. Judge Bars Immediate Entry of Negro Pupils"
U.S. Court of Appeals overturns District Court ruling
(Jul. 1957)

Integration in Public Schools, Dallas, TX

Excerpts from the Dallas newspapers concerning:

Rev. Ceasar Clark, a negro minister, as a write-in candidate for the Dallas School Board;
Statement signed by 300 white, protestant ministers stating forced desegregation is "morally and spiritually wrong";
District William H. Atwell orders the Dallas Public Schools to integrate with all deliberate speed

News articles include:

Dallas Times Herald (May 1959)
"Integration Hearing Reset for Sept. 25"
Dallas Morning News (May 1959)
"Immediate Integration Asked in NAACP Suit"
Dallas Times Herald (Aug. 1959)
"Integration Vote Steps Suggested by School Lawyer"
Dallas Morning News (Aug. 1959)
"Schools Ordered to Seek Election"

FBI File: 44-HQ-10894

Roll 1, 0317-0453

VOLUME 2

Dec. 1960-Jul. 1962

Integration in Public Schools, Dallas, TX,

Civil Rights

News articles include:

Dallas Times Herald (Dec. 1960)

"Rehearing Plea Due on Schools Decision"

Dallas Morning News (Dec. 1960)

"U.S. Court OK's Dallas Stair-Step Integration Plan"

FBI File: 44-HQ-10894

Roll 1, 0317-0453

VOLUME 2 (*continued*)

News articles include:

Dallas Morning News (Dec. 1960)

"Curry Says Dallas Police Ready for Any School Strife"

"Board's Attorneys to Ask Rehearing"

"White Seeks Citizens' Aid in Integration"

(Apr. 1961)

Dallas Times Herald (Aug. 1961)

"Dallas Starts Move Toward Peaceful Desegregation"

Pamphlet: Dallas at the Crossroads

Department memoranda citing the "successful"
integration of the Dallas Public Schools

FBI File: 62-071-397

Roll 1, 0455-0462

Feb. 1968

Uncredited news articles allege communist activities of U.S. Supreme Court Justices Hugo Black and Thurgood Marshall; and question the role of the United States in subsidizing Dr. Benjamin Spock on one hand while trying to put him in jail on the other hand

FBI File: 62-86660

Roll 1, 0463-0631

Dec. 1946-Jul. 1967

Complaint by Attorney Thurgood Marshall citing the inability of the FBI to apprehend those who violate federal statutes where Negroes are the victims

Background information on Thurgood Marshall

Report linking Thurgood Marshall to the Communist Party

Excerpt from *Life* magazine (Jun. 1955)

Excerpt from *Time* magazine (Sept. 1955)

Excerpt from the television program "Youth Wants to Know" (broadcast on NBC, May 1956) featuring an interview with Thurgood Marshall

Request from the National Conference of Bar Examiners for information regarding Thurgood Marshall

Leaflet: "How to Write Dirty" by Thurgood Marshall

FBI File: 62-86660

Roll 1, 0463-0631

Dec. 1946-Jul. 1967 (continued)

News article:

Arkansas Gazette (May 1965)

"Integration Slowed by Those in Middle, Marshall Charges"

The Washington Post (Jul. 1967)

"Marshall Grilled by Senate Critics"

The Evening Star (Jul. 1967)

"Ervin Raps High Court at Hearing on Marshall"

The Washington Post (Aug. 1967)

"Senate Confirms Marshall, 69-11, For High Court"

"Court Retains Liberal Gains"

The Evening Star (Sept. 1967)

"Only Family and Friends See Marshall Sworn in by Black"

FBI File: 66-6200-44-441 **Roll 1, 0632-0636**

Mar. 1956

Report concerning U.S. Assistant Attorney General
Warren Olney and communications with NAACP
Attorney Thurgood Marshall, who had attacked the
performance of the FBI in civil rights investigation

FBI File: 89-7070 **Roll 1, 0637-0640**

(File not available for filming)

FBI File: 100-111437 **Roll 1, 0641-0715**

Jul. 1952-Aug. 1961

Internal Security: Emergency Civil Liberties Committee
Internal Security: Communist Infiltration of the NAACP

FBI File: 157-13503 **Roll 1, 0716-0718**

May 1969

Racial Matters: Speech by Justice Marshall at Dillard
University

FBI File: 197-232 **Roll 1, 0719-0725**

Oct. 1977

(File not available for filming)

FBI File: HQ 77-88227 **Roll 1, 0727-0985**

VOLUME 1

Sept. 1961

Departmental Applicant U.S. Circuit Judge, Second Circuit
Request for background check and information on
Thurgood Marshall
Biographical and background material, and character
references for Thurgood Marshall

FBI File: HQ 77-88227

Roll 1, 0987-1291

VOLUME 2

Sept. 1961

Departmental Applicant U.S. Circuit Judge, Second Circuit
Biographical and background material, and character
references for Thurgood Marshall

Pamphlet: "The Ugly Truth about the NAACP,"
an address by Attorney General Eugene Cook of Georgia
(contains comments about Thurgood Marshall)

News article:

The Evening Star (Jul. 1965)

"Thurgood Marshall Named Solicitor General by
Johnson"

FBI File: HQ 77-88227

Roll 1, 1292-1397

VOLUME 3

Jul. 1965-Sept. 1968

Bureau file information and character reference interviews
concerning Thurgood Marshall

Copy of J. Edgar Hoover's note congratulating Marshall on
his nomination to the Supreme Court

News articles:

The News (Aug. 1967)

"The Distorters"

Manchester Union Leader (Aug. 1967)

"The Man, His Record"

Justice Thurgood Marshall, potential for harassment;
Reports concerning Marshall's speech to legislators at
the University of Georgia (Sept. 1968)

FBI File: 89D-NY-184262

Roll 1, 1399-1416

Apr. 1989

Letter written to Justice Marshall alleging the violation of
Anti-trust laws and corruption in the Federal Courts

FBI File: 9A-5651

Roll 1, 1417-1438

Sept.-Oct. 1987

Investigation of a letter whose contents include a threat
on the life of Justice Marshall

FBI File: 89-WF-163189

Roll 1, 1439-1481

Apr.-May 1989

Investigation of a threat letter addressed to Justice
Thurgood Marshall at the Supreme Court

FBI File: 157-2377

Roll 1, 1483-END

May 1969

Report on the remarks made by Justice Thurgood Marshall
at the centennial celebration of Dillard University