Supreme Court of the United States  
Washington, D.C.

CHAMBERS OF  
JUSTICE FELIX FRANKFURTER

October 29, 1947

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

This is the result of my inquiry into the opportunities open to Negroes for legal education in the District of Columbia.

The Law School of Howard University is an admirable institution. It has high standards and an able faculty and a good student body. But, unfortunately, it has only day sessions. The only law school in the Washington area open to Negroes at night is the Robert H. Terrell Law School to which you made reference in your letter last August.

Only graduates of schools accredited by the American Bar Association are eligible for admission to the bar in the District. A rule like that is rather common throughout the country. Unfortunately, the Terrell School is not yet so accredited, because it does not fit the minimum requirements for such a law school. The difficulty is that an accredited law school calls for a library of at least ten thousand volume, a full-time librarian, and three full-time instructors. While Terrell has the necessary books and staff, it does not have the facilities in which to house the books.

It is not suggested that the ruling of the Bar Association is discriminatory. It merely enforces what seem to be the recognized standards for the adequate training of lawyers. The ruling affects only future graduates, because those who were graduated in June of this year will be able to take the bar examination in December. Those who finish in June, 1948, will be the first
to be affected by this ruling and I am informed that the Dean of the Terrell School hopes that by then the requirements will have been met and the School accredited. If the Dean's hope is fulfilled, the Terrell School will afford facilities for night study by colored law students.

With cordial regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The President handed me your letter of August 29th about the Ferrell Law School some time ago, and I have had the facts looked into as carefully as I could in the meantime.

The refusal of the District of Columbia Committee on Admissions to permit graduates of this school to take bar examinations is one of those difficult and knotty problems which continually plague us in trying to bring about better race relations.

The Ferrell Law School has been on notice for several years that its curriculum and staff do not meet the standards of the D. C. Admissions Committee. Despite this fact, the Law School has never made a serious effort to meet the standards of the Committee. Nevertheless, because it was the only night law school open to Negroes in the District, the Committee continued to accept the graduates for examination. Now it feels that the only way to compel this school to raise its standards is to refuse to examine its graduates.

This, of course, works a great hardship on the present graduating class, and it may be that some means can be found to correct this injustice. However, I am afraid that the school has been negligent and has had ample warning, and must share responsibility for whatever injustice is being done the present graduates.

Cordially,

David K. Niles
DAVID K. NILES
Administrative Assistant to the President

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,
Apartment 15-A,
29 Washington Square, West,
New York 11, New York.
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,
Apartment 15-A,
29 Washington Square West,
New York 11, New York.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Some weeks ago you wrote Mr. Justice Douglas concerning the Robert H. Terrell Law School of Washington, D.C. The Justice made inquiry of a close personal friend who is a member of the District of Columbia Bar. His reply to the inquiry has arrived in the absence of Justice Douglas. I have taken the liberty of setting forth below the gist of his report on the School.

The Terrell School has been struggling for some time, because of lack of funds, to meet the requirements of the American Bar Association for "approved" law schools. These requirements were adopted by the District Bar Association at the direction of the District Court. The Committee on Admissions and Grievances of the District Bar last year appointed a special subcommittee on the Terrell School. As a result, the School was approved temporarily while it made further efforts to conform with the requirements of three full-time instructors and a law library of 10,000 volumes. However, this temporary approval will lapse before the December examination for the District Bar.

The School reopened on September 2nd. It now has under way a campaign to raise funds to maintain a staff and a library. So far only about $4,000 has been raised. They have, however, employed three full-time instructors, a librarian, and have on hand or in order the required 10,000 law books.

The Dean of the Law School is advising the Bar Association of their compliance with the requirements. If the Bar Association does not approve the School so that the students can take the December examination, the Dean will communicate with the Justice's friend at once.

The Justice will, I know, wish to write you himself when he returns to Washington and can get further information as to the success of the School's fund-raising campaign and their efforts to meet the Bar requirements.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Secretary to Mr. Justice Douglas.
Justice Felix Kaufman

Dear Mr. Justice,

Many thanks for your note. I shall be interested in your findings in regard to Colorado Law School for Negroes.

I hope you have had a pleasant summer.
Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D.C.

Sept. 15, 1947

Dear Mr. Roosevelt:

Your letter regarding opportunities for Negroes desiring to secure a legal education has at last caught up with me, for we have been on a press of visitors. The situation in Washington is not unknown to me, and I have looked into it on my return about October 1st and you now write you keep finding I need hardly tell you how deep I feel to hear handwriting.
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Negroes labor in briges to
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learned Preserver. But
we are working proper-
slowly it is. Every
the best things in this
regard, that
Harkiee,

did war to make
Bill Harkie, first a
judge, and later be
Governor of the Virgin
Islands. Harkie to
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22nd February

1821.
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

Jahnletter of Aug 29 are relative to the Robert & Freeman Law School & work. D. has just reached me in Oregon.

I am sending Jahn referring to a lawyer friend in work which who will be able to advise you. I hope to help in the matter. I'll write as soon as I hear.

As ever,

Mrs. O Douglas

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

September 16, 1941
Then explained my reason many times for opposing the Equal Rights Amendment. If the amount of need necessary to pass an amendment were done in each state which has laws unfair to women, he hoped accomplish the same thing. In addition

I think women in industry still and some of the protection laws now on the statute books.

Moreover if a sufficient number of men & women oppose it this amendment will be of little value.
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Hyde Park, New York

Sept 10, 1947

My Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have just read the August Bulletin of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE, in which the 38th Annual Conference was reported. I was happy to know that you, President Truman, and Senator Morse were speakers for this occasion. I am glad you support the cause of equal rights for Negroes. I have been a member of the NAACP for years.

May I call your attention, Mrs. Roosevelt, to the fact that twice in Senator Morse's talk, he said that there should be no discrimination in our democracy because of race, color, sex or creed. Senator Morse, a man, does not believe in discriminations of any kind. Yet you, a woman, uphold discriminations against your own sex. You fight the adoption of a clause into the American Constitution giving women equal rights with men. You are helping to draft the Bill of Human Rights for the entire world, yet you deny those rights to your own sex. This is the most paradoxical thing in politics today.

Did you also notice, in the Resolution drawn up by the NAACP Conference, under the section of civil rights, the words:

"We call upon Congress and the majority party to pass legislation adequate to protect the civil rights of American Negroes throughout the country."

This resolution does not call for the protection of Negroes but for the protection of their RIGHTS. You, in supporting the so-called Protective Laws for women, are demanding the protection of women rather than the protection of the RIGHTS of women. The NAACP sees the difference involved.

How can you conscientiously accept the title bestowed by Walter White, "the First Lady of the World" while standing between your sisters and the establishment of their rights under law?

Why cannot you see, that the way to provide equality for both men and women, without destroying necessary protection for women, is to increase the protection of men to the level of that for women? Do you not want your sons protected, as well as your daughter?

Most sincerely yours,

JOSEPHINE FERRILL

PURPOSE: To assist in bringing about the adoption of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and to oppose discriminatory legislation, rules and regulations based upon sex and/or marital status.
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt,
Hyde Park,
New York.

Dear Madam,

Herewith it affords me a pleasure in sending you a brief eulogy of a most worthy fraternal brother, I have nothing further to add than what I have written.

I pray God that your life will be spared to add further lustre to his memory.

Believe me to be,

Respectfully yours,

Major A. J. Terrill,
A Tribute to Franklin D. Roosevelt

REPRODUCED FROM THE TOMBSTONE EPISTAPH
APRIL 18, 1945

By MAJOR A. J. TERRILL

He is not dead, he cannot die;
The mortal life has passed him by.
Serenely he lays within his shroud,
'Humble, Noble, Glorious, Proud'—

His wisdom beacons o'er the seas,
The torch will burn forever.
Columbia's son all nations mourn.
He toiled not with flashing sword;
A mighty pen he wielded.
He gave his life
In Freedom's cause,
And other nations shielded.
Each State a star will build his crown
To make a disdain worthy
Of such a noble son as he,
Of feeble frame, not sturdy,
We bow our heads in reverence true.
We question not the reason why
In God's great mansion he now lives
He is not dead—he cannot die.
My dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

This day and date, brings both joy and sorrow to our great country; joy, because we can give, to aid the unfortunate polio victims; sorrow, because the great leader against this terrible disease is still in body in the grave at Hyde Park. Though his gallant soul lives on.

His great leadership, his courageous fight ever for the right, his valiant fight against polio. My conclusions, that gave me the inspiration to have a nation-wide Birthday Party for our great President. The financial returns to be used at Warm Springs, Georgia, to aid him, to be able to aid many more others.

No one would ever tell me, that he longed to retire to Hyde Park, and rest; always asking knew this, yet, she did not so much as hint in her press notes that I ever saw, how utterly cruel that so valiant a man should have been kept in the White House, so long; against his personal desires, when his health demanded so much, that he rest.

No person in the Armed Forces died a more heroic death, and, I shall condemn myself for not seeing the tragic result of his last re-election, until my last breath. That dear body is the main reason, that I prayed: ‘In the Holy Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, that I prayed’ in the Holy Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, that is given to the Master of Valiant Gallantry—Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the Master of Valiant Gallantry.

Very sincerely yours in his sacred memory.

Clarence Goodwin Neal.

P.S. I sincerely hope you are enjoying the rest of his health. Close.
O.P.S. I have saved my "Roosevelt Dimes" that I have received in change this year—sixteen of them, and I am giving one-dollar in the smack of dimes for each one I have dimes, 1947's accumulation, I hope to be able by laying away a dollar each time I receive one, to have at least a hundred dollars to give January 30th, 1948.

You, who were so close to the man whom I fondly considered this Planet's greatest leader, and knew of his methods, and aided him with your own great talents; if your health permitted, would you run for President? This is not just idle curiosity, we can straw vote the entire country, and tell out the trend of public thought.

Mr. Truman is doing fine, but, I'm afraid Republican control of the U.S.A. might disrupt our National defense and Universal Eternal Peace plans; September 1929, under Republican Administration, is still fresh in my mind; and, our heroic Veterans, should not suffer because of heedless selfish (national security's) financial insecurity; Wall Street is grasping greed.

The American dollar ruled the financial world until 1929, after World War One, then, the English Pound took over.

Where is the financial center of our Planet if it is not our country? Then why should the British financial exchange rule American finances?

You and I both know that Americanism crushed Nazism. England won't admit it, but we know the Hoover Administration turned the World finances over to the Universal control of Great Britain.

Hoover was a friend of King George V, the English Statesmen speak openly of being satisfied more with the Republican rule of Congress, than with our Democratic control of our country; and, we know that when the country is secure financially Britain gets the Canadian $100. You know why, so do I.

C. Neal.