

# Justice Ronald Davies

The 1954 Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* was disregarded by some schools. While filling a temporary vacancy in the Eastern District of Arkansas, Justice Davies ordered the racial integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. This pathfinder will lead researchers to several resources available at the North Dakota State Archives highlighting the life and career of Ronald N. Davies.

## Archival Collections

### 10138 Ole S. Gunderson Papers

Correspondence, briefs, transcripts, newspaper clippings, and printed material concerning the Fay Heasley real estate case. Christine, Richland County (N.D.).

### 10157 North Dakota Oral History Project Records

#### Tape 219AB

Oral history interview transcripts, indexes to recorded oral history interviews, interview referral files, interview files, photographs, lists of donations to the Project, oral history interview transcripts relating to the Governor's Mansion, family histories, biographies, reminiscences, and manuscripts. Most of the records document administration of the Project. Genealogical information and oral history interview transcripts make up the remainder of the collection. The Project conducted oral history interviews with older North Dakotans and others who were participants in significant events in the history of the state.

### 10467 State Bar Association of North Dakota Records

Minutes, convention proceedings, subject files, programs, committee files, memoranda, correspondence, annual reports, audits, photographs, member biographical files, and publications. Records relate to administration of the Association, legislation, judicial affairs, conventions, legal aid, law education, and member activities.

### 10691 Roy Johnson and Louis Pfaller Collection

#### Box 15, Folder 6

Newspaper clippings, articles, photographs, maps, pamphlets, and correspondence documenting the research of two historians, Johnson and Pfaller, on Major James McLaughlin, forts, battles, railroads, steamboats, exploration, pioneers, Native Americans, weather, murders, schools, missionaries, etc.

## Useful Search Guidance

### Subjects

- Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award
- *Aaron v. Cooper*
- Racial integration of schools
- The Little Rock Nine

### People

- Ronald Davies, 1904-1996
- Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus, 1910-1994

### Locations

- Grand Forks, North Dakota
- Fargo, North Dakota
- Arkansas

## Journal Articles

*Judge Ronald N. Davies*

Robert "Bob" Carlson – *North Dakota History*  
Vol. 43 Issue 2

*Ronald N. Davies*

*North Dakota Blue Book 2021-2023*

## Books

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*Induction Ceremony, Honorable George S. Register and Honorable Ronald N. Davies, United States District Judges, Fargo, North Dakota, August 16, 1955*  
1955 - United States District Court, District of North Dakota  
Call Number: 347.014 I421 1955

*The Road to Little Rock*  
2013 – directed by Art Phillips; written by Jim Kirwan and Carl Oberholtzer; produced by Art Phillips and Carl Oberholtzer  
"The Road to Little Rock is the courageous story of one judge and nine teenagers who demonstrated enduring positive human qualities of courage, honor, determination, and responsibility. This story begins in 1957 as nine African-American teenagers sought enrollment at an all-white high school in Little Rock, Arkansas. This untold story features never-before-seen interviews with three members of the Little Rock Nine and Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer. It blends current interviews with archival footage and primary source documentation to tell the story of the integration of Central High School. You will be introduced to Federal Judge Ronald Davies, from Fargo, North Dakota, who followed the law, ignored political pressure and required the school district in Little Rock to integrate. The ruling by Judge Davies provided great urgency for the desegregation of public schools and the course of civil rights movement in America"  
Call Number: 370.19342 R627 2013

*The Road to Little Rock: The Legacy of Judge Ronald N. Davies and the Little Rock Nine: Secondary Viewers Guide*  
2013 – Video Arts Studios  
Call Number: 370.19342 R629 2013

*Davies, Ronald*  
General Information File Biography

## Online Resources

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[The Courage of a North Dakota Judge](#)  
Wayne Lubenow—Tioga Tribune article from November 7, 1979

[SHSND Photobook](#)  
State Historical Society of North Dakota's Online Search Portal for all digitized photographs

[Digital Horizons](#)  
Online consortium of historic photographs from the collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota

[WorldCat](#)  
State Historical Society of North Dakota's publication search portal

## External Resources

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[Judge Ronald N. Davies Papers, 1905-2001 Collection Overview](#)  
Page on the University of North Dakota website that describes the resource located at the university

[Documentary about Judge Ronald Davies and His Famous Desegregation Ruling Debuts Sept. 23](#)  
University of North Dakota website

## State Archives

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For more information related to the collections and resources available at the North Dakota State Archives, please email [archives@nd.gov](mailto:archives@nd.gov) or call (701) 328-2668.



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