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**THE DELAWARE COURT OF CHANCERY ANNOUNCES WINNERS IN
STUDENT ART CONTEST**

The Delaware Court of Chancery announced the winners of its first-ever Legal History Art Contest on Friday, June 30, 2023 at a reception in the offices of the Delaware State Bar Association, across the street from the Leonard L. Williams Justice Center in Wilmington.

Cassius Hearne, 15, of Archmere Academy won the \$500 first-place prize for his work, “Our Segregated Worlds,” and Sophia Silverman, 13, of Tower Hill School won the \$300 second-place prize for her work “The Right to Ride.” Isabelle Ferris, 17, of Archmere Academy won the \$200 third-place prize for her work, “The Integration of Claymont School.”

The awards committee also presented Honorable Mention citations, and a \$50 prize, to Molly Marinelli, 13, entering Smyrna Middle School and Reilly Siegel, 15, of Mount Pleasant High School for their submissions.

Master in Chancery Loren Mitchell, looking at the entries said, “All the students did such an amazing job on their submissions. As practitioners we are aware of the history of the Court with respect to these historic cases, but it was a pleasant surprise to see the creative ways the students interpreted these cases for the art competition.”

The winning artwork has been posted on the contest webpage: [Art Competition - Court of Chancery - Delaware Courts - State of Delaware](#).

The contest, which was conducted in partnership with the Court of Chancery Historical Society, was open to students in grades 7-12 and was announced in May to mark the upcoming 70th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s historic *Brown v Board of Education* ruling desegregating public schools and the Delaware Court of Chancery’s key role in that decision.

The *Brown* decision was in fact a consolidation of four appeals to the United States Supreme Court, including the decisions by Court of Chancery Chancellor Collins J. Seitz Sr. in *Belton v. Gebhart* and *Bulah v. Gebhart*. Chancellor Seitz ruled that the desegregated schools were not in fact equal and urged the United States Supreme Court to reject the “separate but equal” doctrine. The Delaware ruling was the only one of the state cases, that made up the consolidated *Brown* case, where the plaintiffs prevailed in their challenge to segregation on the state level.

Winners of the art contest were chosen by a three-person panel including a judicial officer from the Court of Chancery, a member of the Court of Chancery Historical Society, and a representative from the Delaware College of Art and Design.

Hearne wrote that his artwork “Our Segregated Worlds,” depicting a young white child and a young black child with a crumbling brick wall between them, “illustrates the vast differences in

education and overall life between these two children” and the cracks in the brick wall represent “the progress being made ... because of cases like *Belton v Gebhart* and *Bulah v. Gebhart*.”

Silverman’s artwork, “Right to Ride” depicts a young Shirley Bulah looking toward a school bus that she was not allowed to ride because of her skin color. Ferris’ work, “Integration of Claymont High School” shows a young Ethel Louise Belton over an image of the school she was not allowed to attend because she was black, alongside a group of students of different races who are now able “to share the same educational environment” thanks to the efforts of Belton and her family.

At Friday’s ceremony, Chancellor Kathaleen St. J. McCormick said the Delaware Court of Chancery is well known for its work handling business and financial disputes involving national and international corporations but that the court’s work in other important aspects of society is often overlooked. She credited the students for “prompting discussion and reflection, through their artistic creations, about the important topic of educational inequalities and the court’s role in the desegregation cases.”