

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Chief Justice Seitz hosts West Point’s “Civil Rights Staff Ride”

Delaware Supreme Court Chief Justice Collins J. Seitz, Jr. recently met with more than a dozen cadets and a faculty advisor from the United States Military Academy at West Point as part of the academy’s “Civil Rights Staff Ride.”

The program is part of West Point’s Center for the Rule of Law designed to allow cadets and faculty to meet with witnesses to the civil rights movement, and uses cultural immersion to promote understanding of the diversity of our country. The course involves a week of work in the classroom followed by two weeks on the road visiting essential historical locations and meeting with individuals involved in civil rights.

The group’s meeting with the Chief Justice on May 23, 2022 lasted more than an hour and focused on the work of his late father Collins J. Seitz, Sr. whose landmark ruling in two Delaware cases directly contributed to the *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling in 1954 that desegregated public schools.

Collins J. Seitz, Sr., then the Chancellor for the Court of Chancery, ruled in 1952 in two cases that black students were receiving an inferior education under racial segregation and ordered the immediate admission of black students to the all-white schools. Those two Delaware cases, *Belton v. Gebhart* and *Bulah v. Gebhart*, were combined with cases from other states from across the nation in an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court that became known as *Brown v. Board of Education*. Delaware’s case was the only one where a judge ruled in favor of the plaintiffs and against segregation, a ruling that the high court ultimately upheld.

The Chief Justice also talked about how the Delaware Courts are carrying on the tradition established by his father and recently launched a comprehensive plan to improve diversity in the Delaware Bench and Bar (which can be found [here](#) on the court’s website).