

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 17, 2005

Contact: Leah Gurowitz  
202/879-1700

## PRESS ADVISORY

**Public invited to hear Personal Recollections of the Civil Rights Movement**  
Mary Bolling to speak about late husband's role in desegregating D.C. Public Schools as  
lead plaintiff in *Bolling v. Sharpe*

WHAT: DC Courts Black History Month Celebration week #2 –  
“Personal Recollections of the Civil Rights Movement”

WHERE: Moultrie Courthouse  
Jurors' Lounge – 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

WHEN: Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>  
Noon to 1:30 PM

WHO: **Mrs. Mary Bolling**, Wife of Late Mr. Spottswood Thomas Bolling, Jr.,  
Plaintiff in *Bolling v. Sharpe*  
**Judge Frank Schwelb**, D.C. Court of Appeals  
**Mr. James Watts**, Retired D.C. Superior Court Probation Officer

In the second event of the D.C. Courts' celebration of Black History Month 2005, **Mrs. Mary Bolling** will share her late husband's experiences as the plaintiff in the landmark Washington, D.C. desegregation case, *Bolling v. Sharpe*. In 1951, 12-year-old **Spottswood Thomas Bolling, Jr.** was a D.C. student who could not attend Sousa Junior High School because it was reserved for white students. The NAACP filed *Bolling v. Sharpe* on Spottswood's behalf as one of the four cases consolidated before the U.S. Supreme Court and known collectively as *Brown v. Board of Education*. The Supreme Court's 1954 decision in these cases ruled unconstitutional the system of educational segregation in this country.

**Judge Eric Washington** of the D.C. Court of Appeals will open this event, entitled “Personal Recollections of the Civil Rights Movement.” **Judge Frank Schwelb** of the D.C. Court of Appeals will share his experiences registering voters in the South in the 1960s and **James Watts**, a retired D.C. Superior Court Probation Officer, will talk about his activism in the Civil Rights movement as a college student.

###