



BLACK HISTORY MOMENT



Louis L. Redding

Louis L. Redding was born on October 25, 1901, in Alexandria, Virginia. His family relocated to Wilmington, Delaware, where his father worked for the post office and founded the Black YMCA in Wilmington. Redding attended Brown University and was the commencement speaker for his graduating class in 1923. Redding was the only Black graduate in the Harvard Law School Class of 1928.

He returned to Wilmington where he became Delaware's first Black lawyer. Redding was not admitted to the Delaware Bar Association until 1949. He was the only Black lawyer in Delaware for 26 years. In 1950, Redding won a lawsuit proving that the Delaware State College for Negroes was not "equal" to the white-only University of Delaware.

Because of that, Judge Collins J. Seitz ordered the University of Delaware to admit Black students.

In 1951, Redding took on two lawsuits that became part of the *Brown v. Board of Education* case – *Bulah v. Gebhart* and *Belton v. Gebhart*. As part of that landmark case, Redding argued several times before the United States Supreme Court from 1953–1954. ([Black Past](#))



#BlackHistoryMonth

