



Mendez v. Westminster: School Desegregation and Mexican-American Rights (Landmark Law Cases & American Society)

By Philippa Strum

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Mendez v. Westminster: School Desegregation and Mexican-American Rights (Landmark Law Cases & American Society) By Philippa Strum

While *Brown v. Board of Education* remains much more famous, Mendez v. Westminster School District (1947) was actually the first case in which segregation in education was successfully challenged in federal court. Finally giving Mendez its due, Philippa Strum provides a concise and compelling account of its legal issues and legacy, while retaining its essential human face: that of Mexican Americans unwilling to accept second-class citizenship. 1945 Gonzalo and Felicitas Mendez, California farmers, sent their children off to the local school, only to be told that the youngsters would have to attend a separate facility reserved for Mexican Americans. In response the Mendezes and other aggrieved parents from nearby school districts went to federal court to challenge the segregation. Uniquely, they did not claim racial discrimination, since Mexicans were legally considered white, but rather discrimination based on ancestry and supposed "language deficiency" that denied their children their Fourteenth Amendment rights to equal protection under the law.

In 1945 Gonzalo and Felicitas Mendez, California farmers, sent their children off to the local school, only to be told that the youngsters would have to attend a separate facility reserved for Mexican Americans. In response the Mendezes and other aggrieved parents from nearby school districts went to federal court to challenge the segregation. Uniquely, they did not claim racial discrimination, since Mexicans were legally considered white, but rather discrimination based on ancestry and supposed "language deficiency" that denied their children their Fourteenth Amendment rights to equal protection under the law.

Strum tells how, thanks to attorney David Marcus's carefully crafted arguments, federal district court judge Paul McCormick came to support the plaintiffs on the grounds that the social, psychological, and pedagogical costs of segregated education were damaging to Mexican-American children. The school districts claimed that federal courts had no jurisdiction over education, but the Ninth Circuit upheld McCormick's decision, ruling that the schools' actions violated California law. The appeal to the Ninth Circuit was supported by amicus briefs from leading civil liberties organizations, including the NAACP, which a few

years later would adapt the arguments of Mendez in representing the plaintiffs in Brown.

Strum effectively weaves together narrative and analysis with personality portraits to create a highly readable and accessible story, allowing us to hear the voices of all the protagonists. She also presents the issues evenhandedly, effectively balancing her presentation of arguments by both the plaintiffs and the schools that sought to continue the segregation of Mexican-American students.

Ultimately, Mendez highlights how Mexican Americans took the lead to secure their civil rights and demonstrates how organization, courage, and persistence in the Mexican-American communities could overcome the racism of the school boards. Their inspiring example is particularly timely given the current controversies over immigration and the growing national interest in Latino life.

 [Download Mendez v. Westminster: School Desegregation and Me ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Mendez v. Westminster: School Desegregation and ...pdf](#)

Mendez v. Westminster: School Desegregation and Mexican-American Rights (Landmark Law Cases & American Society)

By Philippa Strum

Mendez v. Westminster: School Desegregation and Mexican-American Rights (Landmark Law Cases & American Society) By Philippa Strum

While *Brown v. Board of Education* remains much more famous, *Mendez v. Westminster* School District (1947) was actually the first case in which segregation in education was successfully challenged in federal court. Finally giving *Mendez* its due, Philippa Strum provides a concise and compelling account of its legal issues and legacy, while retaining its essential human face: that of Mexican Americans unwilling to accept second-class citizenship. 1945 Gonzalo and Felicitas *Mendez*, California farmers, sent their children off to the local school, only to be told that the youngsters would have to attend a separate facility reserved for Mexican Americans. In response the *Mendezes* and other aggrieved parents from nearby school districts went to federal court to challenge the segregation. Uniquely, they did not claim racial discrimination, since Mexicans were legally considered white, but rather discrimination based on ancestry and supposed "language deficiency" that denied their children their Fourteenth Amendment rights to equal protection under the law.

In 1945 Gonzalo and Felicitas *Mendez*, California farmers, sent their children off to the local school, only to be told that the youngsters would have to attend a separate facility reserved for Mexican Americans. In response the *Mendezes* and other aggrieved parents from nearby school districts went to federal court to challenge the segregation. Uniquely, they did not claim racial discrimination, since Mexicans were legally considered white, but rather discrimination based on ancestry and supposed "language deficiency" that denied their children their Fourteenth Amendment rights to equal protection under the law.

Strum tells how, thanks to attorney David Marcus's carefully crafted arguments, federal district court judge Paul McCormick came to support the plaintiffs on the grounds that the social, psychological, and pedagogical costs of segregated education were damaging to Mexican-American children. The school districts claimed that federal courts had no jurisdiction over education, but the Ninth Circuit upheld McCormick's decision, ruling that the schools' actions violated California law. The appeal to the Ninth Circuit was supported by amicus briefs from leading civil liberties organizations, including the NAACP, which a few years later would adapt the arguments of *Mendez* in representing the plaintiffs in *Brown*.

Strum effectively weaves together narrative and analysis with personality portraits to create a highly readable and accessible story, allowing us to hear the voices of all the protagonists. She also presents the issues evenhandedly, effectively balancing her presentation of arguments by both the plaintiffs and the schools that sought to continue the segregation of Mexican-American students.

Ultimately, *Mendez* highlights how Mexican Americans took the lead to secure their civil rights and demonstrates how organization, courage, and persistence in the Mexican-American communities could overcome the racism of the school boards. Their inspiring example is particularly timely given the current controversies over immigration and the growing national interest in Latino life.

Mendez v. Westminster: School Desegregation and Mexican-American Rights (Landmark Law Cases & American Society) By Philippa Strum Bibliography

- Rank: #194411 in Books
- Brand: Brand: University Press of Kansas
- Published on: 2010-04-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .50" h x 5.50" w x 8.30" l, .60 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 200 pages



[Download](#) Mendez v. Westminster: School Desegregation and Me ...pdf



[Read Online](#) Mendez v. Westminster: School Desegregation and ...pdf

Download and Read Free Online *Mendez v. Westminster: School Desegregation and Mexican-American Rights (Landmark Law Cases & American Society)* By Philippa Strum

Editorial Review

Review

Mendez v. Westminster plays an underappreciated role in the struggle for civil rights in the United States. Strum brings the people and debates of the case vividly to life, particularly the dedication of the Latino parents at the center of the case who fought for equal education for their children in public schools. . . . Reminds us of the key part that Latinos have played, together with African-Americans, in the continuing battles for civil rights for all Americans in the United States.?—**Michael Jones-Correa**, author of *Between Two Nations: The Political Predicament of Latinos in New York City* and coauthor of *Making It Home: Latino Lives in America*

From the Back Cover

"*Mendez v. Westminster* plays an underappreciated role in the struggle for civil rights in the United States. Strum brings the people and debates of the case vividly to life, particularly the dedication of the Latino parents at the center of the case who fought for equal education for their children in public schools. . . . Reminds us of the key part that Latinos have played, together with African-Americans, in the continuing battles for civil rights for all Americans in the United States."—Michael Jones-Correa, author of *Between Two Nations: The Political Predicament of Latinos in New York City* and coauthor of *Making It Home: Latino Lives in America*

About the Author

Philippa Strum is Resident Senior Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center and author of *Women in the Barracks: The VMI Case and Equal Rights* and *When the Nazis Came to Skokie: Freedom for the Speech We Hate*, among others.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jacob Lehr:

Do you have favorite book? If you have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to understand everything in the world. Each book has different aim or maybe goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people truly feel enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. They are reading whatever they consider because their hobby is definitely reading a book. Think about the person who don't like examining a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book when they found difficult problem or exercise. Well, probably you will require this *Mendez v. Westminster: School Desegregation and Mexican-American Rights (Landmark Law Cases & American Society)*.

Barbara Morton:

The reserve with title *Mendez v. Westminster: School Desegregation and Mexican-American Rights (Landmark Law Cases & American Society)* has lot of information that you can find out it. You can get a lot of profit after read this book. This particular book exist new understanding the information that exist in this publication represented the condition of the world currently. That is important to yo7u to find out how the

improvement of the world. This specific book will bring you within new era of the globalization. You can read the e-book with your smart phone, so you can read the idea anywhere you want.

Faye Michaels:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because when you find yourself reading a book particularly book entitled Mendez v. Westminster: School Desegregation and Mexican-American Rights (Landmark Law Cases & American Society) your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe unfamiliar for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a e-book then become one type conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get ahead of. The Mendez v. Westminster: School Desegregation and Mexican-American Rights (Landmark Law Cases & American Society) giving you one more experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful facts for your better life in this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern the following is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning a sport. Do you want to try this extraordinary paying spare time activity?

Rosie Zimmerman:

Do you like reading a e-book? Confuse to looking for your selected book? Or your book was rare? Why so many concern for the book? But just about any people feel that they enjoy regarding reading. Some people likes reading, not only science book and also novel and Mendez v. Westminster: School Desegregation and Mexican-American Rights (Landmark Law Cases & American Society) or perhaps others sources were given know-how for you. After you know how the great a book, you feel desire to read more and more. Science book was created for teacher or even students especially. Those textbooks are helping them to put their knowledge. In additional case, beside science reserve, any other book likes Mendez v. Westminster: School Desegregation and Mexican-American Rights (Landmark Law Cases & American Society) to make your spare time more colorful. Many types of book like this.

Download and Read Online Mendez v. Westminster: School Desegregation and Mexican-American Rights (Landmark Law Cases & American Society) By Philippa Strum #JE7TURZKOQ4

Read Mendez v. Westminster: School Desegregation and Mexican-American Rights (Landmark Law Cases & American Society) By Philippa Strum for online ebook

Mendez v. Westminster: School Desegregation and Mexican-American Rights (Landmark Law Cases & American Society) By Philippa Strum Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Mendez v. Westminster: School Desegregation and Mexican-American Rights (Landmark Law Cases & American Society) By Philippa Strum books to read online.

Online Mendez v. Westminster: School Desegregation and Mexican-American Rights (Landmark Law Cases & American Society) By Philippa Strum ebook PDF download

Mendez v. Westminster: School Desegregation and Mexican-American Rights (Landmark Law Cases & American Society) By Philippa Strum Doc

**Mendez v. Westminster: School Desegregation and Mexican-American Rights (Landmark Law Cases & American Society)
By Philippa Strum MobiPocket**

**Mendez v. Westminster: School Desegregation and Mexican-American Rights (Landmark Law Cases & American Society)
By Philippa Strum EPub**

JE7TURZKOQ4: Mendez v. Westminster: School Desegregation and Mexican-American Rights (Landmark Law Cases & American Society) By Philippa Strum