

## Judge Garrity Letters

**Examine the following primary sources related to the incident depicted in the photograph and list any information that helps answer the class questions. Be sure to consider who, what, when, where, and why.**

After his Boston public school desegregation decision, Judge Garrity and other public figures received hundreds of letters, reflecting the deep range of emotions and opinions about his ruling: from support to fear and bigotry—and every shading in between. This is an example of two:

The White Race is a FRAGILE THING.  
IT CANNOT STAND INTERGRATION  
The Jews STAND TOGETHER  
The BLACKS STAND TOGETHER.  
The White Race does NOT.  
You ARE A CASE IN POINT  
I BELIEVE IN JUSTICE AND YOU  
ARE NO EXCEPTION. HOW DO YOU  
PLEAD?  
AS FAR AS THE CONSTITUTION GOES  
YOU JUDGES + LAWYERS HAVE MADE  
IT A JOKE.  
A JUDGE WHO RUNS FOR  
OFFICE IS A JUDGE, BUT ONE  
APPOINTED BY EITHER A GOVERNOR  
OR A PRESIDENT IS NOTHING  
BUT A POLITICAL FLUNKIE

Commonwealth Av.  
Boston, Ma. 02115  
September 12, 1974

The Honorable Judge W. Arthur Garrity, Jr  
U.S. District Court  
1525 Post Office Building  
Boston, Ma.

Dear Justice Garrity,

It seems remarkable that a full ten years since the 1964 Civil Rights Act passed before Black children in Boston could hope for integrated and equal education. What is equally astounding is that, except for your proper and courageous decision and clarity of purpose, such a miscarriage of constitutional rights would have continued.

As a citizen with a deeply rooted sense that equality under law means equality regardless of race (or sex), I feel indebted to your historic decision.

My only regret is that some citizens in Boston, our fair city, have responded as did Southern Whites in the early '60's at the prospect of integration. My hope is now that equality of education is a realistic goal, the economic and social status of my Black brothers and sisters during the 70's and 80's will become more equal in the North - as it has become in the South.