

## Wiggin and Dana Files *Amicus* Brief in U.S. Supreme Court Cases Regarding Integration in Public Schools

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NEW HAVEN, Conn. - Wiggin and Dana LLP has filed an *amicus* brief with the United States Supreme Court in two cases, slated for oral argument in December, involving public school integration.

The cases (Parents Involved in *Community Schools v. Seattle School District No. 1* and *Meredith v. Jefferson County Board of Education*) were filed by parents opposed to student assignment plans for public schools in Seattle, Washington and Louisville, Kentucky. The plans, which were adopted voluntarily by these school districts, apply when students choose to attend or transfer to schools other than their local schools and ensure that school populations reflect the racial makeup of the districts as a whole.

Wiggin and Dana filed the brief supporting the school districts on behalf of a group of social scientists led by Amy Stuart Wells at Teachers College, Columbia University, and that school's Campaign for Educational Equity. Referencing extensive research, the brief argues that, should the court subject the plans to strict scrutiny, the districts have a compelling interest in supporting integration given the long-term benefits of K-12 integration for students and society.

"These cases involve local decisions by communities and parents to adopt, voluntarily, school assignment plans that use modest measures to ensure that their students experience a diverse educational environment at a young age," said Kenneth D. Heath, an attorney in the firm's Appellate Practice Group, who led the Wiggin and Dana team working on the brief. "The social science evidence demonstrates compelling, lifelong benefits from this kind of experience, and we hope this research assists the Justices as they consider these cases."

The team also included Robert G. Huelin and Gregory M. McLaughlin.

[Click here to read the brief.](#)

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