



**Metropolitan Water  
Reclamation District  
of Greater Chicago**



**2022 MWRD**

**AFRICAN AMERICAN**

**HISTORY MONTH**

## **Kenneth and Mamie Clark**

**Kenneth Clark** was born in 1914. He earned a B.A. from Howard University in 1935 and an M.S. in 1936. He graduated from Columbia University in 1941 with a Ph.D. Clark was a renowned social psychologist, educator, and human rights activist.

Clark is best known for his testimony in the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* consolidated school desegregation case. Clark and others authored a paper titled "The Effects of Segregation and the Consequences of Desegregation: A social science statement," that the NAACP's attorney Thurgood Marshall used in his arguments before the Supreme Court.

In the famous "Doll Study" he studied the responses of more than 200 Black children who were given a choice of white or brown dolls. The findings illustrated that children showed preference for white dolls from as early as three years old. Thus, it was concluded segregation was psychologically damaging, which played a major role in the Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation. Clark's role in the case substantially increased his standing into a wider community of influence.

Clark was the first black president of the American Psychological Association. Active in the Civil Rights movement, despite much opposition, he invited Martin Luther King Jr. to speak at the association's annual meeting in 1967.

Clark's wife, **Mamie Phipps Clark**, was also a psychologist. The couple, as a team, conducted research among children. Mamie Clark was also active in the Civil Rights movement.

