

Newsletter

PREPARING YOU FOR A FUTURE IN LAW

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IMPORTANT CASES THIS WEEK



Plessy v. Ferguson



Charles River Bridge v. Warren Bridge



Lochner v. New York

Plessy v. Ferguson

Separate but equal.

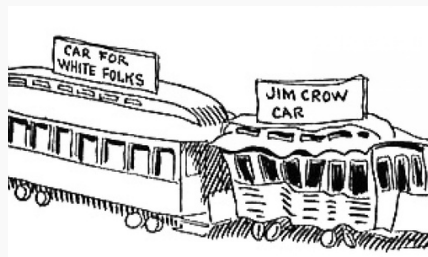


Photo from Understanding the American South
Plessy, considered Black under Louisiana law, boarded and sat in a train car that was reserved solely for White passengers. He was arrested after refusing to move and consequently

filed suit arguing that the Separate Car Act, which required all trains to have separate but equal seating accommodations, was a violation of the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause. The Court ultimately ruled against Plessy and held that the idea of separate but equal was not a violation of the 14th Amendment. Read the full decision [here](#).

Charles River Bridge v. Warren Bridge

Charters and monopolies.

Massachusetts granted the Charles River Bridge Company a charter to build a bridge from Cambridge to Boston. Instead of covering the costs of building and maintaining the bridge, the state gave the company permission to collect tolls until the charter ended. About 40 years later, a second company was authorized to build another bridge that would be free to the public. The Court ultimately ruled against the Charles River Bridge Company and held that the charter never granted them a monopoly. Read the full decision [here](#).



Photo from In Propria Persona

Lochner v. New York

The evolution of labor laws.

In 1897, New York passed a law that limited bakers to working a maximum of 60 hours per week. Lochner was fined twice after forcing his employees to work more than 60 hours weekly. Lochner filed suit and argued that the New York labor law was unconstitutional. In a 5-4 decision, the court ruled that the New York law was in fact unconstitutional and "interfered with the contract between an employer and his employees." Read the full decision [here](#).



Photo from C-SPAN