



Esther Swirk BROWN

Esther Swirk Brown (1917-1970) was a civil rights activist best known for leading efforts in the landmark desegregation cases *Webb v. Kansas* and *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*. A native of Kansas City, Esther attended Paseo High School and later moved to Merriam, Kansas, where she discovered the appalling conditions of the local black school. Despite receiving numerous threats, she launched a crusade to fight injustice and racial inequality culminating in the *Brown v. Board* decision to mandate the desegregation of schools. Esther continued to speak out against discrimination, was involved with local Jewish organizations, and instituted the Panel of American Women.