



Press Release

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For Immediate Publication

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Presentation and Reception for Dr. David A. Nichols

Author of A Matter of Justice: Eisenhower and the Beginning of the Civil Rights Revolution

The Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association (KCMBA) in conjunction with Johnson County Community College's History Department and Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion will co-sponsor a presentation and reception for David A. Nichols, PhD, the author of *A Matter of Justice: Eisenhower and the Beginning of the Civil Rights Revolution*. The reception will be held on Kansas Day, January 29, 2009 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Johnson County Community College, 12345 College Boulevard, Overland Park, KS 66210 in the Carlsen Center, Room CC 234.

"KCMBA is thrilled to co-sponsor Dr. Nichols as he reflects on President Eisenhower and his role in the Civil Rights movement," said Betsy Blake, Chair of KCMBA's Young Lawyers Section Public Service Committee. "Dr. Nichols is an accomplished historian that has put a long-standing Kansas hero in a new light. His new approach to President Eisenhower is especially timely as Americans reflect on the inauguration of President Obama and the immense progress of the Civil Rights Movement."

Dr. Nichols book replaces the disinterested, mildly racist president that historians have traditionally embraced with an Eisenhower who was fully engaged in the legal fight for civil rights for African Americans in the 1950s. Nichols is a leading authority on Eisenhower and civil rights, and is the first historian to exhaustively mine the archives of the Eisenhower Presidential Library for documents pertaining to civil rights – many of them newly released or previously neglected.

Dr. Vincent Clark, Chairman of the History Department at JCCC noted that, "We at JCCC are so excited to have Dr. Nichols discuss his groundbreaking book, which offers a comprehensive and

surprisingly intimate look at Eisenhower’s civil rights record.”

Nichols is a Kansas native and received his Ph.D. in history from the College of William and Mary in 1975. He returned to his alma mater, Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas in 1978, where he was later appointed as Dean of Faculty, a position that he held until his retirement in 2003. Nichols is also the author of *Lincoln and the Indians: Civil War Policy and Politics*, which was published in 1978 by the University of Missouri Press. That book, still the definitive study of Indian policy during the Civil War, was reissued as a paperback book by the University of Illinois Press in 2000.

** The media is invited to attend this special event. If possible—please contact Marci McNeal at the KCMBA office if you plan to attend. Marci can be reached by calling (816) 474-4322 or by e-mail at mmcneal@kcmba.org.

The Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association serves approximately 5,000 members in the nine-county Kansas City metro area: Johnson and Wyandotte counties in Kansas and Cass, Clay, Jackson, Johnson, Lafayette, Platte and Ray counties in Missouri. The mission of this Association is to serve our members and our community by promoting justice, professional excellence and respect for the law.