

Personal tools

- [Administrative Log in](#)

Hansberry v. Lee

From Social Justice Wiki

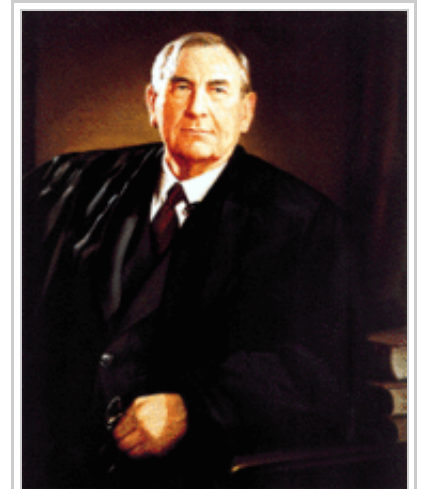
The US Supreme Court, on November 13, 1940, ruled in *Hansberry v. Lee* that whites cannot bar African Americans from white neighborhoods.

In 1937, businessman Carl Hansberry, Lorraine's father, defied the Woodlawn Property Owners' Association by successfully negotiating the purchase of a home at 6140 Rhodes Avenue. At about the same time Harry H. Pace, a prominent Negro attorney and president of the Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Company, purchased a building just east of South Park Way on Sixtieth Street. Anna M. Lee, a white signatory of the restrictive covenant, filed suit against Hansberry and Pace for \$100,000.

When the circuit court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs for equity, the defendants carried their fight to the Supreme Court of Illinois, which also upheld the legality of the restrictive covenant, by a vote of six to one, and ordered confiscation of Hansberry's property. The Supreme Court of the United States reversed the decision but did not hold that restrictive covenants are void. It ruled for Hansberry on a legal technicality, that an agreement between two property owners respecting the number of signatories to the restrictive covenant agreement is fraudulent.

For the complete decision in the *Hansberry v. Lee* case, [click here](#).

- [Back to Biography](#)
- [Back to Hansberry as a Social Activist](#)



Chief Justice Harlan Stone, who wrote the opinion in the *Hansberry* case.

[Biography of an Intellectual](#) | [Her Writing](#) | [Hansberry as a Social Activist](#) | [Hansberry's Life: A Timeline](#)

[Hansberry Main Page](#) | [Social Justice Home](#)

Retrieved from "http://socialjustice.ccnmtl.columbia.edu/index.php/Hansberry_v._Lee"

- This page was last modified 15:19, 13 January 2006.
- Content is available under Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike.