



Fact Sheet: H.R. 579 – To designate the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the "R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse"

Background Information

- H.R. 579 designates the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the "R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse".
- R. Jess Brown was a civil rights lawyer who worked against segregationist laws and was credited in the 1950's with filing the first civil rights suit in Mississippi. Mr. Brown, a native of Muskogee, Okla., attended Illinois State University, Indiana University and the Texas Southern University Law School. In the 1960's he was one of only four black lawyers in Mississippi, and one of three who took civil rights cases. In 1962, he worked on behalf of James Meredith, whose successful lawsuit allowed him to be the first African American student to enroll at the University of Mississippi.
- In 1948, Brown sued on behalf of black teachers in Jackson, seeking salaries that were equal to those of white teachers. He later worked with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund in fighting discrimination against blacks in transportation and other public accommodations in the 1960's. R. Jess Brown died December 31, 1989 due to cancer.

Summary

- H.R. 579 was introduced by Representative Bennie Thompson (D-MS) on February 6, 2013.
- H.R. 579 would name the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the "R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse".

Subcommittee Action

None.

Amendments

None are expected.

Statement of Administration Policy

None.

SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF CONTACT AND PHONE NUMBER

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