

## Chief Justice Earl Warren

In 1953 President Eisenhower appointed the Governor of California, Earl Warren as the 14<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Warren headed the Supreme Court for the next fifteen years. He ruled under a policy of **Judicial Activism – the decisions of the Supreme Court not only provided interpretations of the Constitution, but initiated broad changes in American life.**

During this period Congress was acting slowly on issues of equality and fairness. The actions of the Supreme Court in certain cases caused critics to claim that the Court was actually performing legislative tasks and taking power away from the individual.

### The Warren Court Judicial Activism

DECISION	SIGNIFICANCE
<i>Brown v. Board of Ed. of Topeka</i> (1954)	Racial segregation of schools violated the Fourteenth Amendment
<i>Baker v. Carr</i> (1962)	“One Person, One Vote” rule ordered states to set up Congressional Districts on an equal basis
<i>Engel v. Vitale</i> (1962)	State laws requiring prayers in schools violated the First Amendment
<i>Gideon v. Wainwright</i> (1963)	State laws denying felony suspects legal counsel violated the Sixth Amendment
<i>Miranda v. Arizona</i> (1966)	Authorities must inform accused persons of their “due process” rights under the Fifth and Sixth Amendments

**Note:** The issue under *Engel v. Vitale* took place in the New Hyde Park School District on Long Island.