

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
Washington, D.C.

December 9, 1957

ORDER NO. 155-57

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION IN THE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

By virtue of the authority vested in me by law, including particularly section 161 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (5 U.S.C. 22) and section 2 of Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1261), and as Attorney General of the United States, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. There is hereby established in the Department of Justice a division to be known and designated as the Civil Rights Division, at the head of which there shall be an Assistant Attorney General.

2. Subject to the general supervision and direction of the Attorney General, the following-described matters are assigned to, and shall be conducted, handled, or supervised by, the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Civil Rights Division:

(a) Enforcement of all Federal statutes affecting civil rights, and authorization of such enforcement, including criminal prosecutions, and civil actions and proceedings on behalf of the Government; and appellate proceedings in all such cases.

(b) Requesting, directing and reviewing of investigations arising from reports or complaints of public officials or private citizens with respect to matters affecting civil rights.

(c) Conferring with individuals and groups who call upon the Department in connection with civil-rights matters, advising such individuals and groups thereon, and initiating action appropriate thereto.

(d) Coordination within the Department of Justice of all matters affecting civil rights.

(e) Consultation with and assistance to other Federal departments and agencies and State and local agencies on matters affecting civil rights.

(f) Research on civil-rights matters, and the making of recommendations to the Attorney General as to proposed policies and legislation therefor.

(g) Upon their request, assisting the Commission on Civil Rights and other similar Federal bodies in carrying out research and formulating recommendations.

3. All functions, records, property, positions, and funds of the Civil Rights Section of the Criminal Division are hereby transferred to the Civil Rights Division.

/s/ William F. Rogers

Attorney General