**Facing History**

**From the ACLU: “The Saga of the Scottsboro Boys”**

**Mr. Fernandez**

**Link: <https://www.aclu.org/issues/racial-justice/saga-scottsboro-boys>**

**THIS WILL COUNT AS AN “ASSESSMENT GRADE.”**

Please respond to the following as you read this article from the ACLU:

1. What was the purpose of the ACLU’s “Black Justice Report” released in 1931?
2. What was the intention of the ACLU’s Executive Director?
3. With what crime had the Scottsboro Boys been indicted?
4. “At first the South looked upon Scottsboro as just another ‘Negro rape’ case … They called the boys ‘black fiends’ and ‘Negro brutes’ and clamored for ‘quick justice’ — meaning \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” Paul Peters
5. What did the two alleged victims claim to have happened on that train ride?
6. Why did the Scottsboro Boys need the protection of the National Guard?
7. How many people crowded into the small town of Scottsboro?
8. For what reason was Roy Wright treated differently from the rest of the Scottsboro Boys?
9. Why is it a bad thing for a criminal trial to move so quickly?
10. Who was George Mauer?
11. Why did he send a letter to Governor Miller of Alabama?
12. Who was Hollace Ransdell?
13. What did Hollace Ransdell challenge?
14. According to Victoria Price, what had the Scottsboro Boys done on that train?
15. Review the courtroom photo of Ruby Bates. What was her testimony in 1933?
16. In what way did a doctor specifically corroborate the testimony of Victoria Price during the trial?
17. According to George Chamlee, attorney for the ALD, what had prompted Victoria Price to come forward with the accusations of rape?
18. What was Hollace Ransdell’s assessment of the character of Victoria Price? Provide two specific examples from the article:
19. Describe Ransdell’s assessment of Ruby Bates.
20. According to Ransdell, what was the fundamental problem with having both ILD and NAACP attorneys working this case?
21. According to Ransdell, what did Alabama officials want?
22. At what point did the ACLU become involved in this case?
23. On what three specific grounds did ILD ask the Alabama Supreme Court to overturn the convictions of the Scottsboro Boys?
24. At what point did the NAACP offer to re-enter this case?
25. Who was Walter Pollak?
26. What three arguments did Walter Pollak successfully make before the U.S. Supreme Court?
27. What was Alabama’s response to the Supreme Court’s decision in *Powell v. Alabama?*
28. On what specific grounds did Judge James E. Horton set aside the jury’s verdict in Patterson’s second criminal trial?
29. In Patterson’s third trial of what did the Judge Callahan assure the jury?
30. Why do you think Judge Horton lost re-election in 1934?
31. For what primary reason did Chief Justice Hughes argue, in April of 1935, that the Scottsboro Boys’ convictions must be overturned?
32. What groups finally came together in December of 1935 to form the Scottsboro Defense Committee?
33. In what specific way was the 1936 trial of the Scottsboro Boys different?
34. What was the outcome of the 1936 trial?
35. What break did the Defense Committee finally get in 1937?
36. On what grounds did the state of Alabama release four of the nine original Scottsboro Boys in July 1937?
37. What was Clarence Norris’ response when asked how he would change things if he could re-live his life?
38. What did the Alabama legislature decide to do in 2013 concerning the Scottsboro Boys?