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**Local historian and author presents his new book:
*We As Freeman: Plessy v. Ferguson***

Keith Weldon Medley, local historian and author, will bring to life the players in the historical Supreme Court decision, *Plessy vs. Ferguson*. This lecture is scheduled for Thursday, March 4th, at 7:00 P.M. at the Louisiana State Museum's Cabildo complex, the site of the *Plessy vs. Ferguson* trial when it served as the Louisiana State Supreme Court. A book signing and reception will immediately follow the presentation.

Medley explores the events leading up to the 1896 landmark decision that mandated "separate but equal" treatment of the races and established segregation as the law of the land. Not until fifty-eight years later in another landmark case, *Brown v. the Board Education*, was government-sponsored segregation declared unconstitutional.

In *We as Freeman: Plessy v Ferguson*, Medley chronicles the efforts of a group of legal and civil rights leaders of the late nineteenth century. From black columnist Rodolphe Desdunes and other members of the Comité des Citoyens to Albion W. Tourgee, the outspoken attorney who represented Homer Plessy, to Judge John Ferguson, Medley unfolds the details of this defining case in civil rights history.

Medley, a native of New Orleans, graduated from St. Augustine High School and Southern University with a B.A. in sociology and psychology. He is a two-time recipient of the publication initiative grants from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

Medley has published articles in *American Legacy*, *Louisiana Cultural Vistas* and the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*.