The Coffeyville, Kansas, Riot: One legal case, which included investigation and the clearing of the reputation of innocent Negroes before public opinion, began with the Coffeyville "race riot," which was heralded to the country by the press in March.

On March 17, two white girls, Margaret Akers and Julia Mooney, claimed to have been assaulted by two men at Coffeyville, Kansas. The matter was called to the attention of the Police Department and three colored men were placed under arrest. A riotous mob stormed

the jail.

On May 9, the Coffeyville Branch informed the National Office that three colored men had been arrested, charged with inciting to riot, and asked that Attorney Elisha Scott be requested to represent these men. The National Legal Committee, after considering the facts, asked Mr. Scott to proceed to Coffeyville. It developed that though five colored men had been arrested only two were held for trial—Herschel Ford and Napoleon Anderson.

In the handling of the cases, Mr. Scott contemplated two distinct proceedings: (1) an investigation before the Grand Jury relative to the rape charge and (2) the defense of the alleged rioters. Mr. Scott succeeded in securing warrants for the arrest of Julia Mooney and Ira Kennedy, a white salesman, showing that white men and not Negroes were involved in the rape charge. Julia Mooney was placed under a bond of \$20,000 and Kennedy was placed in jail. As a result of the trial Julia Mooney and Kennedy were bound over to the District Court, bonds being fixed at \$5,000 each. Kennedy was remanded to jail in default of bond. Mr. Scott reported that Margaret Akers pointed her finger to Kennedy and also to Julia Mooney and said that Kennedy assaulted her and that the Negro theory had been advanced by Julia Mooney. Despite the evidence pointing to their guilt they were acquitted on July 20.

Although the State lost the case against Julia Mooney and Ira Kennedy, sentiment against the colored men charged with inciting the riot changed materially in their favor. Through the work of the Coffeyville Branch and the best class of citizens, sufficient pressure was brought on the County Attorney to cause him to make a motion to dismiss those cases, and the motion was sustained, ending the Coffeyville Riot Cases as far as the N.A.A.C.P. was concerned.

The National Office contributed \$350 toward the expenses of the case, the remainder being contributed by the Coffeyville Branch.

One of the important cases fought since 1922 and continued through 1927 is the case of Abe Washington, involving the right of Negroes to sit upon juries not only in the State of Florida, where this case originated, but throughout the South.

Through the efforts of a colored attorney, S. D. McGill of Jacksonville, Florida, the execution of Abe Washington has been successfully opposed since his conviction for murder and sentence in 1923. Mr. McGill has based his case against execution of the colored man upon the admitted and unlawful exclusion of Negroes from jury service in Duval County, Florida, where Abe Washington was tried.

In April, 1927, Mr. McGill wrote asking the assistance of the N.A.A.C.P. in fighting this case, and Mr. Louis Marshall of the National Legal Committee undertook to aid Mr. McGill, supervising the preparation of the appeal brief. It was planned to take the case on appeal from the Supreme Court of the State of Florida to the United States Supreme Court if necessary.

As a direct consequence of this legal battle, Mr. McGill was able to report to the National Office at the close of the year that for the first time since Reconstruction days a Negro in Jacksonville had sat in a jury box in the Circuit Court while a jury was being selected and that a colored man had served as a juror in a first degree murder case.

Not only has the Association had to challenge the exclusion of Negroes from southern juries, but many cases have involved the actual administration of justice itself. One of the most dramatic of these is the case of Jim Davis, which was brought to the Association's attention by L. G. Southard, the white attorney of Spartanburg, S. C., who at the risk of his life helped defend the three Lowmans who were lynched at Aiken, S. C., in 1926. Before the case came to the N.A.A.C.P., Davis had been sentenced to life imprisonment by the County Court of Fairfield County.

The case arose through Davis's defense of his two daughters, one thirteen and one fourteen years old. In October, 1925, the girls were taken from their home by two colored boys working on a road gang nearby. They remained with the boys in Greenwood, S. C., for two days. The boys then brought the girls home, telling the father they were married and would procure from the Probate Judge certified copies of their marriage licenses.

On November 9, when the road camp was to be moved, Jim Davis