

A year-long community conversation on civil rights and human rights.

# PROJECT 60/50

2014  
1964  
1954



The year 2014 marks the 60th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* and the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Michigan State University is commemorating these anniversaries with Project 60/50—a one-year series of academic, public celebration, and remembrance events.

The Michigan State University College of Law Presents

# *One of Michigan's Own: Viola Liuzzo—An Exemplary Woman in Extraordinary Times*

March 2 through April 30, 2014

MSU Law, 3rd Floor

**Viola Liuzzo** was the only white woman murdered in the civil rights movement—yet we hear so little about her. She was a 39 year old Detroit teamster's wife and mother of five, who in 1965 joined thousands of people converging on Selma, Alabama, for the March on Montgomery led by Martin Luther King, Jr. Shortly after the historic Voting Rights March ended, Liuzzo was shot in the head and killed by a car full of Klansmen. Her murder is attributed by historians of the era as providing the final piece of leverage that won President Lyndon Johnson Congress's approval of the Act, which forever changed our political landscape.

This exhibition is being displayed in conjunction with the showing of the 2004 film *Home of the Brave*. The film documents that immediately following her murder, Liuzzo became the target of a smear campaign mounted by J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI to divert attention from the fact that a key FBI informant was in the car with Liuzzo's killers. *Home of the Brave* will be shown at MSU Law from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 3, 2014.

*The exhibition is open to the public and can be viewed during regular Law College hours.*

*For more information, contact Professor Nicholas Mercuro at [mercuro@law.msu.edu](mailto:mercuro@law.msu.edu)*



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