



January 25, 2024 | 12:00 p.m. | UCSB South Hall 4502

## A Fireside Chat with Dr. Vernon Burton



### Vernon Burton

Judge Matthew J. Perry Distinguished  
Chair of History, Professor  
Clemson University

The American history of race is still being written today, the present grows out of the past, and makes our future. While race is a social construct that does not actually exist, the Courts created it as a legitimate legal category that has shaped our history. *Justice Deferred: Race and the Supreme Court* examines from the founding of the nation Supreme Court cases and shines a powerful light on the Supreme Court's race record, a legacy at times uplifting, but more often distressing and sometimes disgraceful.

The book moves from 1619 and colonial slavery, includes the Cherokee Trail of Tears, Japanese interment, and Jim and Juan Crow. It brings us to *Brown v. Board of Education*, and to the current issues of criminal justice, affirmative action, immigration, and the dismantling of the Voting Rights Act.

Vernon Burton, co-author, will be holding space for an informal conversation on race and Lincoln following his talk where he discussed his book *Justice Deferred: Race and the Supreme Court*.

Orville Vernon Burton is the inaugural Judge Matthew J. Perry Distinguished Chair of History and Professor of Global Black Studies, Sociology, Anthropology, and Computer Science at Clemson University. Burton was elected into the S.C. Academy of Authors in 2015, in 2017 he received the Governor's Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities from the South Carolina Humanities Council, and in 2021 he was awarded the Benjamin E. Mays Legacy Award. In 2022 he was inducted into the Martin Luther King Jr. Collegium of Scholars at Morehouse College, and received the Southern Historical Association's John Hope Franklin Lifetime Achievement Award.

Burton is a prolific author and scholar (more than twenty authored or edited books, nearly three hundred articles, and numerous digital humanities projects). A recognized authority on race relations, Burton is often called upon as an expert witness in discrimination and voting rights cases throughout the United States. He will speak on his book, *Justice Deferred: Race and the Supreme Court* (2021).

*Co-sponsored by UCSB History Department*

*Food and drinks will be served!*

[Please RSVP for this in person event here](#)

UC SANTA BARBARA  
Department of History