



January 24, 2024 | 5:00 p.m. | UCSB South Hall 4603

Picturing Justice: Race & the Supreme Court



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 internment, 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 present a talk and discussion on the important topics covered in *Justice Deferred*. A picture is worth a thousand words (and some cost a thousand dollars), so Burton will show illustrations in the book and discuss the issues they evoke.

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](#)

[Register for the livestream here](#)

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