

Curriculum Vitae
2021

MARGARET A. BURNHAM

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Teaching and Research

My current research interests focus on the history of mid-twentieth century racial violence in the United States. I study and pursue legal and political initiatives to remedy these past injustices, paying special attention to criminal justice institutions. My work examines the efficacy of truth-seeking instruments, such as truth commissions, reparations, and local adjudicative traditions as a means of exploring this past; and it contributes to scholarship in human rights about transitional justice, and in American legal history on civil rights advocacy in and out of the courts.

My earlier research concerned issues in international criminal justice and comparative constitutionalism. I have taught courses in Constitutional Law, Comparative Constitutional Law, Federal Courts, Civil Rights Law, the Law of Reparations, and International Criminal Justice. I am the founder and director of the Northeastern University Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project. CRRJ engages students in historical legal research and policy reform and coordinates the work of affiliated researchers. CRRJ's archive, the Burnham-Nobles Digital Archive, represents the most comprehensive archive on mid-twentieth century racially-motivated murder cases in the southern states.

Academic Appointments, 1990-present

2002 – Present **Northeastern University**

Associate Professor, School of Law, 2002-2006

Professor, School of Law, 2006

Affiliated Professor, Dept. of Cultures, Societies, and Global Studies, College of Social Sciences and Humanities (Africana Studies); School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs, College of Social Sciences and Humanities

Offer courses and small group study opportunities to students at law school, School of Journalism, and College of Public Policy and Urban Affairs, and undergraduates in criminal justice and public history: Constitutional Issues, Federal Courts, Comparative Constitutional Law, Civil Rights, International Criminal Law, Historical Injustice and Reparation

Founder and Director, Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project (CRRJ), NUSL

Co-director, Center for Law, Equity and Race, NUSL

1990 – 2002 **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**
Lecturer, Political Science
Teach Constitutional Issues, Human Rights, Gender & Law

Fellowships (selected)

2016 Andrew Carnegie Fellowship
2015 Newhouse Center for the Humanities, Wellesley, Fellow
2009 Grotius Institute, University of Leiden, The Hague, Fellow
2008 Newhouse Center for the Humanities, Wellesley College, Fellow

Grants (selected)

2016 Andrew Carnegie Fellows Program, *Racism & Justice in the Mid-twentieth Century: Counting and Reckoning*, PI
2018 Northeastern University, *Historical Injustice/Present Policing*, PI
2019 Ford Foundation, *Civil Rights/Restorative Justice Archival Project*, PI
2019 Mellon Foundation, *Restorative Justice/Restorative Truth*, PI
2020 Northeastern University, *Voting Delayed/Voting Denied*, CoPI
2021 Northeastern University, *Visualizing Spatial Justice*, CoPI

Editor

Associate Editor, *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*

Education

LLB University of Pennsylvania Law School, Philadelphia, PA

B.A., *History* Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, MS

Book

By Hands Now Known: Jim Crow's Legal Executioners, Norton Press, 2022

Government Appointment

2021 Presidential Appointment, federal Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board

Human Rights Appointments

- 1994 *US Observer Delegation to South Africa's First Non-Racial National Election*,
Johannesburg and Mmabatho, Republic of South Africa, April 16 – May 2, 1994
- The U.S. based Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law sponsored an observer delegation, led by Judge Nathaniel Jones of the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, to the first non-racial, multi-party elections in the Republic of South Africa. Comprised of sixteen distinguished lawyers from the United States and Africa, the delegation observed the election and issued a report.
- 1993 *Motsuenyane Commission of Enquiry into Certain Allegations of Cruelty and Human Rights Abuse Against ANC Prisoners and Detainees by ANC Members*, January 12 – August 20, 1993
- I was appointed by Nelson Mandela, then President of the African National Congress, to an international commission to investigate allegations of human rights violations made against members of the ANC. I was one of three members of the Commission, and the only American member. The Commission collected evidence from South Africa, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. It held public hearings. The report issued by the Commission was a foundation for the later work of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission. I was principal reporter and writer of the 200 page report.

Judicial Appointment

- 1977 – 1983 **Municipal Court Department, Trial Court of Massachusetts**
Massachusetts
Associate Justice
- Handled thousands of criminal and civil matters on this court of general jurisdiction, including both bench and jury trials. Assigned to Superior Court and handled major felony jury trials. Chair of bench-bar study to reform procedures for appointing attorneys for indigent defendants in the lower courts.

Practice-Related Activity (selected)

- Licensure** *Admitted to practice:* Massachusetts, US Ct of Appeals, 1st, 2nd, 8th circuits; *Lapsed bar membership:* New York, North Carolina
- 2014 *In Re George Stinney, North Carolina*
CRRJ *amicus curiae* brief on petition for posthumous exoneration of 14-

year-old boy executed in 1944 without benefit of counsel or appeal

- 2008-10 ***Moore v. Franklin County, CA No. 3:09CV236TSL-JCS***
Federal civil action filed on behalf of the families of two young men killed by the Ku Klux Klan in Mississippi in May 1964. The case was the first lawsuit to overcome the statute of limitations since unpunished killings from the civil rights era began to be reopened in 1989. Case settled.
- 2008-2013 ***In the Matter of Arnie King***
Pro bono representation of a lifer in the Massachusetts prison system seeking parole.
- 1989 – 2002 **Burnham & Hines** (formerly Burnham, Hines & Dilday), Boston
Founding Partner
Co-founder of litigation firm concentrating in complex civil rights, employment law and criminal defense work, with a multi-state practice in federal and state trial and appellate courts. Tried nine homicide cases. Served as court-appointed administrator and receiver in federal and state court matters. Served as lead counsel for significant cases and had a leading role in human rights missions.

Service

NATIONAL

Algebra Project

Member, Board of Directors

REGIONAL

National Center of Afro-American Artists

Chairperson, Board of Directors