

# PROCLAIMING EMANCIPATION

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CONFERENCE  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2012

Hatcher Graduate Library and  
The Law School Aikens Commons

The University of Michigan Law School  
Program in Race, Law, & History

*and* the William L. Clements Library

*in cooperation with*

The University of Michigan Library

**M** UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

**M**arking the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War, “Proclaiming Emancipation” examines the history and memory of Abraham Lincoln’s 1863 Emancipation Proclamation. The Proclamation accelerated a massive human migration toward freedom, opened the door to the enlistment of black men in the Union Army, and marked a significant shift in executive power. Today it remains a powerful, near sacred artifact in our collective memory. Proclaiming Emancipation offers an opportunity to further critical understanding of this complex moment in the history of slavery, emancipation, and freedom in the United States and in the world.

**THE PROGRAM IN RACE, LAW & HISTORY** at the University of Michigan Law School is an interdisciplinary program dedicated to research and teaching at the intersection of these three lines of intellectual inquiry. Through new scholarship, the training of students in law and history, and collaborations with colleagues and institutions at Michigan and beyond, the Program provides a unique historical perspective on the ongoing salience of race. The Program's work is grounded in scholarship that has established race as at the core of interpreting the history of the Americas and the world.

**THE WILLIAM L. CLEMENTS LIBRARY** is a University of Michigan library that houses original resources for the study of American history and culture from the fifteenth through the nineteenth century. Its mission is to collect and preserve primary source materials, to make them available for research, and to create an environment that supports and encourages scholarly investigation of our nation's past. The Library's collections of rare books, pamphlets, maps, prints, photographs, and manuscripts shed light on North American history from Columbus through the 19th century. On almost any aspect of the early American experience – military history, politics and government, religion, gender and ethnicity, culinary history, the creative arts, travel and exploration – the holdings at the Clements Library offer researchers a wealth of unique resources.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LIBRARY** is one of the largest university library systems in the United States. Its vast collection encompasses ancient documents written on papyrus, electronic journals reporting on the latest advances in science and medicine, and material from nearly every period, culture, and way of thought in between. The Library also offer technological and multimedia facilities, and the requisite expertise to support the instruction, research and service activities of the University and the community. The Library is open to everyone. Its holdings are available for on-site use, and its digital collections—including the HathiTrust Digital Library, which holds more than 10 million volumes—can be searched by anyone with a connection to the Internet. The Library also host exhibits and events, all of them free and open to the public, to showcase their collection and to foster the thoughtful exchange of ideas.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2012

**Hatcher Graduate Library, Room 100**

9:00 A.M.

**Welcome**

9:30–11:30 A.M.

**Panel I. *Emancipation's Many Legalities***

CHAIR

**Rebecca Scott**, Charles Gibson Distinguished University Professor of History and Professor of Law, University of Michigan

*Fugitive Slaves, Military Intelligence, and Civil Rights before the Emancipation Proclamation*

**Kate Masur**, Associate Professor of History, Northwestern University

*Emancipation's Hidden Legacy: Lincoln and the Laws of War*

**John Witt**, Allen H. Duffy Class of 1960 Professor of Law, Yale University

*Lincoln, Emancipation, and the Making of a Modern Liberal State*

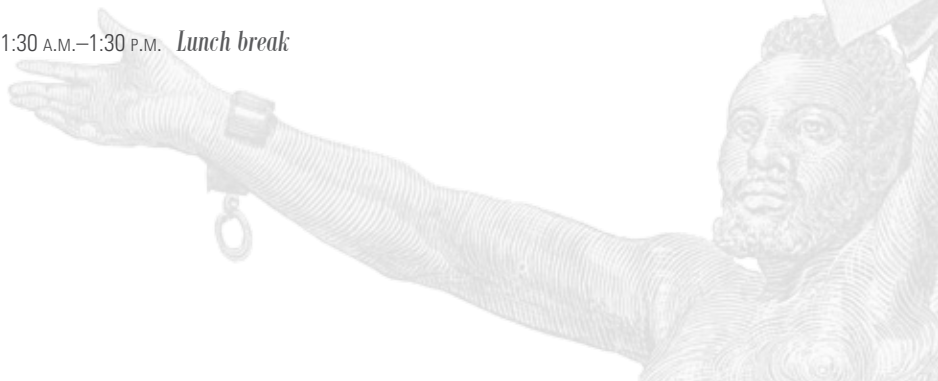
**William Novak**, Professor of Law, University of Michigan

**Stephen Sawyer**, Associate Professor of History, The American University of Paris

COMMENT

**Julian Davis Mortenson**, Assistant Professor of Law, University of Michigan

11:30 A.M.–1:30 P.M. *Lunch break*



1:30 –3:30 P.M.

**Panel II. *Time, Space and the Meanings of Emancipation***

CHAIR

**Richard Primus**, Professor of Law, University of Michigan

*“Negro Outlaws:” Enslaved Women’s Proclamations of Emancipation*

**Thavolia Glymph**, Associate Professor of African & African American Studies, History, and Duke Population Research Institute, Duke University

*August 8, 1861: Emancipation Begins*

**James Oakes**, Distinguished Professor of History, City University of New York Graduate Center

*The Emancipated: A Stateless People with Rights*

**Michael Vorenberg**, Associate Professor of History, Brown University

*Emancipation’s Encounters: Seeing the Proclamation Through Soldiers’ Sketchbooks*

**Martha S. Jones**, Associate Professor of History and Afroamerican and African Studies and Affiliated Faculty of Law, University of Michigan

COMMENT

**Hannah Rosen**, Assistant Research Scientist and Associate Director for Graduate Programs and Scholarship, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, University of Michigan

**Law School Aikens Commons**

4:00 –6:00 P.M.

**Keynote**

*Lincoln’s Emancipation*

**Eric Foner**, DeWitt Clinton Professor of History, Columbia University

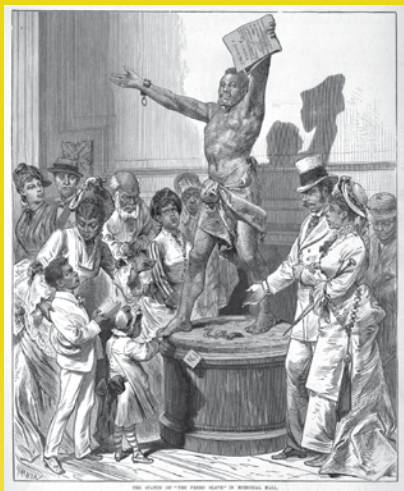
*Reception and book signing to follow.*



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## ABOUT OUR COVER IMAGE

In 1876 Philadelphia's Centennial Exposition first exhibited Italian artist Francesco Pezzicar's statute *The Freed Slave*. The artist's interpretation of emancipation was of a lone man clutching Lincoln's Proclamation and breaking his chains. It was a dramatic contrast to Thomas Ball's *Freedmen's Memorial* which was unveiled in Washington, DC the same year. Ball had rendered emancipation as the act of a towering Lincoln, lifting a semi-clad, kneeling man in chains. In Philadelphia, African American interest in Pezzicar's statue was captured in Fernando Miranda's illustration for *Frank Leslie's Historical Register of the Centennial Exposition*, "The Centennial Exposition—The statue of 'The Freed Slave' in Memorial Hall." It is Miranda's rendering of Pezzicar's statue that we have borrowed here. The work received a gold medal. Still, white commentators were quick to criticize the work and the artist failed to secure a buyer. The statue returned to Italy and on Pezzicar's death was transferred to the Curatorio del Museo Revoltella after Pezzicar's death, where it remains on exhibit today. Aimee VonBokel has reinterpreted this image for *Proclaiming Emancipation*.