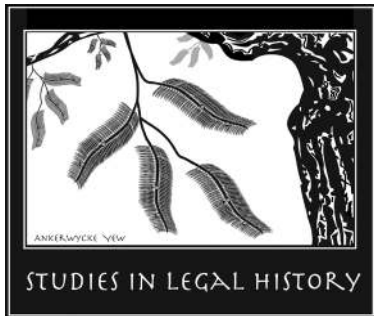


Nothing More than Freedom

Nothing More than Freedom explores the long and complex legal history of Black freedom in the United States. From the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment in 1865 until the end of Reconstruction in 1877, supreme courts in former slave states decided approximately 700 lawsuits associated with the struggle for Black freedom and equal citizenship. This litigation – the majority related to private law – prompted questions about American liberty and challenged the nation’s legal and political order following the Civil War. Judicial decisions set the terms of debates about racial identity, civil rights, and national belonging, and established that slavery, as a legal institution and social practice, remained actionable in American law well after its ostensible demise. The verdicts determined that unresolved facets of slavery would undercut ongoing efforts for abolition and the realization of equality. Insightful and compelling, this work makes an important intervention in the scholarship on post–Civil War law.

Giuliana Perrone is Assistant Professor of History at the University of California, Santa Barbara.



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Nothing More than Freedom

The Failure of Abolition in American Law

GIULIANA PERRONE

University of California, Santa Barbara



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment

978-1-009-21917-4 — Nothing More than Freedom: The Failure of Abolition in American Law

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

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477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

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education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009219174

DOI: 10.1017/9781009219181

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First published 2023

First paperback edition 2025

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-1-009-21919-8 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-009-21917-4 Paperback

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For my family

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Acknowledgments

Writing a book can feel like a terribly solitary process, but writing acknowledgments is a good reminder that it never is. This book was only possible with the support of teachers, friends, and colleagues. At the University of Texas, Judy Coffin and George Forgie inspired me to become a historian. At UC Berkeley, Robin Einhorn, Brian DeLay, Kerwin Klein, Rebecca McLennan, Waldo Martin, Mark Peterson, Harry Scheiber, Christopher Tomlins, David Lieberman, and Bryan Wagner taught me what it meant to be a scholar. I owe a special thanks to Robin for convincing me to write about the nineteenth century instead the twentieth. This project actually started with a conversation in her office. When I asked why there were so many cases about slavery decided after emancipation, she suggested I find the answer. I've been working on it ever since. Rebecca planted the seed about the distinction between emancipation and abolition, while Bryan helped me find structure out of a mess of sources. Chris let me crash the first class he taught at Berkeley – on slavery and the law – and use it to propel my work further. When he finally moved out of his office, Harry shipped me all of the books he thought I could use. This was classic Harry – always trying to nurture the next generation of academics. For years, he invited me to events and introduced me to preeminent visiting scholars. I look back on the working lunches at the Women's Faculty Club with Harry and Jane with special fondness. Aaron Hall and Jacqui Shine have continued to engage deeply with my work and offer incisive comments and critiques as my dissertation transformed into a book manuscript. It has been a joy to assign their work in my classes.

From our time at Berkeley, Alberto Garcia has become a lifelong friend. We supported one another through qualifying exams and dissertation writing, and now as we complete our first books. A tough writing day becomes something for us to celebrate with a ridiculous meme or just general whining. In this line of work, you learn quickly that your best friends are the ones you complain to at every step of a project.

A postdoctoral fellowship at the Carter G. Woodson Institute at the University of Virginia allowed me to reimagine what this book could be. While there, I began grappling with the idea of dormant rights and teasing out the distinctions between emancipation and abolition. The community of fellows was rich and full of good humor, and I benefitted tremendously from the interdisciplinary approaches to studying Black and African life. Deborah McDowell encouraged me to look in new directions and to challenge convention. I am especially grateful to Dylan Penningroth, who came to Charlottesville for a workshop of a very early draft of Chapter 6.

I had a transformative teaching experience while at UVa. The students of AAS 3500 – the very first course I taught, entitled “From Slavery to Citizenship” – may never read these words, but they still deserve special acknowledgment. Almost all of them grew up in the South and lived with daily reminders of the long reach of slavery, the Civil War and Reconstruction, and the Lost Cause. They went to high schools named after Stonewall Jackson and traveled down highways named after Robert E. Lee to get to them. They attended the university Thomas Jefferson founded, which, long sustained by enslaved labor, was in 2016 only beginning to fully reckon with its own history. They knew intuitively that the historical narrative they were taught was deeply flawed, and they were ready and eager to have it set straight. I remain deeply honored and inspired by their willingness to learn with me, and I think of them every time I give a lecture on the Lost Cause or explain why there is no such thing as a “good master.”

The history department at the University of California Santa Barbara has provided me with a wonderful intellectual home. Every single one of my colleagues has offered unequivocal support and friendship. Randy Bergstrom, Utathya Chattopadhyaya, Juan Cobo, Manuel Covo, Lisa Jacobson, John Majewski, Sherene Seikaly, and Paul Spickard have read drafts and engaged in generative conversations that helped me improve the manuscript. Sherene and Utathya in particular offered interdisciplinary and theoretical insights that changed my approach to this book, enriched my teaching, and allowed me to fully grasp the power and potential of our discipline. I

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am especially grateful to Laura Kalman, who has been supporting me and my work since before I joined the department. With her guidance, I've found an intellectual community with legal historians and managed not to be too afraid of the lawyers.

I also received crucial funding to support this project from several grants and fellowships. The UC President's Faculty Fellowship in the Humanities funded a year of uninterrupted writing, while the Regents Junior Faculty Fellowship and UCSB's Interdisciplinary Humanities Center defrayed research costs and provided a course release. The support for early career scholars is essential, and I'm grateful that UC values it – not all institutions do. I am also especially grateful for the William Nelson Cromwell Foundation Early Career Scholar Fellowship, which further funded the project at a critical moment.

Members of UCSB's interdisciplinary research focus group dedicated to the study of slavery, captivity, and meanings of freedom have helped me develop a deeper understanding of slavery and abolition across time and space. Workshops and conversations with James Brooks, Manuel Covo, Jeannine DeLombard, Rose MacLean, John Majewski, and Evelyne Laurent-Perrault made the book better. I am particularly indebted to Jeannine, who offered crucial support and suggestions along the way, especially as I conceptualized Chapter 5. I am sure that we will continue to discuss the meaning of “legal personhood” for years to come.

Amanda Kleintop and I became fast friends after connecting over Zoom during the pandemic. Given the connection between our projects, it's rather astounding we had not been in touch sooner. We quickly made up for lost time by reading each other's work, encouraging each other's progress, and discussing just about everything in between. I eagerly await the publication of her book.

I have long believed that a good librarian can solve many of life's problems. I am grateful to all the archivists and librarians who helped me secure the sources I needed, including those at Clemson University's Special Collections; the state libraries of Kentucky, North Carolina, Maryland, Texas, and Tennessee; the University of New Orleans, and the Virginia Supreme Court Library. I finished this book in the midst of the unprecedented COVID-19 global pandemic, which was only possible because of the institutions that made sources available online and the librarians at UCSB who often went to extraordinary lengths to help me (and everyone else on campus) get access to the materials we needed. They mailed books to our homes, scanned pages, and secured temporary online access to copyrighted material. And they did so with such astonishing alacrity! The world

of scholarship would have ground to a halt without librarians around the globe sustaining us.

I am grateful to the editors of Studies in Legal History and Cecelia Cancellaro and Victoria Phillips at Cambridge University Press for publishing this book. I owe special thanks to Pamela Haag. Pamela, a historian herself, is an incredible editor who brings out the very best from the authors she assists. Every author should seek out her services. I am also especially appreciative to have had anonymous reviewers who invested deeply in this book's success.

There is no way to thank Sally Gordon enough for all the time and effort she put in to helping me turn a dissertation into a book. I think guiding first-time authors is her super power. At critical moments, she always had just the right reading recommendation. She pushed me to make the book better at every turn, knowing that in the end, I wouldn't be satisfied with anything less. She listened to my anxieties and helped me "speak to the lawyers" among the legal historians. Perhaps most of all, she could glean what I wanted to say out of what I had actually written, and offered comprehensive and incisive comments about how to center those ideas and make them powerful and compelling.

My family has supported me throughout the ups and downs of writing this book. I am particularly lucky that so many live close by. Or, rather, I'm exceptionally lucky to have gotten a job near my family. My father, who immigrated from Italy as a child, has become a better department citizen than I am, going to all the talks, lectures, and roundtables he's allowed to attend. His own graduate training in history was cut short when he was drafted during the Vietnam War, but he has not lost his appreciation for the discipline. My mother, a teacher by nature and profession, was my first writing instructor. She still helps me fix my grammar and also gives me expert classroom management tips. At the beginning of the pandemic, my brother-in-law drove down from San Francisco thinking he'd stay just until things calmed down. Lucky for us, he stayed most of the year and brought fun, laughter, and an insatiable appetite for delicious food that made cooking yet another meal enjoyable instead of burdensome. Luckier still, he loved the area so much he moved in just down the road. My own brother and I became adults together in the Bay Area, and now that he's moved closer as well, we can once again eat dinner, watch Warriors games, and celebrate the big moments together.

My grandmother did not live to see the completion of this book – or the dissertation on which it is based – but she has inspired me in so many ways. She was a social worker who ran a postwar maternity

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home in Los Angeles for decades, and in her later years was more than happy to share the stories about “her girls.” I did my first oral history with her, and in that sense, she became one of my teachers. Her stories did not match what I read in the secondary literature. But more than that, her love and support was and is limitless and eternal.

The family that lives farther afield has been just as supportive. I feel like I have homes on the east coast whenever I need one – in Boston, New York, and Washington DC. Those in DC became family just as I began turning the dissertation into the book. But for as long as I’ve known them, they have been instrumental in making my work possible. They let me use their home as a launching pad for nearly all my research trips and talked through many of the writing challenges I faced. My father-in-law has read article proofs and chapter drafts with a keen eye, and pulled no punches when I’ve missed the argumentative mark. To have found that kind of intellectual camaraderie is a gift I cherish.

The apple didn’t fall far from the tree. My partner Chris reads everything I write, usually multiple times. A historian himself (of medieval Japan), he reads with the most critical eye of anyone I know. He spends hours with drafts, looking for weaknesses that might undermine the central claims. He has no trouble telling me that I’ve buried the lede, need more evidence for something, or have held back too much. He pushes me to be bolder and stronger in my work, and then takes notes as we talk through how to make the argument stronger, the prose more precise, and the narrative arc more compelling. He makes sure the household duties are done while I return to the draft, reinvigorated by his comments. I can’t imagine a better or more caring partner. We have built a home full of humor, mutual respect, intellectual engagement, and love most of all. (And also cats, who now outnumber us.) The joy in our lives is because of him.

Finally, writing about the failure of abolition as social movements like Black Lives Matter emerged and unrest grew (especially after the brutal murder of George Floyd) has been somewhat surreal. It became increasingly important – essential, really – for me to learn from those for whom abolitionist activism is a way of life. I hope that in some small way, this book contributes to the intellectual and scholarly currents that shape the modern liberation struggle.