#### **Unraveling Abolition**

*Unraveling Abolition* tells the fascinating story of slaves, former slaves, magistrates and legal workers who fought for emancipation, without armed struggle, from 1781 to 1830. By centering the Colombian judicial forum as a crucible of antislavery, Edgardo Pérez Morales reveals how the meanings of slavery, freedom and political belonging were publicly contested. In the absence of freedom of the press or association, the politics of abolition were first formed during litigation. Through the life stories of enslaved litigants and defendants, Pérez Morales illuminates the rise of antislavery culture, and how this tradition of legal tinkering and struggle shaped claims to equal citizenship during the anti-Spanish revolutions of the early 1800s. By questioning foundational constitutions and laws, this book uncovers how legal activists were radically committed to the idea that independence from Spain would be incomplete without emancipation for all slaves. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

Edgardo Pérez Morales is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Southern California. He specializes in Colombia and its connections with the Caribbean and the Atlantic World. He is the author of No Limits to Their Sway: Cartagena's Privateers and the Masterless Caribbean in the Age of Revolutions.

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# Unraveling Abolition

Legal Culture and Slave Emancipation in Colombia

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> ...for perhaps these laws that we are trying to unravel do not exist at all. Franz Kafka, *The Problem of Our Laws*

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### Abbreviations

- AAI Archivo Anexo I, in AGN
- ACC Archivo Central del Cauca (Popayán, Colombia)
- ACCR Archivo de la Casa de la Convención de Rionegro (Rionegro-Antioquia, Colombia)
- ACH Academia Colombiana de Historia, in AGN
- ACHSC Anuario Colombiano de Historia Social y de la Cultura
- AGI Archivo General de Indias (Seville, Spain)
- AGN Archivo General de la Nación (Bogotá, Colombia)
- AGS Archivo General de Simancas (Simancas, Spain)
- AHA Archivo Histórico de Antioquia (Medellín, Colombia)
- AHC Archivo Histórico de Cali (Cali, Colombia)
- AHCI Archivo Histórico de Cartagena de Indias (Cartagena de Indias, Colombia)
- ANE Archivo Nacional del Ecuador (Quito, Ecuador)
- BLAA Biblioteca Luis Ángel Arango (Bogotá, Colombia)
- C Colonia, in AGN
- CGE Centro Geográfico del Ejército (Madrid, Spain)
- DA *Diccionario de Autoridades* 1st ed. 1726-1739. Madrid: Real Academia Española, Gredos, 2002, 3 vols.
- DHPC Documentos para la historia de la Provincia de Cartagena de Indias, hoy Estado Soberano de Bolívar en la Unión Colombiana, Manuel Ezequiel Corrales, ed. Bogotá: Imprenta de Medardo Rivas, 1883, 2 vols.
- DRLJ Joaquín Escriche, Diccionario razonado de legislación y jurisprudencia. Paris: Garnier Hermanos, 1869.
- FHL Family History Library (Salt Lake City, Utah-USA)

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xiv	List of Abbreviations
HRC	José Manuel Restrepo, <i>Historia de la revolución de la república de Colombia en la América meridional</i> 1st ed., Paris, 1827, 2nd ed., Besançon, 1858. Medellín: Universidad de Antioquia, 2009, 2 vols.
JC	Juicios Criminales, in AGN
NEA	Negros y Esclavos de Antioquia, in AGN
NEB	Negros y Esclavos de Bolívar, in AGN
NEC	Negros y Esclavos del Cauca, in AGN
RCD	Rebelión comunera de 1781. Documentos, Juan Friede, ed.
	Bogotá: Instituto Colombiano de Cultura, 1981, 2 vols.
TLC	Sebastián de Cobarruvias Orozco, Tesoro de la lengua Castellana, o Española. Madrid: Luis Sánchez, impresor del Rey N. S., 1611.