



Professor Margaret A. Burnham is an internationally recognized expert on civil and human rights, comparative constitutional rights, and international criminal law. She is the faculty co-director of the law school's Center for Law, Equity and Race (CLEAR) and founded and directs the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project (CRRJ), which investigates racial violence in the Jim Crow era and other historical failures of the criminal justice system. CRRJ serves as a resource for scholars, policymakers and organizers involved in various initiatives seeking justice for these crimes. Among her impressive accomplishments, Professor Burnham headed a team of outside counsel and law students in a landmark case that settled a federal lawsuit. Professor Burnham's team accused Franklin County, Mississippi, law enforcement officials of assisting Klansmen in the kidnapping, torture and murder of two 19-year-olds, Henry Dee and Charles Eddie Moore. CRRJ's investigations are widely covered in the

national press, including a PBS Frontline documentary series, "Un(re)solved."

In 2021, President Joe Biden nominated Professor Burnham to serve as a member of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board and the U.S. Senate confirmed her appointment in 2022. The board is charged with reviewing the records of Civil Rights Era cold criminal cases of murders and other racially motivated violence that occurred between 1940 and 1979. Many of these records are still closed to the public. The board is examining agency decisions to withhold access and engaging with them to determine if the records should still be withheld.

Professor Burnham began her career at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. In the 1970s, she represented civil rights and political activists. In 1977, she became the first African American woman to serve in the Massachusetts judiciary when she joined the Boston Municipal Court bench as an associate justice. In 1982, she became a partner in a Boston civil rights firm with an international human rights practice. In 1993, South African President Nelson Mandela appointed Professor Burnham to serve on an international human rights commission to investigate alleged human rights violations within the African National Congress. The commission was a precursor to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. She joined Northeastern Law in 2002.

A former fellow of the Bunting Institute at Radcliffe College and Harvard University's W.E.B. DuBois Institute for Afro-American Studies, Professor Burnham has written extensively on contemporary legal and political issues. In 2016, Professor Burnham was selected for the competitive and prestigious Carnegie Fellows Program. Provided to just 33 recipients nationwide that year, the fellowship provides the "country's most creative thinkers with grants of up to \$200,000 each to support research on challenges to democracy and international order." Professor Burnham used the funding to deepen and extend CRRJ's work and research dedicated to seeking justice for crimes of the civil rights era.

Professor Burnham's book, "By Hands Now Known: Jim Crow's Legal Executioners" (W.W. Norton, 2022), won the Los Angeles Times Book Prize in the history category for books published in 2022. The book is a paradigm-shifting investigation of Jim Crow-era violence, the legal apparatus that sustained it and its enduring legacy. Publishers Weekly, which reviewed it with a coveted "star," called it "an essential reckoning with America's history of racial violence." The book was also selected as a finalist for the 2022 Kirkus Prize in nonfiction. Legendary activist Angela Davis has said, "By Hands Now Known: Jim Crow's Legal Executioners" needs to be read by everyone who recognizes the historic mandate of our time to interrupt cycles of racist violence that are rooted in slavery and have repeatedly found new modes of expression, even as the unresolved old forms plague our historical memory."