

On Race Law Stories...

In *Race Law Stories*, Devon Carbado and Rachel Moran have gathered a richly textured collection of personal narratives and case law histories of those blacks, Native Americans, Latina/os, Asian Americans, and whites who challenged the most invidious forms of racial domination and subordination in the United States before the courts from the founding of the Republic to the present. The book offers a searing critique of the racial foundations of citizenship, a penetrating interrogation of the Constitution's putative colorblindness, and a densely nuanced analysis of the complexity of remedies the Supreme Court has crafted in the name of justice and racial peace. Gathering essays by most of the luminaries of the Critical Race Theory movement, *Race Law Stories* will surely become the movement's canonic text, providing powerful exemplars of its hermeneutics and epistemology, and accordingly, the logic for its import and ascent.

—— **Ramón A. Gutiérrez, University of Chicago**

Carbado and Moran's *Race Law Stories* reveals the complex tapestry of American law's engagement with race by assembling an eclectic and rigorous set of essays on cases that are central to the country's racial narrative. This book—a provisional articulation of what the editors call a “race law canon”—interweaves themes of sovereignty, segregation, racially contingent citizenship, and racial remediation in ways that illuminate important insights not otherwise visible through an analysis organized around specific racial groups. At the same time, *Race Law Stories* scrupulously attends to how the law functions to differentially racialize groups in particular contexts while maintaining racial power. Although the notion of a race law canon may remain contentious, what is clear is that the contributors to this eminently provocative volume have skillfully repudiated the claim that race is or ought to be a marginal consideration in the study of American law.

—— **Cheryl I. Harris, University of California at Los Angeles**

Carbado and Moran and a talented cast of authors have produced a compelling, timely, and thoughtful book about a subject, race law, that continues to bewilder all segments of American society, particularly those in the judicial system. Rather than emphasize how discrete racial/ethnic groups were treated in particular court cases, the editors and authors are to be applauded for their cross racial analysis, which more powerfully and realistically allows readers to understand the profound emotional, social, and legal impact of a variety of court decisions on both specific individuals and broad social groups.

—— **David Wilkins, University of Minnesota**

Race Law Stories is truly a multiracial treatment of race and the law. As part of an effort to build a race law canon, Asian Americans are discussed not only in the context of immigration, but in the context of Jim Crow and racial classifications more generally. Carbado and Moran's “racially integrative” approach is a model for race law scholarship. Moreover, that each chapter is organized as a story about a particular case brings to life the historical role of law in the struggle for racial equality. This innovative volume will be of great benefit and interest to legal scholars and students, as well as those in American Studies, Ethnic Studies, Political Science, Policy Studies, and the History and Sociology of Race.

—— **Don Nakanishi, University of California at Los Angeles**