Dylan C. Penningroth

Associate Dean and Chair, Program in Jurisprudence & Social Policy

University of California, Berkeley

Professor of Law and History

Affiliated Research Professor, American Bar Foundation

[dcap@berkeley.edu](mailto:dcap@berkeley.edu)

## EMPLOYMENT

2022- Alexander F. and May T. Morrison Professor of American History and

Citizenship

2015- Professor of Law and History, University of California at Berkeley

2015- Affiliated Research Professor, American Bar Foundation

2013-15 Professor, History Department, Northwestern University

2007-15 Research Professor, American Bar Foundation

2003-13 Associate Professor, History Department, Northwestern

2002-03 Visiting Assistant Professor, History Department, Northwestern

1999-2002 Assistant Professor, History Department, University of Virginia

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. 2000 Johns Hopkins University, History

B.A. 1993 Yale University, with Distinction in History

## AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2024 Beveridge Family Prize in American History, American Historical Association

2024 Littleton-Griswold Prize in American Law and Society, American Historical Association

2024 Finalist, Cundill History Prize

2024 Order of the Coif Book Award

2024 John Philip Reid Award, American Society for Legal History

2024 Charles Sydnor Award, Southern Historical Association

2024 Scribes Book Award, American Society of Legal Writers

2024 J. Willard Hurst Prize, Law and Society Association

2024 Merle Curti Prize, Organization of American Historians

2024 Ellis W. Hawley Prize, Organization of American Historians

2024 David Langum Prize for American Legal History

2024 PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Award

2024 Shortlisted, Ralph Waldo Emerson Award, Phi Beta Kappa

2024 Shortlisted, Stone Book Award, Museum of African American History

2024 Shortlisted, Mark Lynton History Prize, Columbia Journalism School

2018-19 American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship

2013-14 Stanford Humanities Center Fellowship

2013-17 MacArthur Fellowship

2012 Associated Student Government Faculty Honor Roll, Northwestern

2011-14 Charles Deering McCormick Professor of Teaching Excellence, Northwestern

2009-12 National Science Foundation Award, “Local Courts and African American Life” (award #0921883, $131,518)

2009 EBSCOhost/America: History and Life Award, Organization of American Historians (for article “The Claims of Slaves and Ex-Slaves”)

2008 Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences Teaching Award, Northwestern

2008-10 Wayne V. Jones Research Professorship in History, Northwestern

2006-07 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow, Newberry Library

2005- Distinguished Lecturer, Organization of American Historians

###### 2006 Lane Professor in the Humanities, Northwestern

2004 Avery O. Craven Award, Organization of American Historians

2000 Allan Nevins Prize, The Society of American Historians

1998-99 Pre-doctoral Fellowship, Carter G. Woodson Institute for African and African American Studies, University of Virginia

1998 Huggins-Quarles Award, Organization of American Historians

## SCHOLARSHIP

Dylan C. Penningroth, [*Before the Movement: The Hidden History of Black Civil Rights*](https://wwnorton.com/books/9781324093107)(Liveright, 2023) (reviewed in the [*Washington Post,*](https://www.washingtonpost.com/books/2023/09/26/before-movement-dylan-penningroth/) the [*Wall Street Journal*](https://www.wsj.com/arts-culture/books/before-the-movement-review-civil-rights-at-the-courthouse-c5f4a596?st=ifijpn9tdjcauzi&reflink=desktopwebshare_permalink)*,* [*New York Review of Books,*](https://www.nybooks.com/articles/2024/04/04/a-wary-faith-in-the-courts-before-the-movement/)and [*Chicago Review of Books*](https://chireviewofbooks.com/2023/09/21/vibrant-black-legal-life-in-before-the-movement-the-hidden-history-of-black-civil-rights/); featured on BBC HistoryExtra, [Good on Paper](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/how-slaves-used-the-law/id1746176654?i=1000666768760) (The Atlantic), [KQED Forum,](https://www.kqed.org/forum/2010101894860/before-the-movement-the-hidden-and-vibrant-history-of-black-civil-rights) [Strict Scrutiny,](https://crooked.com/podcast/project-2025-900-pages-and-100-deranged/) The [Majority Report with Sam Seder](https://majorityreportradio.com/search/penningroth), [Digging a Hole: The Legal Theory Podcast](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/dylan-penningroth/id1534217240?i=1000657291665), [Conversations with Kenyatta,](https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/a-conversation-with-dylan-c-penningroth/id1554332059?i=1000660231912) the [National Constitution Center,](https://constitutioncenter.org/news-debate/americas-town-hall-programs/the-forgotten-years-of-the-civil-rights-movement) [Here’s Where It Gets Interesting](https://sharonmcmahon.com/podcast/before-the-movement-with-dylan-penningroth), the [Schomburg Center,](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWIgZSjcjzU&t=1100s) and the [Gilder Lehrman Institute](https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-resources/videos/dylan-c-penningroth-movement-hidden-history-black-civil-rights))

Dylan C. Penningroth, [*Race in Contract Law,* 170 U. Pa. L. Rev. 1199](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4269283)-1301 (2022) (excerpted in Farnsworth, Sanger, Cohen, Brooks, and Garvin, *Contracts: Cases and Materials,* 10th ed. (2023), 80-81; Fuller, Eisenberg, and Gergen, *Basic Contract Law,* 11th ed. (2023), 861-63; Ayres, Klass, and Stone, *Studies in Contract Law,* 10th ed. (2023), 61-62); reviewed in [*Jotwell*](https://worklaw.jotwell.com/identifying-racial-dimensions-within-contract-norms-that-may-coerce-black-workers/)(2023); discussed in Macaulay, Whitford, Lipson, Epstein, and Rebouché, *Contracts: Law in Action,* 5th ed. (2024), 76-77, 656)

Dylan C. Penningroth, [*Everyday Use: A History of Civil Rights in Black Churches*, 107 Journal of American History 871](https://academic.oup.com/jah/article/107/4/871/6157152)-98 (2021)

Dylan C. Penningroth, [*Writing Slavery’s History*, 23 OAH Magazine of History](https://academic.oup.com/maghis/article/23/2/13/1041715?login=true) 13-20 (2009) (invited essay)

Dylan C. Penningroth, [*African American Divorce in Virginia and Washington, D.C., 1865-1930*](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2282210), 33 Journal of Family History 21-35 (2008)

Dylan C. Penningroth, [*The Claims of Slaves and Ex-Slaves to Family and Property: A Transatlantic Comparison*, 112 American Historical Review 1039](https://academic.oup.com/ahr/article/112/4/1039/11945)-69 (2007) (co-winner of biennial EBSCOhost/America: History and Life Award, Organization of American Historians)

Dylan C. Penningroth, *My People, My People: The Dynamics of Community in Southern Slavery*, *in* New Studies in the History of American Slavery 166-76 (Edward E. Baptist & Stephanie M. H. Camp eds., 2006).

Dylan C. Penningroth, [The Claims of Kinfolk: African American Property and Community in the Nineteenth-Century South](https://uncpress.org/book/9780807854761/the-claims-of-kinfolk/) (2003) (winner of Avery Craven Award, OAH)

Dylan C. Penningroth, [*Slavery, Freedom, and Social Claims to Property among African Americans in Liberty County, Georgia, 1850-1880*](https://academic.oup.com/jah/article/84/2/405/728693?login=true), 84 Journal of American History 405-35 (1997) (reprinted in The Old South: New Studies of Society and Culture (J. William Harris ed., 2008))

**OP-EDS**

“Lessons from Martin Luther King Jr.’s Fight to Mobilize the Black Church,” TIME (Jan. 13, 2024)

## RECENT PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

2025 Ryland Lecture, University of Richmond

2025 Philip Pro Lecture, UNLV Law School

2025 Panelist, “Reconstruction and the Constitution,” National Constitution Center / Federal Judicial Center

2025 Distinguished Lecture, UC Irvine Center on Law, Equality, and Race

2025 AALS Panel on Race and Private Law

2024 Book webinar with James T. Campbell, Stanford Humanities Center

2024 Panelist, Columbia Law Review Symposium on “The Law of Protest”

2024 Authors Meet Readers, American Society for Legal History

2024 Chicago Humanities Festival

2024 Sanders Seminar Lecture, Northwestern History Department

2024 Book webinar, Centre for Global Studies, University of Victoria

2024 Panelist, “Reflections on the 60th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act,” Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference

2024 Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

2024 Juneteenth book event with Sora Han, City of West Hollywood

2024 Book webinar, Baton Foundation

2024 Black World Seminar, Johns Hopkins

2024 Princeton Public Library

## 2024 Panelist, “African History at Northwestern: Past, Present, and Future: A Celebration of Jonathon Glassman and David Schoenbrun”

2024 Book talk at conference on “Legal Histories of American Governance,” Stanford Law School

2024 Book talk, Berkeley Center for the Study of Law & Society

2024 ABF Fellows National Webinar on *Before the Movement*

2024 Book talk with Judge LaDoris Cordell, [Commonwealth Club](https://www.youtube.com/live/LrqOTH8XWP8?t=708s) of San Francisco

2024 Wilson Distinguished Lecture, Duke Law School

2024 University of Virginia Law School

2024 Book panel on *Before the Movement,* ClassCrits annual conference, Southwestern Law School

2024 Schomburg Center Conversations in Black Freedom Studies

2023 Book discussion with Ula Taylor, Waldo Martin, and Eric Schickler, Social Science Matrix, Berkeley

2023 Plenary address, ASLH annual meeting, Philadelphia

2023 National Constitution Center webinar

2023 Presenter, Temple Law School conference on Contract Law in Action

2023 “The Shadow of the Law,” Princeton mini-conference on The History of Value in Nineteenth-Century America

2022 “Race in Contract Law,” Simpson Lecture, Univ. of Michigan

2021 “Race in Contract Law after the Civil War,” ASLH annual meeting, New Orleans

2020 “Black Lawyers & the Idea of Civil Rights,” Earl Dickerson Centennial, University of Chicago Law School

2020 “Race in Contract Law: A History,” Legal History Workshop, Georgetown Law School

2019 “African Americans and Private Law,” Duke Law School

2019 “Everyday Use,” Johns Hopkins History Seminar

2018 “Everyday Use,” Legal History Workshop, Stanford Law School

2018 “Law for a Gospel Church,” University of Miami, Henry King Stanford Distinguished Lecture; Legal History Workshop, Penn Law School

2017 “Law for a Gospel Church,” Legal History Workshop, Yale Law School

2016 Commenter, UCLA workshop “Race, Racism and American Law: Re-Visioning for the 21st Century”

2016 Moderator, ABA-CLE Panel Discussion on “Civil Rights Advocacy: Past, Present, and Future”

2016 Panelist, “The Future of the African American Past,” Opening Conference for the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington DC

2016 “The Negro’s Lawyer: A History,” Faculty Workshops at Columbia Law School, University of Virginia Law School

2015 “Faith and Property in African American History,” Legal History

Workshop, Univ. of Minnesota Law School; Martin Luther King, Jr.

Memorial Lecture, Vanderbilt Law School

2014 “Black Inheritance: Rights and Genealogies after Slavery,” AHA annual meeting (Jan.)

2013 Panelist on roundtable on Ari Bryen’s *Violence in Roman Egypt,* Law & Society Assoc. annual meeting (June)

2013 “Faith and Property in African American History,” New Worlds of Faith conference, Penn Law School (June)

2013 “Black Inheritance,” Keynote address, Emancipation sesquicentennial, Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy, Boston College

2013 Session speaker, A Day with Northwestern, Alumni Association (April)

2013 Comment, ABF Legal History Seminar (April)

2013 Comment, Newberry Library Seminar on Labor History (Feb.)

2012 “Black Inheritance: Rights and Genealogies after Slavery,” annual meeting, American Society for Legal History, St. Louis

2012 “African Americans’ Use of Law Before the Civil Rights Era,” ABF Legal Diversity Conference, Chicago

2011 “Law and the Black Church, 1865-1940,” American Studies Program, Princeton Univ. (Dec. 2011); ABF/Illinois Legal History Workshop (Nov. 2011); Northwestern Black Law Students Association, Chicago (Feb. 2011); Univ. Wisconsin Legal History Workshop, Madison (May 2010)

2011 Commenter, Conference on Empirical Legal Studies (CELS), Nov. 5

2011 Guest Scholar, Hurst Institute for Legal History, Univ. of Wisconsin

2011 Chair and commenter, “Legal Processes, Mobility, and the Idea of the Slave South,” Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco

2011 “Beasts and Bloodlines: Legacies of Slavery in Colonial Ghana,” Washington Univ. St. Louis Joint Law & History Colloquium (April 2011); LSA San Francisco (June 2011); Beyond Freedom conference, Gilder-Lehrman Institute, Yale (Nov. 2011)

2010 Commenter on panel, “Localized Law and Governance in the 19th-century U.S.,” OAH annual meeting, Washington DC

2010 “Beasts and Blood: Legacies of Slavery in Colonial Ghana,” Wisconsin-Northwestern African History Workshop, Evanston; and W. E. B. DuBOIS 75th Anniversary Symposium, Duke University

2009 Chair and commenter, “Enslavement and Gendered Visions of Freedom in the African Diaspora,” biennial meeting of ASWAD (Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora), Accra, Ghana

**PEER REVIEW AND RELATED ACTIVITIES**

Referee for *Stanford Law Review, American Historical Review, Journal of American History,* *Social History, Journal of Southern History,* Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, University of North Carolina Press, *Civil War History,* *William & Mary Quarterly,* Harvard University Press

### **LAW SCHOOL TEACHING**

### Civil Rights in American History

### American Legal History

**GRADUATE TEACHING**

Orientation Seminar (JSP)

Pedagogy Seminar (JSP)

African American History

### Nineteenth-Century U.S. History

### First Year Research Seminar

## UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

### United States Legal and Constitutional History since 1850

### African American History, 1500-1870

### African American History Since 1860

### Civil Rights in America

### Blacks and the Law

### The Trial in American History

**LAW SCHOOL SERVICE**

Associate Dean, Program in Jurisprudence & Social Policy / Legal Studies, 2022-25

Faculty Appointments Committee (FAC), Berkeley Law, 2021-22

Chair, ad hoc Committee on Black Life in JSP, Berkeley Law, 2020-21

Co-coordinator, Berkeley Law Faculty Workshop, 2020-21

Chair and Equity Officer, JSP Graduate Diversity Committee, Berkeley Law, 2016-18, 2020-21

Equity Officer, JSP Graduate Studies Committee, Berkeley Law, 2016-18, 2020-21

Graduate Studies and Admissions Committee, JSP, Berkeley Law, 2019-20, 2020-21

Committee on Undergraduate and Graduate School Programs, Berkeley Law, 2019-20

Tenure ad hoc committees, Berkeley Law, 2016-17, 2017-18

Graduate Studies Committee, JSP, Berkeley Law, 2015-17

**DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

Chancellor’s Building Name Review Committee, Berkeley, 2020-21

Prizes and Awards Committee, History Department, 2020-21

Honors Thesis Committee, History Department, 2016-17, 2019-20

ABF Fellowship Advisory Committee, 2016-19

Jefferson Memorial Lectures Committee, Berkeley, 2015-18, Chair 2016-18

Faculty Lecturer for Learning in Retirement Program, fall 2016

Search Committee in African History, Berkeley, 2015-16

ABF Doctoral Fellowships Committee, 2015-16

ABF-Law & Social Science Fellowships Committee, 2015-16

Search Committee for Neukom Chair in Legal Diversity, American Bar Foundation, 2014-15

Freshman Advisor, Northwestern History, 2012-13

Faculty Senate (and Budget Committee), Northwestern History, 2012-13

Research Group in Legal Diversity, American Bar Foundation, 2012-14

Appointments Committee, American Bar Foundation, 2009-15

Graduate Affairs and Admissions Committee, Northwestern History Department, winter 2010, 2011-12, 2012-13

Planning Committee, Northwestern History Department, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13

Policy Committee, American Bar Foundation, 2007-08, 2009-10, 2010-11 (chair), 2012-13

Doctoral Fellowships Committee, American Bar Foundation, 2011-12

Legal Studies Faculty Advisory Board, Northwestern, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2014-15

Selection Committee, TGS nominations to CIC Smithsonian Fellowship, 2011

Departmental tenure and promotion committees, 2010 (chair), 2011

Graduate Prize Committee, Northwestern History Department, 2009-10

Senior Search Committee, Northwestern Sociology Department, 2008-09

Tenure Committee, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Northwestern, 2006-09

Speakers Committee, American Bar Foundation, 2008-09

Council member, Center for Historical Studies, Northwestern, 2007-08

Research Committee, American Bar Foundation, 2007-08

Chair, U.S. Borderlands Search Committee, Northwestern History, 2007-08

Chair, Native American/Environmental History Search Committee, 2005-06

Chair, Early America/Early National Search Committee, Northwestern History, 2004-05

Member, College Ad Hoc Committee (on tenure), 2004-05

Member of Woodson Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship Selection Committee, University of Virginia, 2002

Search committee in Modern West African History, University of Virginia, 2001

Strategic Planning Committee University of Virginia, 2001

Steering Committee, Carter G. Woodson Institute for African American and African Studies, University of Virginia, 1999-2002

Member of Woodson Institute Fellowship Selection Committee, University of Virginia, 1998

Chair, Curriculum Redesign Committee for African American and African Studies, University of Virginia, 1999-2002

## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

BIPOC Mentor for American Society for Legal History

Cromwell Dissertation Prize & Cromwell Advisory Committee, ASLH 2019-23

Project and Proposals Committee, American Society for Legal History, 2017-

Hurst Memorial Fund Committee, American Society for Legal History, 2013-21

Organizing Committee, Chicago-area U.S. Legal History Roundtable, 2013-14

Board of Directors, American Society for Legal History, 2009-12

Program Committee, American Society for Legal History, 2009-10

Editorial Board, *Journal of American History,* 2008-10

2008 Program Committee, Organization of American Historians

Surrency Prize Committee, American Society for Legal History, 2005-07

2006 Program Committee, Southern Historical Association, 2005-06

Panelist, Public Programs Division, National Endowment for the Humanities, Jan. 2003

Consultant for NEH Summer Seminar, “Roots,” Univ. of Virginia, June 2003

## OTHER SERVICE

Member, Historians Council on the Constitution, Brennan Center