

**No Transition, No Justice:**  
How the Absence of Transitional Justice following the Civil War Has Led to Ongoing Racial Injustice in the United States

**What is transitional justice?**

Transitional justice is one of the most important tools societies emerging from conflict and repression can undertake as they come to terms with legacies of systematic and structural violations of human rights. Transitional justice processes may include truth-telling, accountability, and the award of reparations on the path toward justice and reconciliation. Although these processes have commonly been included as components of most recent peacebuilding efforts in Europe, Africa, Latin America, and other post-conflict contexts, the United States never undertook a transitional justice process following our Civil War, leaving truths untold and reconciliation unrealized.

**Event Details**

Friday, September 18, 2020  
9 a.m. EDT      Program begins with introductory remarks  
5 p.m. EDT      Concluding remarks

Zoom information will be sent to registrants prior to the symposium.

Register at: <https://bit.ly/nottransitionaljustice>

**Event Sponsors**

Center for Comparative Legal Studies & Post-Conflict Peacebuilding  
Center for Racial & Social Justice  
Black Law Students Association, W.C. Jefferson Chapter  
Reves Center for International Studies

**Program Speakers**



*Opening Remarks*

Albie Sachs  
South African Activist & Constitutional Court Justice



*Transitional Justice: What It Is & Why It Matters*

David Tolbert  
Acting Registrar of the Lebanon Tribunal  
Former President, International Center for  
Transitional Justice



*The South Africa, Sierra Leone, & Sri Lanka Processes:  
Lessons Learned*

Yasmin Sooka  
Member, South African Truth & Reconciliation  
Commission  
Member, Sierra Leone Truth & Reconciliation  
Commission  
Chair, UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan



*The Confederate Narrative in U.S. History: Subversion of  
Post-Bellum Ideals of Human Dignity & Equal Respect for  
All*

Peggy Cooper Davis  
John S. R. Shad Professor of Lawyering & Ethics,  
New York University Law School



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*How Long Has This Been Going On? The Civil Rights Movement & Beyond*

Walter Riley  
Attorney & Civil Rights Activist



*Transitional Justice at Last: Asheville Forward*

Councilmember Keith Young  
City Council, Asheville, North Carolina



*A Journey to the Promised Land: The Importance of Memory*

Dr. Rex M. Ellis  
Associate Director for Curatorial Affairs (Emeritus),  
National Museum of African-American History & Culture  
Chair, 400 Years of African-American History Commission  
Trustee, Fort Monroe Authority



*A Special Message from Congresswoman Barbara Lee*

U.S. Representative  
California's 13th Congressional District

Read by Vivian Hamilton, Professor of Law,  
Director, Center for Racial & Social Justice



*Closing Remarks*

Dean A. Benjamin Spencer  
William & Mary Law School

Co-Chairs & Moderators



Professor Christie  
S. Warren

Director, Center  
for Comparative  
Legal Studies &  
Post-Conflict  
Peacebuilding



Mechelle A.  
King, JD '21

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