Our message is CLEAR
Worldwide, recent attention on the role of law and legal systems in creating and perpetuating seemingly intractable racial inequalities and disparities provides an opportunity to create real change.

The new **Center for Law, Equity and Race** (CLEAR) meets the challenge by providing interdisciplinary, hands-on advocacy, learning opportunities, research, legislative engagement and community outreach to create lasting change.
Two dynamic programs are at the core of CLEAR’s work:

**Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project**

The nationally recognized Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project (CRRJ), founded by Professor Margaret Burnham, is a leader in investigating and documenting lynchings and the massive breakdown in law enforcement in the South during the Jim Crow era. The work has involved:

- Students investigating 1,000 lynchings in the South in the Jim Crow era
- Successfully settling a landmark federal lawsuit involving the murder of two 19-year-olds in Franklin County, Mississippi
- Helping communities face the past through restorative justice measures throughout the South, such as apologies from public officials, commemorative events, street re-namings and placing markers at murder scenes
- National media attention, including PBS “Frontline’s” Un(re)solved, a multiplatform experience examining a federal effort to grapple with America’s legacy of racist killings

**Criminal Justice Task Force**

The highly regarded Criminal Justice Task Force, founded by Professor Deborah Ramirez, addresses policies and practices in the criminal justice system that disenfranchise the most vulnerable members of society. Recent results include:

- Advocating at the Massachusetts Legislature to create the Ralph Gants Reentry Services Program, which contributes $2 million to the Court’s Community Justice Support Centers to provide reentry services to every person coming out of prison or jail
- Creating the Gants Memorial Scholarship Fund to provide diverse law students at Northeastern and across Massachusetts with stipends for unpaid judicial co-ops or internships
- Supporting the Chief Justice Access to Justice Fund to engage judges in restorative justice practices
- Confronting Racial Injustice, a panel series co-hosted by the Massachusetts Historical Society
National Conference

By Hands Now Known: The Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Archive Conference  This national conference celebrates the launch of the Burnham-Nobles Digital Archive and Professor Margaret Burnham’s book, *By Hands Now Known: Jim Crow’s Legal Executioners*.

CLEAR Appoints 2022-2023 Faculty Fellows

To think differently and act boldly, CLEAR has selected an impressive cohort of faculty to address aspects of racialized housing and equitable community development as well as criminal justice and immigration justice.

Rebecca Chapman
Social Justice Teaching Fellow, Legal Skills in Social Context Program, School of Law  Project – *Jails: The Black Box of Mass Incarceration*

Melvin J. Kelley IV
Associate Professor, Law and Business, School of Law and D’Amore McKim School of Business  Project – *No Further Fair Housing: Stuck in Transition on the Path to Transformation*

CLEAR Welcomes Managing Director

Deborah Jackson  (JD, PhD), former mayor of Lithonia, Georgia, has joined CLEAR as managing director. She brings extensive experience as a lawyer, civil rights advocate and elected official to CLEAR’s team.

Announcing the Unprecedented Burnham-Nobles Digital Archive

This fall, we are launching the Burnham-Nobles Digital Archive, an unprecedented, publicly accessible digital collection of documentary evidence covering 1,000 racial killings from 1930 to 1954 in the Jim Crow South investigated and brought to light by Northeastern Law students in the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Clinic.
Professor Margaret Burnham’s book, By Hands Now Known: Jim Crow’s Legal Executioners (W.W. Norton & Company, 2022), is a searing study of the chronic, unpredictable violence that loomed over everyday Black life in the Jim Crow South. Drawing upon the Burnham-Nobles Digital Archive, Professor Burnham illuminates the role that white terror played in controlling Black life, resistance efforts mounted by Black communities in the face of indifference and hostility from federal and local governments, and the legacy of Jim Crow in the modern-day judicial system. The result is an essential reckoning with America’s history of racial violence.

Professor Daniel Medwed’s book, Barred: Why the Innocent Can’t Get Out of Prison (Basic Books, 2022), is a groundbreaking exposé of how our legal system makes it nearly impossible to overturn wrongful convictions. Professor Medwed argues that our justice system’s stringent procedural rules are largely to blame for the ongoing punishment of the innocent. Offering clear explanations of legal procedures alongside heart-wrenching stories of their devastating impact, Barred exposes how the system is stacked against the innocent and makes a powerful call for change.