

**Save the Date:**

September 26, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

**Lecture:**

An Evening with Michelle Alexander

In this moderated question and answer discussion, Alexander will lead conversations on the state of race relations in America and injustices found within our legal system.



# MICHELLE ALEXANDER

Civil rights lawyer, advocate and author of "The New Jim Crow"

Legal Scholar    Social Justice Advocate



*"She is a powerful writer, a fierce advocate for a more just world and a deep believer in open-minded, searching debate over how to achieve it."*

— James Bennet, New York Times editorial page editor

Michelle Alexander is a legal scholar, social justice advocate, New York Times columnist and visiting professor at Union Theological Seminary. Her work explores the myths surrounding our criminal justice system from a racial and ethical standpoint, and offers solutions to problems stemming from these concerns.

Her *New York Times* and *Washington Post* best-selling book, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, was published in 2010. In the book, Alexander peels back the curtain on systemic racism in the American prison system. The *New York Review of Books* described the book as "striking in the intelligence of her ideas, her powers of summary, and the force of her writing." Alexander shows that, by targeting black men through the War on Drugs and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control, even as it formally adheres to the principle of colorblindness.

Before joining the Union Theological Seminary, Alexander served as director of the Racial Justice Project at the ACLU of Northern California. She also directed the Civil Rights Clinic at Stanford Law School and served as a law clerk at the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

**RACE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Alexander's work focuses on the ways in which the War on Drugs and other governmental policies have created a New Jim Crow era. As Alexander articulates in [this lecture](#) at the Union Theological Seminary, mass incarceration rates disproportionately affect communities of color and harm these communities with long-lasting impact by being branded a felon or criminal. Alexander also discusses how her view of the issue of mass incarceration changed while at the ACLU in this [TEDxColumbus lecture](#).

Alexander further explores the problems with "e-incarceration" in a [November 2018 New York Times opinion column](#) as an extension of racial discrimination. Alexander proposes reform in relation to violent crimes in a [March 2019 New York Times opinion column](#).

Alexander's focus has also extended to how private prisons target immigrants with her critique of the border policy in this [December 2018 opinion column](#). In this [Facing Race, Elevating Democracy talk](#), she focuses on reimagining the multiple systems that contribute to mass incarceration and create moral quandaries for the nation.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

[newjimcrow.com](http://newjimcrow.com)

[nytimes.com/by/michelle-alexander](http://nytimes.com/by/michelle-alexander)