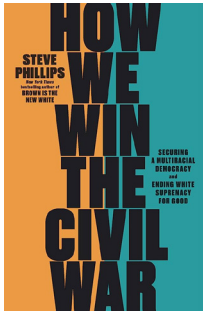
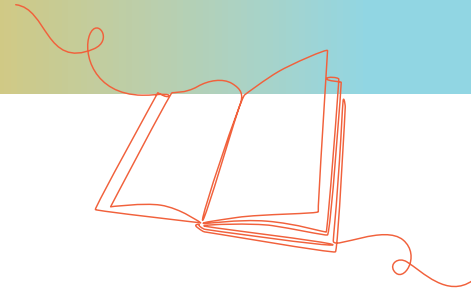


ACLU OF MASSACHUSETTS SUMMER READING LIST

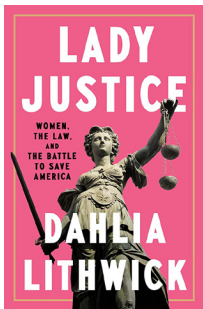
ACLU
Massachusetts



How We Win the Civil War by Steve Phillips

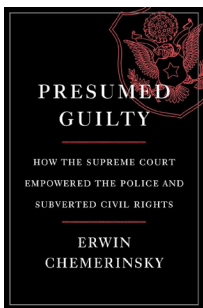
The bestselling author and national political commentator pulls no punches on what America needs to do to strengthen its multiracial democracy. In *How We Win the Civil War*, Phillips charts the way forward for progressives and people of color after four years of Trump, arguing that Democrats must recognize the nature of the fight we're in, which is a contest between democracy and white supremacy left unresolved after the Civil War. We will not overcome, Phillips writes, until we govern as though we are under attack—until we finally recognize that the time has come to finish the conquest of the Confederacy and all that it represents.

Lady Justice: Women, the Law, and the Battle to Save America by Dahlia Lithwick

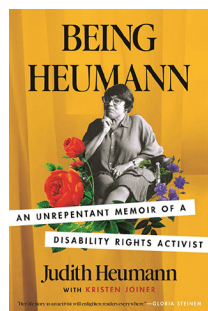


After Donald Trump's election in 2016, Lithwick dramatizes in thrilling detail to tell a brand-new and deeply inspiring account of the villains and heroes that came from the Trump years. The book recounts all the women across the country who held the line in the face of injustice. Like Sally Yates, the acting attorney general of the United States, who refused to sign off on the Muslim travel ban or Becca Heller, the founder of a refugee assistance program who brought the fight over the travel ban to the airports. Lithwick celebrates the tireless efforts, legal ingenuity, and indefatigable spirit of the women whose work all too often went unrecognized at the time.

How the Supreme Court Empowered the Police and Subverted Civil Rights by Erwin Chemerinsky



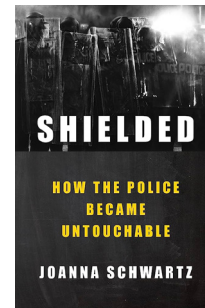
Police are nine times more likely to kill African-American men than they are other Americans—in fact, nearly one in every thousand will die at the hands, or under the knee, of an officer. As eminent constitutional scholar Erwin Chemerinsky powerfully argues, this is no accident, but the horrific result of an elaborate body of doctrines that allow the police and, crucially, the courts to presume that suspects—especially people of color—are guilty before being charged. Written with a lawyer's knowledge and experience, *Presumed Guilty* definitively proves that an approach to policing that continues to exalt "Dirty Harry" can be transformed only by a robust court system committed to civil rights.



Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist by Judith Heumann

A story of fighting to belong in a world that wasn't built for all of us and of one woman's activism—from the streets of Brooklyn and San Francisco to inside the halls of Washington—*Being Heumann* recounts Judy Heumann's lifelong battle to achieve respect, acceptance, and inclusion in society. From fighting to attend grade school after being described as a "fire hazard" to later winning a lawsuit against the New York City school system for denying her a teacher's license because of her paralysis, Judy's actions set a precedent that fundamentally improved rights for disabled people. As a young woman, Judy rolled her wheelchair through the doors of the US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in San Francisco as a leader of the Section 504 Sit-In, the longest takeover of a governmental building in US history. Working with a community of over 150 disabled activists and allies, Judy successfully pressured the Carter administration to implement protections for disabled peoples' rights, sparking a national movement and leading to the creation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Judy Heumann's memoir about resistance to exclusion invites readers to imagine and make real a world in which we all belong.

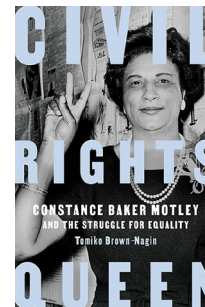
Shielded: How the Police Became Untouchable by Joanna Schwartz



In *Shielded*, University of California, Los Angeles, law professor Joanna Schwartz exposes the myriad ways in which our legal system protects police at all costs. The product of more than two decades of advocacy and research, *Shielded* is a timely and necessary investigation into why civil rights litigation so rarely leads to justice or prevents future police misconduct. Weaving powerful true stories of people

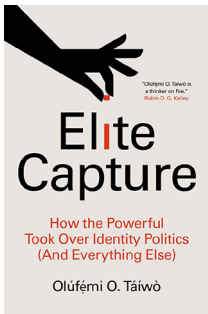
seeking restitution for violated rights, cutting across race, gender, criminal history, tax bracket, and zip code, Schwartz paints a compelling picture of the human cost of our failing criminal justice system, bringing clarity to a problem that is widely known but little understood.

Civil Rights Queen by Tomiko Brown-Nagin



Civil Rights Queen captures the story of a remarkable American life, a figure who remade law and inspired the imaginations of African Americans across the country. Brown-Nagin compels us to ponder some of our most timeless and urgent questions—how do the historically marginalized access the corridors of power? What is the price of the ticket? How does access to power shape

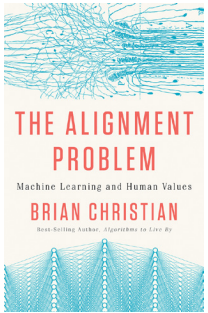
individuals committed to social justice? In *Civil Rights Queen*, she dramatically fills out the picture of some of the most profound judicial and societal changes made in twentieth-century America.



Elite Capture How the Powerful Took Over Identity Politics (And Everything Else) by Olufemi O. Taiwo

“Identity politics” is everywhere, polarizing discourse but the compulsively referenced phrase bears little resemblance to the concept as first introduced by the radical Black feminist Combahee River Collective. Identity politics is now frequently weaponized as a means of closing ranks around ever-narrower conceptions of group interests. Through a substantive engagement with the global Black radical tradition and a critical understanding of racial capitalism, Taiwo identifies

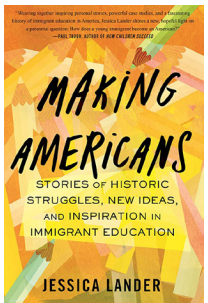
the process by which a radical concept can be stripped of its political substance and liberatory potential to be deployed by elites in the service of their own interests.



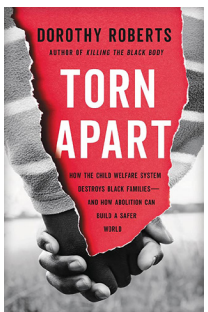
The Alignment Problem: Machine Learning and Human Values by Brian Christian

In best-selling author Brian Christian’s riveting account, we meet the alignment problem’s “first-responders,” and learn their ambitious plan to solve it before our hands are completely off the wheel. In a masterful blend of history and on-the-ground reporting, Christian traces the explosive growth in the field of machine learning and surveys its current, sprawling frontier. Readers encounter a discipline finding its legs amid exhilarating and sometimes terrifying progress. Whether they—and we—succeed or fail in solving the alignment problem will be a defining human story.

Making Americans: Stories of Historic Struggles, New Ideas, and Inspiration in Immigrant Education by Jessica Lander



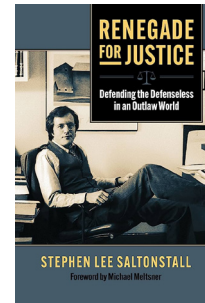
Setting out from her classroom, Jessica Lander takes the reader on a powerful and urgent journey—told through captivating stories of the past, the present, and the personal—to understand what it takes for immigrant students to become Americans. A compelling read for everyone who cares about America’s future, Making Americans brims with innovative ideas for educators and policy makers across the country. Lander gives us a remarkable book that will reshape how we all think about nurturing one of America’s greatest assets: the newcomers who enrich this country with their energy, talents, and drive.



Torn Apart: How the Child Welfare System Destroys Black Families—and How Abolition Can Build a Safer World by Dorothy Roberts

Award-winning scholar, Dorothy Roberts, exposes the foundational racism of the child welfare system and calls for radical change. Drawing on decades of research, legal scholar and sociologist, Roberts reveals that the child welfare system is better understood as a “family policing system” that collaborates with law enforcement and prisons to oppress Black communities. Child protection investigations ensnare

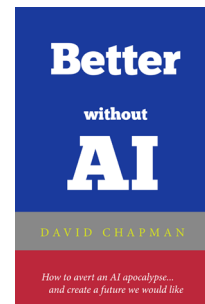
a majority of Black children, putting their families under intense state surveillance and regulation. The only way to stop the destruction caused by family policing, Torn Apart argues, is to abolish the child welfare system and liberate Black communities.



Renegade for Justice by Stephen Saltonstall

Renegade for Justice begins by telling the story of how and why a privileged kid from Cambridge, Massachusetts, broke from family tradition and devoted his professional life to defending the defenseless in a justice system that is crippled by systemic injustice. Saltonstall

writes not only for activists who want to better understand our society, but also for those thinking about becoming a lawyer. In a system biased against the public interest and the underprivileged, Saltonstall gives people a model for practicing values-based law.

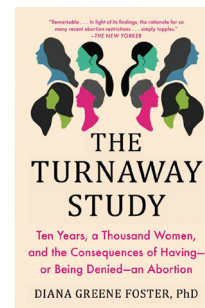


Better Without AI by David Chapman

We don’t know how our AI systems work, we don’t know what they can do, and we don’t know what broader effects they will have. They do seem startlingly powerful, and a combination of their power with our ignorance is dangerous.

David Chapman’s book helps people at all levels anticipate the possibilities with AI to steer away from an apocalypse—and perhaps toward a remarkably likeable future.

The Turnaway Study: Ten Years, a Thousand Women, and the Consequences of Having—or Being Denied—an Abortion by Diana Greene Foster



What happens when a woman seeking an abortion is turned away? To answer this question, Diana Greene Foster assembled a team of scientists—psychologists, epidemiologists, demographers, nurses, physicians, economists, sociologists, and public health researchers—to conduct a ten-year study. They followed a thousand women from across America, some of whom received abortions, some of whom were turned away. Now, for the first time, Dr. Foster presents the results of this landmark study in one extraordinary, groundbreaking book.



All Boys Aren't Blue by George M. Johnson

In a series of personal essays, prominent journalist and LGBTQIA+ activist George M. Johnson explores his childhood, adolescence, and college years in New Jersey and Virginia. From the memories of getting his teeth kicked out by bullies at age five, to flea marketing with

his loving grandmother, to his first sexual relationships, this young-adult memoir weaves together the trials and triumphs faced by Black queer boys.

