

The 160th Anniversary of the 13th Amendment: The Undeniable History

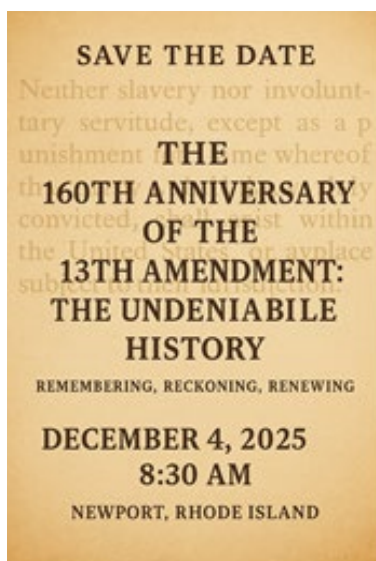
Thursday, December 4, 2025
8:30 AM – 5:30 PM
Salve Regina University, Newport, RI

This year marks the 160th anniversary of the ratification of the landmark 13th Amendment – a defining moment in U.S. Constitutional history that officially abolished slavery and reshaped law; and an Amendment that still resonates in our courts today.

Join us for a special educational event for judges, attorneys, law clerks, legal scholars, law students, and members of the public. This engaging full-day program will feature an interactive agenda including world renown constitutional scholars, legal historians, judicial officers, and thought-provoking panel discussions that will address the impact of the 13th Amendment on our judicial system today and the ongoing struggle for racial justice in this country.

Program Highlights include:

- Keynote address by civil rights lawyer and scholar Sherrilyn Ifill.
- Conversations on the importance of remembering slavery and the local connection to the Transatlantic slave trade.
- Powerful storytelling and historical reflection.
- Expert panel on the legal and economic legacy of the 13th Amendment.
- Opportunities for community dialogue and engagement about where we go from here.



[**ADD TO CALENDAR**](#)

Sponsored by U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island; U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts; R.I. Committee on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts; Flaschner Judicial Institute; Ruth J. Simmons Center for the Study of Slavery & Justice at Brown University; The Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy at Salve Regina, R.I. Chapter of the Federal Bar Association; Justice Harry J. Elam Judicial Conference