

Approved by the  
Regents  
May 21, 2015

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
COLLEGE OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND THE ARTS

Martha S. Jones, associate professor of history, with tenure, and associate professor of Afroamerican and African studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of history, with tenure, and professor of Afroamerican and African studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2001	Columbia University
J.D.	1987	City University of New York School of Law
B.A.	1984	Hunter College

Professional Record:

2013 – present	Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, University of Michigan
2011 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan
2007 – present	Associate Professor, Department of History, and Adjunct Associate Professor, Law School, University of Michigan
2007 – 2011	Associate Professor, Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan
2006 – 2007	Visiting Professor, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales
2004 – 2007	Adjunct Assistant Professor, School of Law, University of Michigan
2001 – 2007	Assistant Professor, Department of History and the Center for Afroamerican and African Studies (CAAS), University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Jones has an accomplished teaching record in the Departments of History and Afroamerican and African Studies, and in the Law School. Her course offerings have focused on various dimensions of the history of race, law, and gender in the United States. That teaching is an area of strength for Professor Jones is evident in her student evaluations, which reveal a high level of performance. Her distinction as a teacher was recognized with the award of an Arthur F. Thurnau Professorship in 2013. Her pedagogical contributions reach beyond the domains of her formal appointments to include other forms of publicly engaged and visible pedagogy, including the LSA “Understanding Race” theme semester (2012) and exhibits she has curated at the Clements Library.

Research – Professor Jones is a scholar with a national and international reputation in the fields of race, law, and gender in U.S. history. Since her promotion to tenure, she has achieved a highly productive publishing record. Her first book was a path-breaking study of the world of activism in the 1800s in which gender and racial struggles were thoroughly integrated for African-American women. Her second book, Birthright Citizens, is under consideration for the Studies in Legal History Series at Cambridge University Press and offers a bold reinterpretation of the history of citizenship and the rights of free people of color in the antebellum United States. Professor Jones has published numerous peer-reviewed articles in the leading journals of law and

history and in highly visible essay collections. Several of these outline her third book project on Atlantic history during the era of the Haitian revolution and the early American republic.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Birthright Citizens: A History of Race and Rights in Antebellum America, Cambridge University Press, under review.

Toward an Intellectual History of Black Women, with M. Bay, et al. (co-eds), University of North Carolina Press, forthcoming 2015.

"All Bound Up Together:" The Woman Question in African-American Public Culture, 1830-1900, University of North Carolina Press, 2007.

"Proclaiming Emancipation," guest editor of the *Journal of the Civil War Era*, 3(4), 2013.

Service – Professor Jones is and has served as associate chair of Afroamerican and African Studies (2012-2013, 2014-2016). She also co-directs the Program in Race, Law, and History at the Law School. She has co-chaired LSA's "Understanding Race" theme semester (2012) and is serving on a search committee for the director of the Center for Research on Learning and Teaching (CRLT). In the Department of History, Professor Jones has served on tenure and promotion committees and chaired a search committee in North American religions.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

"Perhaps it was obvious that the publication of All Bound Up Together would lead Professor Jones to a central place in African American women's history. What was not so obvious, at least to me, was that Jones' interest in citizenship would expand into a concentration on legal history, propelling her into an important figure in that field."

Reviewer (B)

"Martha is a prolific scholar of the social and intellectual history of African Americans and of African American legal history in the nineteenth century. I believe her to be the most creative legal historian of the United States in operation today, which is a title for which there is some stiff competition."

Reviewer (C)

"Professor Jones has earned a remarkable, national reputation as a path-breaking, field-defining scholar in legal history and, more specifically, in slavery studies, race-making, and memory making in the nineteenth-century Atlantic World. Her decidedly interdisciplinary approach encompasses women's history, feminist theoretical engagements with sexual violence, work on memory and monuments, visual culture, and of course, slavery and the law. It is rare that a single scholar could master such distinct approaches and fields of inquiry."

Reviewer (D)

"She has become a prominent figure in the fields of legal history, slavery studies, and Atlantic history and has been grappling with some of the central questions that have preoccupied historians of race, slavery and citizenship for several decades. ... Her ability to weave local social realities, contested historical accounts, courthouse practices, and legal texts and traditions

into coherent narratives is outstanding and worth emulating. It is the sort of work that our students need to read.”

Reviewer (E)

“Birthright Citizens...actually builds on the intellectual framework of her first book, although the topic might first glance seem quite different. Both projects are based in rich archival research. But what Jones does analytically with that archival material is the most impressive: she uses it to recast familiar historical and historiographical issues.”

Reviewer (F)

“I would characterize Professor Jones’s [sic] scholarly accomplishments as ‘excellent.’ She has, without question, demonstrated evidence of ‘progress in an outstanding research program’. ... What is especially impressive and, extremely important, is that Jones’s work on race and slavery moves beyond the boundaries of the United States and invites consideration of these matters in a global context.”

Reviewer (G)

“Martha is a public intellectual in the best sense of the word: a true scholar and intellectual, with fierce commitments to justice and knowledge, and a beautiful way with words that makes her work accessible to millions rather than mere hundreds or thousands.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Jones is a highly regarded scholar whose wide-ranging work represents important contributions to her fields of research. She has distinguished herself as a highly successful teacher and as a generous contributor to service in her two units. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Martha S. Jones be promoted to the rank of professor of history, with tenure, and professor of Afroamerican and African Studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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Andrew D. Martin  
Dean, and Professor of Political Science  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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