

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

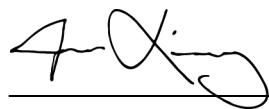
**Matthew J. Countryman, Ph.D.**, associate professor of history and associate professor of Afroamerican and African studies in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2024.

Professor Countryman received his Ph.D. in history from Duke University in 1999. He joined the Departments of History and American Culture in 1998 as an assistant professor, and was promoted to the rank of associate professor in 2005. In 2019, Professor Countryman shifted the American culture portion of his appointment to Afroamerican and African studies.

Professor Countryman is an exceptional scholar, teacher, and leader. He is a leading scholar of social movements, liberalism, politics, and Black history in the 20th-century U.S. His prize-winning book *Up South: Civil Rights and Black Power in Philadelphia* (2006), is groundbreaking in its examination of grassroots, civil rights organizing. *Up South* helped usher in a wave of scholarship that expanded and changed our understanding of the civil rights movement by focusing on the urban North. Professor Countryman has also led the way in producing publicly engaged scholarship that merges research, education, and activism. He has collaborated on numerous historical exhibits and public collaborations, including one documenting the origins of the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies at the University of Michigan and another narrating the history of the Black community in Washtenaw County. Professor Countryman has excelled as an administrator, serving as chair of the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies, directing the pioneering Arts of Citizenship Program, and co-chairing LSA's Anti-Racism Task Force. He received the Harold R. Johnson Diversity Service Award, in recognition of his leadership. He has also been an award-winning instructor and an award-winning mentor deeply committed to supporting faculty and students.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar and teacher by naming **Matthew J. Countryman, associate professor emeritus of history and associate professor emeritus of Afroamerican and African studies.**

**Requested by:**



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**Jon Kinsey**  
Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2024