White by Law
Praise for the 1st edition of **White by Law**

As Ian F. Haney López shows in *White by Law: The Legal Construction of Race*, immigrants recognized the value of whiteness and sometimes petitioned the courts to be recognized as white. Through an analysis of the ‘prerequisite cases’ in the 19th and 20th centuries, López argues for the centrality of law in constructing race.”
—*Village Voice Literary Supplement*

“This book is remarkable for sheer information value, but draws its analytic power from the emphasis on Whiteness to make sense of racial oppression. . . . Haney López convincingly demonstrates that the United States is ideologically White not by accident but by design. . . . a provocative and worthwhile volume, highly recommended for graduate students and faculty.”
—*Choice*

“Haney López shares with us an historical narrative, one that few contemporary Americans know. It is a narrative about citizenship and racism. . . . Those who want to pretend that racism is nothing but a ghost from a distant past must ignore history. The work of legal historians like Haney López and books like *White by Law* make it harder to indulge in this delusion of a color-blind society. This alone makes the book a worthy read.”
—*Buffalo Law Review*

“Haney López has written a great book. *White by Law: The Legal Construction of Race* deserves the highest praise that his colleagues in the academy can give a scholarly study: sympathetic readers and reviewers may be prompted to say, ‘I wish I’d written that.’ Haney López’s book is perhaps one of the finest works yet produced by the Critical Race Theory (CRT) movement.”
—*Asian Law Journal*

“Demonstrating the complexities of race relation is where *White by Law* begins, not ends. . . . Haney López has blazed a trail for those exploring the legal and social constructions of race in the United States.”
—*Berkeley Women’s Law Journal*
“White by Law . . . drives home how race has been legally constructed, consciously and unconsciously, with great clarity and force. [Haney López’s] normative argument is equally compelling. A fine contribution to important debates.”
—The American Journal of Legal History

“While his research is based upon the technicalities of legal cases, this book never becomes bogged down in law-review prose. This examination of the legal construction of ‘race’ is an important contribution to contemporary debates about the role of Whites in American racism.”
—Contemporary Sociology

“Unreservedly recommended as integral to the reading list of the so-called ethnic studies programs. Of course, the general critical reader is also invited to take a sumptuous bite.”
—New York Amsterdam News

“A fascinating, useful book about race in American society. It should be required reading for anyone interested in the current immigration debate, but it is also an important, original contribution to critical race theory.”
—Duncan Kennedy, Harvard Law School

“With a clear and lucid style, Haney López takes us to the cutting edge of race theory: the construction of whiteness. . . . His book is unsettling, thought-provoking, and iconoclastic.”
—Angela Harris, University of California, Berkeley

“An important contribution to our understanding of the role the law has played in the social architecture of race, race consciousness, and specifically white race consciousness in American life.”
—Gerald Torres, University of Texas, Austin

“Ian F. Haney López performs a major service for anyone truly interested in understanding contemporary debates over racial and ethnic politics. He thoroughly investigates and illuminates centuries of legal interpretation of the term ‘white,’ a trait required for so long before a noncitizen could attain citizenship in the United States. By documenting an enduring judicial resistance to evidence—whether founded in admittedly problematic expert claims or in empirical observations—White by Law exposes the dangerous power of prejudice given the force of law. This is a sobering and crucial lesson for a society committed to equality and fairness.”
—Martha Minow, Harvard Law School
Critical America
General Editors: RICHARD DELGADO and JEAN STEFANCIC

White by Law: The Legal Construction of Race by Ian Haney López, originally published in 1996, was the inaugural book in the Critical America series. For a complete list of titles in the series, please visit the New York University Press website at www.nyupress.org.
White by Law

The Legal Construction of Race

Revised and Updated
10th Anniversary Edition

Ian Haney López

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY PRESS
New York and London
To my family
Terrence Eugene Haney
Maria Daisy López de Haney
and
Garth Mark Haney
with love.
Then, what is white?
—Ex parte Shahid