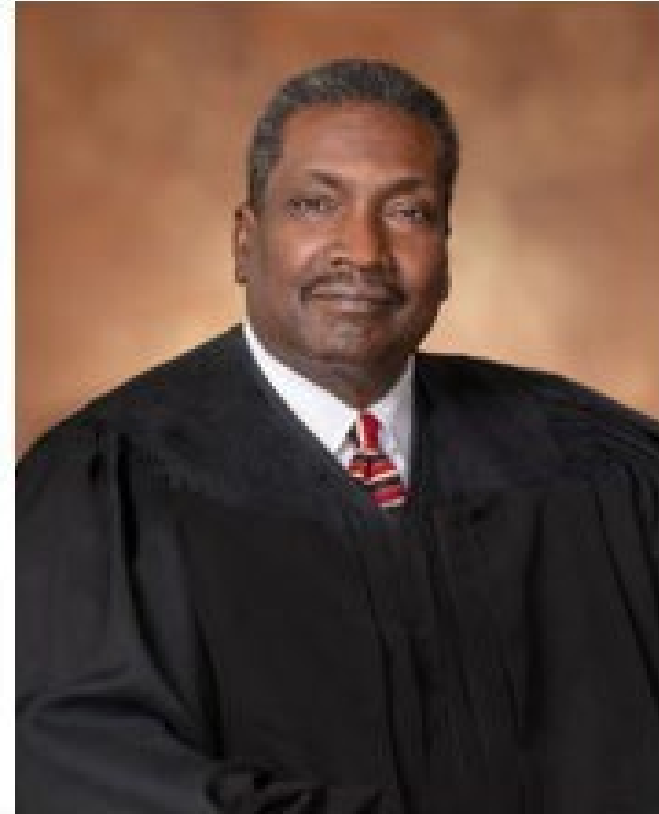


# Freedom Suits in Missouri

Hosted by:

The Association of Corporate Counsel  
Social Justice Coalition Committee  
February 25, 2022



Speaker: Hon. Judge David C. Mason

# Social Justice Coalition

*A Committee of the Association of Corporate Counsel-St. Louis*

## *OUR MISSION –*

- to promote diversity and inclusiveness within the ACC through open access and opportunity;
- to encourage ACC members to educate themselves in social justice principles;
- to provide a forum for ACC members to discuss social justice issues and voice concerns; and
- to participate in activities that support social justice policies and foster a diverse and inclusive community.

# Timeline



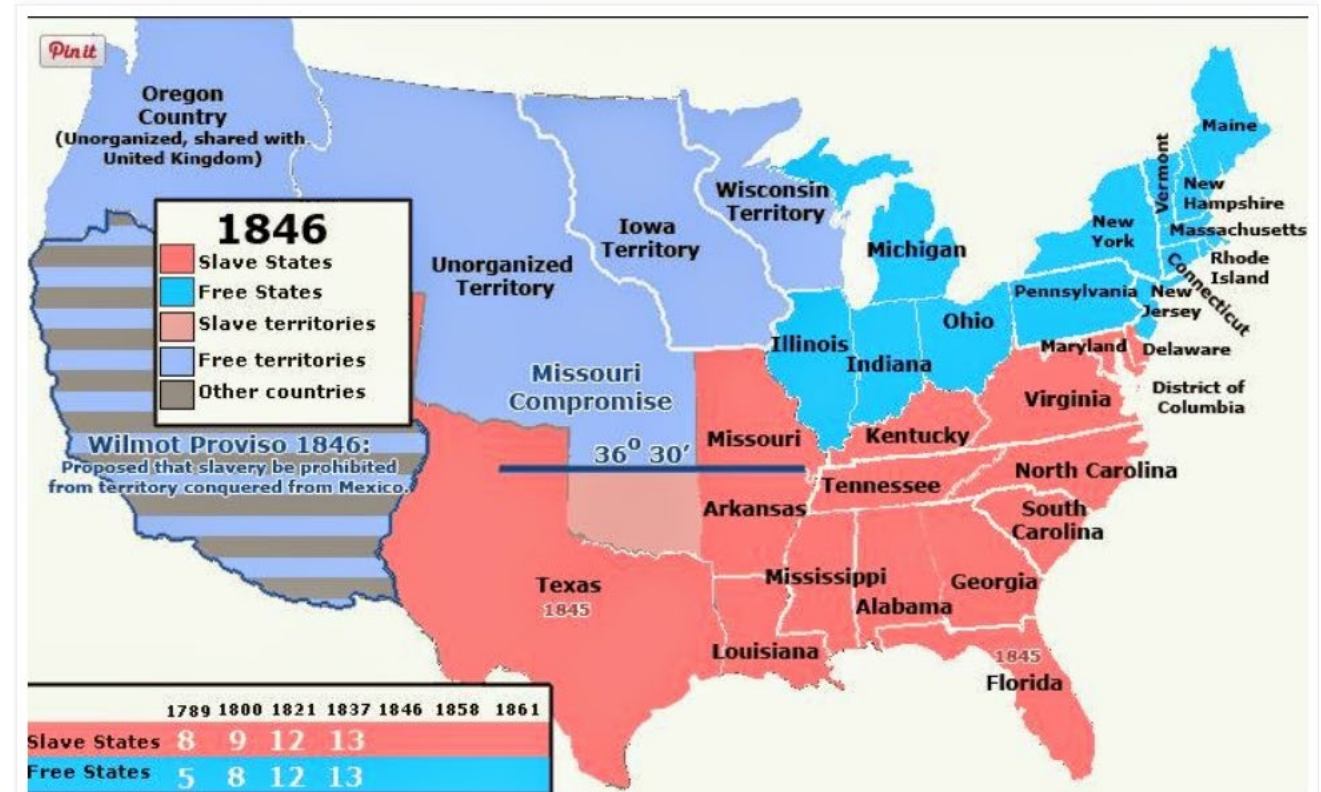
*This image of Dred and Harriet Scott was taken from [news.stlpublicradio.org](http://news.stlpublicradio.org)*

- 1803 Louisiana Purchase
- 1819 Missouri Compromise
- 1847 Dred and Harriet Scott file suit
- 1852 U.S. Supreme Court  
Scott v. Sanford decision
- 1862 Emancipation Proclamation

# Freedom Suits

- How did we learn about them?
- How many?
- Reasons for the suits
  - Taken to territory not allowed by law
  - Wrongly held after being freed
  - Mother was not legally a slave
- Challenges for litigants
- Role of judges and lawyers

This image of slave states in 1846 was taken from <https://upfront.ngsgenealogy.org>



# Freedom Suits Memorial Project

- The Sculpture
  - Sculptor Preston Jackson
  - Unveiling Ceremony June 20, 2022
- Virtual Learning Center
- Freedom Suits Memorial Foundation  
501(c)(3) (pending)

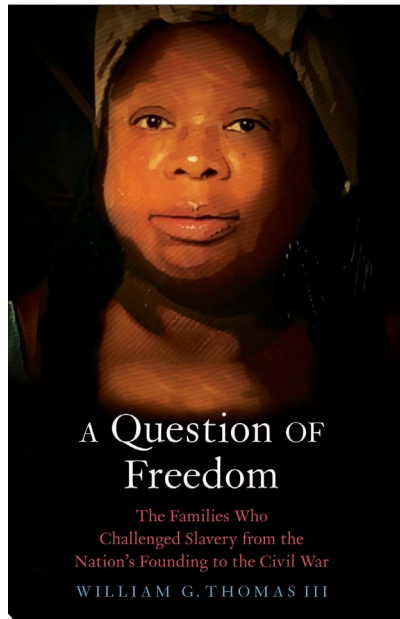


*This picture of Preston Jackson and memorial sculpture was taken from the [stlouisbarfoundation.org](http://stlouisbarfoundation.org) website*

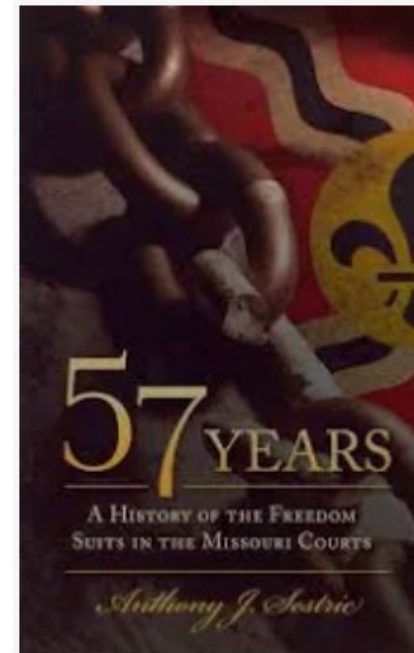
To learn more:

[STLOUISBARFOUNDATION.ORG](https://STLOUISBARFOUNDATION.ORG)

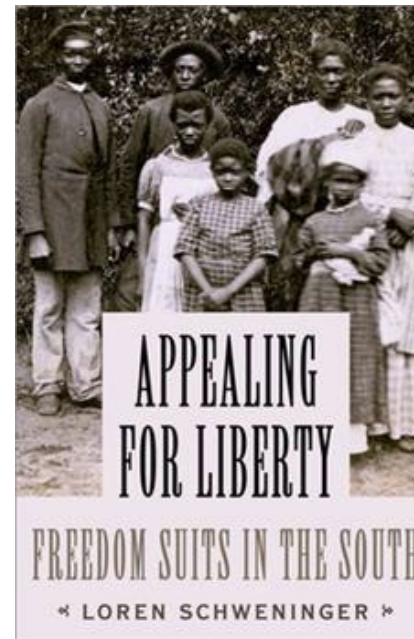
# Related Literature:



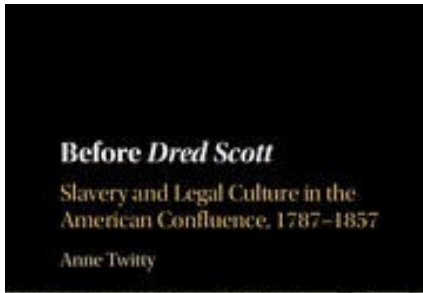
A Question of Freedom:  
The Families Who  
Challenged Slavery from  
the Nation's Founding to  
the Civil War (William G.  
Thomas III)



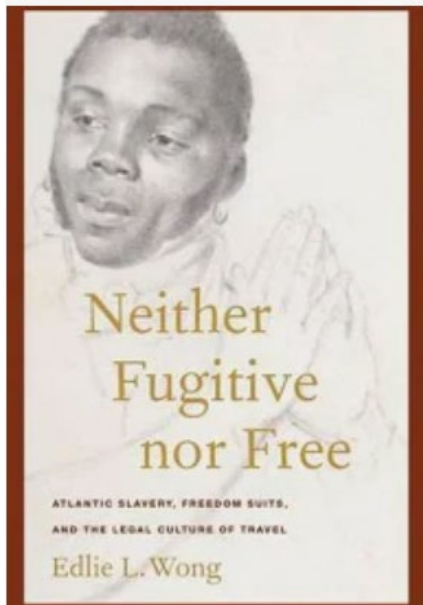
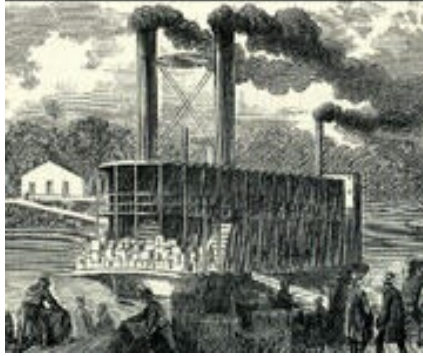
57 Years: A History of the  
Freedom Suits in the Missouri  
Courts (Anthony Sestric)



Appealing for Liberty:  
Freedom Suits in the South  
(Loren Schweningen)



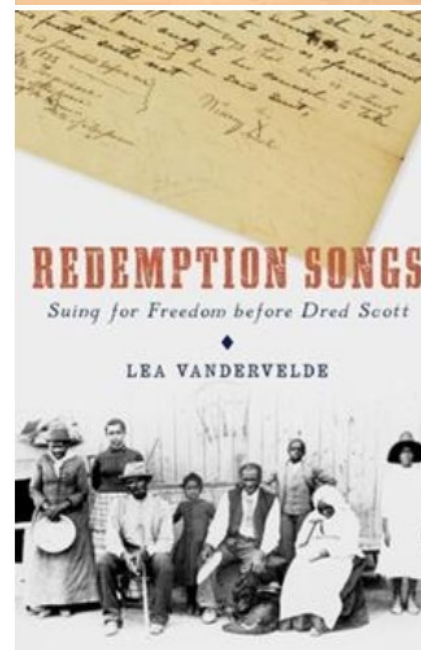
Before Dredd Scott:  
Slavey and Legal Culture  
in the American  
Confluence, 1787-18-57  
(Anne Twitty)



Neither Fugitive nor  
Free: Atlantic Slavery,  
Freedom Suits, and  
the Legal Culture of  
Travel (Edlie L. Wong)



In the Shadow of Dredd Scott:  
St. Louis Freedom Suits and the  
Legal Culture of Slavery in  
Antebellum America (Kelly M.  
Kennington)



Redemption Songs: Singing  
for Freedom before Dredd  
Scott (Lea Vandervelde)