

# ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

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**Frank J. Williams** is the retired Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island and is one of the country's most renowned experts on Abraham Lincoln. He is the author or editor of over thirteen books, he has contributed chapters to several others, and has lectured on the subject throughout the country. At the same time, he has amassed an unsurpassed private library and archive that ranks among the nation's largest and finest Lincoln collections. In 2000, the Chief Justice was appointed to the United States Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission created by Congress to plan events to commemorate the 200th birthday of Abraham Lincoln in 2009. Since 1996, Chief Justice Williams has served as founding Chairman of The Lincoln Forum, a national assembly of Lincoln and Civil War devotees. For 9 years, he served as President of the Abraham Lincoln Association and, for 14 years, as President of The Lincoln Group of Boston. He is currently at work on an annotated bibliography of all the Lincoln titles published since 1865. His book of essays, *Judging Lincoln*, was published by Southern Illinois University Press in 2002. He, with Harold Holzer and Edna Greene Medford, has written *The Emancipation Proclamation: Three Views, Social, Legal and Pictorial* published by Louisiana State University Press. His *Lincoln Lessons*, with William D. Pederson, was published for the Lincoln bicentennial in 2009 by Southern Illinois University Press. He also serves as Literary Editor of the *Lincoln Herald* where his Lincolnia appears.

On December 30, 2003, the President of the United States, through the Secretary of Defense, invited Chief Justice Williams to be a member of the Court of Military Commission Review for the tribunals to be held in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba with the rank of Major General. He served as Chief Judge of the re-organized U. S. Court of Military Commission Review until December 23, 2009.

Nicole Dulude Esq. assisted in the production of the essay and supporting materials for the topic of Civil Liberties During the Civil War.