

## Brief Bio:

Raymond Arsenault is the John Hope Franklin Professor of Southern History emeritus at the University of South Florida. Educated at Princeton and Brandeis, he is one of the nation's leading civil rights historians and the author of several widely acclaimed and prize-winning books, including *Freedom Riders: 1961 and the Struggle for Racial Justice* (2006), *The Sound of Freedom: Marian Anderson, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Concert That Awakened America* (2009), and *Arthur Ashe, A Life* (2018). His most recent book, published in January 2024 as a volume in Yale University Press's new Black Lives series, is *John Lewis: In Search of the Beloved Community*. The 2011 PBS *American Experience* documentary *Freedom Riders*, based on his book, won three Emmys and a George Peabody Award. He has also served as a consultant for numerous civil rights museums and documentary film projects, including the 2022 PBS *American Masters* documentary *Marian Anderson: The Whole World in Her Hands*. He lives in St. Petersburg, Florida.