

**HISTORY IS ALWAYS
TEACHING.
IT'S TIME WE LISTEN.**

**CONVERSATIONS, HISTORY-BASED
PRESENTATIONS, KEYNOTES,
PANELS, BOOK TALKS**



Cleo Scott Brown

Change Agent and  Award-Winning Author
on Racial Division and **Voter Disenfranchisement**

*History-Based Talks & Writings Designed
for Understanding, Introspection, and Transformation*

- ☒ Race Relations
- ☒ Voting Rights
- ☒ Inspiring History
- ☒ Race-based Social Injustice

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ABOUT CLEO

IN DEMAND SPEAKER



Cleo Scott Brown's gift is simplifying the complex. Using history and storytelling, Cleo's thought-provoking presentations and writings connect heart and head, creating a deeper understanding of the complexities of race relations. Cleo is a welcome voice in a world of information delivered for shock and likes, offering conversations to cause one to ponder rather than react, to replace anger or guilt with meaningful actions. Cleo's current focus is the all-important but regularly changing topic of voter disenfranchisement.

From cross-burnings and death threats while her parents were involved in a federal voting rights case, to Jim Crow, school and corporate integration, Cleo has personally experienced much. Weaving in her stories and her parents' story as she recorded in "Witness to the Truth" (University of South Carolina Press), a River Reads summer read selection, she presents a history filled with wisdom and answers to questions that plague America today. She is also the author of "Raceology 101" and has written commentaries on race for the Charleston Post & Courier. She is active in community-wide race work in Charleston, SC and owns History Matters Institute.

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Cleo Scott Brown

Speaker/Award Winning Author/Change Agent

About Me

CLEO is a national speaker and writer and workshop leader who focuses on issues of racial understanding and voting. She specializes in using history to generate meaningful, insightful discussions that lead to introspection, which is necessary for change. She is a welcome thought-provoking speaker in a day of information delivered for reaction rather than understanding. She is the author of "Witness to the Truth" (University of South Carolina Press) and "Raceology 101", first-place winner in the 2018 National Federation of Press Women Non-Fiction Book competition.



Speaking Services

"Experience is the best teacher, but she charges heavily for her services." – Anonymous, 1895

We can keep making the same mistakes or we can learn the lessons history was recorded to teach.

Conversations with Cleo

A conversation on a Hot Topic (see below), discussed in the context of history, brings clarity to how we got here and the mind and heart shift that must take place to get where we need to go.

History-Based Presentations & Book Talks

Interesting & inspiring history that explains what is happening today and more importantly, why, so that audiences can make better choices for tomorrow.

Keynotes

Black History Month & Dr. King Day events for schools, churches, corporations, governmental organizations, etc. that inspire, encourage, and provide answers. Cleo is also available for other Black History talks related to voting rights and the Jim Crow era.

Hot Topics

Voter Disenfranchisement: A Clear & Present Danger ~ The Last Jim Crow Generation: The High Cost of Silencing History
Affirmative Action & the Supreme Court: Dressing A Pig in A Pretty Dress

Sample Clients



A powerful
impression on all of
us who heard you.
*Faculty Member,
Tulane University*

Get in Touch

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Past Client REVIEWS

You moved me SO!!! ...I was delighted to hear that the same was true for my colleague....many decades span between us ... That you could reach us both - move us both - at those far away distances, speaks everything of your gift!

ATTORNEY
OPENING KEYNOTE, LA JUSTICE COMMUNITY
CONFERENCE/LA BAR ASSOCIATION

Because of your thought-provoking information, intimate revelations of real-life experiences, coupled with empowering words of hope, our lives have been changed.

PASTOR, NORTH CHARLESTON
BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPEAKER

You give people hope that whatever people go through, they can make it.

LETTER FROM TEEN INCARCERATED AT THE
SC JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

Great class! Everyone should have this class!

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT, FIRST STEPS EARLY
CHILDHOOD EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

Your presentation provoked more discussion after the event than most of the programs we have had in the past.

RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE, EPISCOPAL CHURCH

What others are saying...

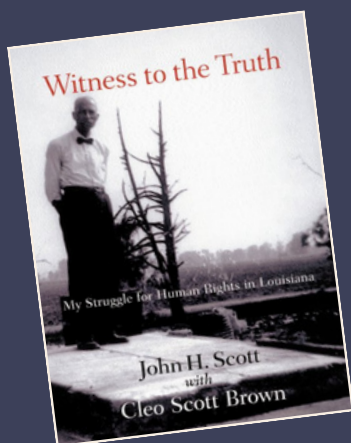
TRANSFORMATIVE WRITER

SIMPLIFYING THE COMPLEXITIES OF RACIAL DIVISION & VOTER SUPPRESSION

WITNESS TO THE TRUTH (A River Reads Summer Read Selection, University of South Carolina Press)

A recording of Cleo's father's life and his 25 year crusade to gain the right to vote.

He tells a story of almost 100 years of life in an almost all-black parish where Blacks seemed to thrive mostly in isolation from whites yet since Reconstruction, no Blacks had been allowed to vote. Cleo's father, a little known minister and farmer, took his fight to Washington where his 1962 win for voting rights opened doors for many more to also begin voting, teaching others the power of ordinary people who decide they will not accept things as they have always been.

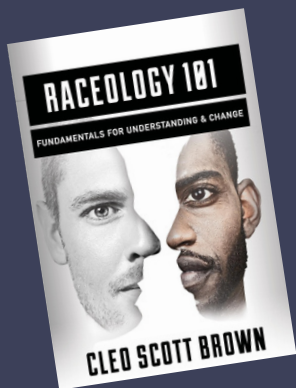


CHARLESTON POST & COURIER

"This book is so well written...it is difficult to put it down...in a simple but profound fashion, Scott explains the rationale behind segregation and its psychological effects on whites and blacks, which is a key factor in understanding today's racial problems."

MINISTER, MINNESOTA

This is absolutely the greatest book I have ever read other than the Bible. It should be on every bookshelf in America... Only a couple of books have altered the direction of my life, this is one of them.



Raceology 101: Fundamentals for Understanding & Change (Includes free downloadable Discussion Starters for each essay)

FIRST PLACE WINNER Non-Fiction Category, National Federation of Press Women

A compilation of essays that address and illuminate fundamental issues impeding progress in race relations today. Essays are based on recurring questions, issues, misinformation, and attitudes about race that Cleo found regularly derailed meaningful discussions.

Available for Book Talks OR Talks in conjunction with a Voter Suppression Workshop--A Clear & Present Danger

HOT TOPICS/QUESTIONS

GENERAL

- Your background is risk management. How did you come to write this historical account?
- Tell us about your latest project on race and religion.



PERSONAL EXPERIENCES IN THE JIM CROW SOUTH

- Many issues are covered in 100 years of "Witness to the Truth". What are some principal issues addressed?
- Tell us about your home in the majority-black Louisiana delta. How was it different from many other places?
- Your book says your dad was raised by people who lived during slavery. How could that be and what did he say that was like?
- You wrote a post on LinkedIn called "OMG! The Last Jim Crow Generation is In Charge!" What was Jim Crow and why was it more dangerous to grow up toward the end of that era? How has unaddressed issues impacted today?

VOTING RIGHTS & WRONGS

- Black people in much of the South were not allowed to vote until the late 1960s. How were they prevented from voting if the 15th Amendment said that people couldn't be denied the right to vote based on race?
- How did your area get the right to vote before much of the south, without major protests?
- You and your family suffered many retaliations for your parents trying to vote. What was that like for a child and how has it informed your writing?
- Many people take their right to vote for granted. Why is voting so important that people will deceive and even kill people to keep them from voting?
- How did the 1965 Voting Rights Act solve most of the voting issues for Black people?
- What has happened since the 2013 Supreme Court decision gutting the Act?
- What can be done to fix the problem?
- How do you feel looking at voting rights as they stand now?

HAVING PRODUCTIVE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACE

- You were involved in doing critical race-related work in Charleston after the massacre at Mother Emanuel. What are some valuable lessons you learned about having conversations?
- Share your experiences at the CRT Ban hearings and what you learned.

**CLEO IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS & CONVERSATIONS ON
VOTING RIGHTS (& WRONGS) & ADDRESSING THE RACIAL DIVIDE**

BOOKING

LET'S CONNECT!

Thank you for considering
Cleo Scott Brown
for your next speaking event!



CONTACT INFORMATION:



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