

Campaign To End Qualified Immunity

Monday, July 12, 2021

12:15 PM EDT

This campaign is a coalition of business leaders, creative artists, athletes, advocates and lawyers dedicated to ending qualified immunity. The campaign seeks to educate by sharing stories of people who have been harmed by public servants and qualified immunity in order to build demand for accountability.

Ben Cohen,

Co-founder and Co-chair of the Campaign To End Qualified Immunity

Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream

Missing in Action: The Critical Role of Forensic Science in Criminal Justice Reform Efforts

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The Black community has historically experienced a strained relationship with the police, due to racial profiling, police brutality and poor police-community relations, however, the frequency of the recent onslaught of black male deaths occurring during police encounters have reached a fever pitch. Around the nation, there have been calls to action for unprecedented policing reforms ranging from support for defunding the police and revamping police training programs to the banning choke-holds and “no knock warrants” in a push for greater police accountability, transparency and racial justice. However, missing from the media coverage, town hall forums, and legislative discussions is the vital role of forensic science in investigating crime scene improprieties and suspected abuse of power or excessive force incidents, leading to the death. The importance of using reliable forensic science practices and ensuring the integrity of forensic evidence in cases of suspected police wrongdoing, should not be overlooked when discussing a path moving forward. After this talk, attendees will better understand the intersectionality of forensic science and the criminal justice system. They will also learn considerations and measures that should be taken to ensure transparency and the integrity of criminal investigations.

Jasmine Drake, Ph.D.,

Associate Professor

Texas Southern University

New Innovative Ways and Strategies to Assist the Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Positively

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We will discuss the new innovative ways to implement programming to ensure that those who are impacted by the criminal justice system are getting true justice. True justice is simply rehabilitation. We will introduce the innovative interactive audio book digital program that can provide those who are transitioning back into society the information to adjust and be successful that is needed. The interactive audio digital book program has been developed from each one of Mr. Carlos M. Christian's books that was written to give the guidance to those who are returning back into society or has already been released.

Carlos M. Christian,
President
The Starts Within Organization

Unintended Consequences of a Menthol Cigarette Ban Fake News vs. The Facts

Monday, July 12, 2021

2:45:00 PM EDT

This session will address recent legislation proposed on the Federal, State and Municipal levels to ban the sale of menthol cigarettes. Since more than 85% of African Americans who choose to smoke prefer menthol cigarettes, the legislative proposals will have a disproportionate impact in black communities and on law enforcement professionals who protect and serve those communities. The panel discussion will not only explore the unintended consequences of the proposed legislation but also provide alternatives to reduce smoking among African American adults and to prevent youth from initiating smoking.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.,
President & CEO
National Newspaper Publishers Association

Deputy Chief Wayne P. Harris (Ret.)
Rochester Police Department

Trooper Elliot Boyce
New York State Guardians Black State Troopers

Deputy Inspector Corey Pegues (Ret.)
NYPD

Sgt. Anthony Miranda (Ret.)
NYPD

Terri McGee
National Chairperson, NABCJ

Broken Bars

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2:45:00 PM EDT

Interactive presentation and discussion regarding our national correctional system at both the adult and juvenile levels. This presentation will take a brief dive into the origins of the prison system and fast forward to the modern era - Broken Bars. A correctional system lauded for profit-margins and struggling in the areas of rehabilitation, mental awareness, job-training, and the heralded return to society. The term broken bars refers to not only the physical bars within our correctional institutions, but also the bars of society and the governance of those perceived as less than.

Xavier D. Perry, MPA,
*Public Assistance Grants Administrator
Texas Division of Emergency Management*

Transformational Leadership: Fostering Accountability, Transparency, Change in Culture and Staff wellness to Positively Impact Correctional Environment.

Monday, July 12, 2021

2:45:00 PM EDT

Transparency in the criminal justice system engages stakeholders, promotes accountability and increases trust and support for initiatives and program implementation. Illinois Department of Corrections Director Rob L. Jeffreys shares the department's core values, expectations, systems-wide implementation and how a robust staff wellness program positively impacts prison culture. Purpose: The unique field of corrections has historically struggled with overcoming negative perception as it relates to our employees, incarcerated individuals and overall culture. During this workshop we will share the importance of accountability and transparency in the criminal justice system and how incorporating a hearty staff wellness plan impacts positive employee outcomes. Take Aways Participants are expected to leave with an understanding of transformational leadership and embracing core values including transparency and accountability. In addition, they will learn how staff wellness strategies can positively impact culture in correctional settings.

Rob L. Jeffreys,
*Director
Illinois Department of Corrections*
Marcus Hardy, Deputy Director

Bridging Black and Blue: A Pathway Toward Police Transparency and Accountability

Monday, July 12, 2021

4:15:00 PM EDT

Wednesday, May 26, 2021, marked the anniversary of the public lynching of Mr. George Floyd at the hands of Derrick Chauvin and the Minneapolis Police Department. Even still, countless other lives of color, to include, but are not limited to, Isaiah Brown, Andrew Brown, Anthony Alvarez, and Ma'Khia Bryant are disproportionately erased from human consciousness by the actions and inactions of law enforcement. The collective sense of race-based trauma and dehumanizing injustice associated with such killings warrant comprehensible and empirically sound solutions and responses. From the standpoint of critical race theory, proposed solutions toward police reform should be aimed at dismantling structural racism and systemic bias which exercise dominance over Black life and the lives of other marginalized groups. As such, steps toward greater transparency and accountability within law enforcement must include illuminating the salient presence of racism, removing when necessary officers who do not represent the best of the profession, holding officers accountable for human rights violations, and increasing police force diversity. In addition to these institutional reforms, law enforcement and communities must work together to rebuild and strengthen mutual trust, increase positive non-enforcement engagement, and reconcile historical and present disconnects with a recognition of our common humanity. To this end, this workshop highlights how collaborative partnerships driven by critical discourse and action-oriented community engagement can begin to chart a new path toward greater collective efficacy and public safety. Under the leadership of Drs. Randy Nelson and Kideste Yusef and the involvement of the Bethune-Cookman University student chapter of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (B-CU NABCJ), the synchronous work done by the Center for Law & Social Justice through its partnerships with law enforcement agencies, community residents and stakeholders, and civic and community organizations lays a foundation for advocating transparency in how justice is administered and accountability when the rights and liberties of citizens of color are threatened or undermined by police action and inaction.

Dr. Kideste Yusef,

*Assistant Director, Center for Law & Social Justice
Bethune-Cookman University*

Dr. Frank Wood

Bailey Williams, Student
Ronald Williams, Student

Law Enforcement: Reform vs Abolish

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4:15:00 PM EDT

This workshop session will engage in participants in current discussion regarding reducing the foot print of police officers in our community. Also, a discussion about re-investing in our non profit organization and social services agencies designed to deliver services that is presently taken care by the police agencies. Finally, a discussion about the quality of services in our community from the police as well as other parts of local government.

Ronald E. Hampton,
Police Officer
Retired Law Enforcement

Damon K. Jones, Blacks in Law Enforcement of America

Mental Health and the Depression of Teens Causing Suicidal Ideation: Is it in their DNA?

Monday, July 12, 2021

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The purpose of this workshop is to discuss the current state of mental health and the association of teen depression and suicide ideation which is present in approximately 20% of teens.

Statistics: Black females, grades 9-12, were 60 percent more likely to attempt suicide in 2019, as compared to non-Hispanic white females of the same age. In 2019, suicide was the second leading cause of death for blacks or African Americans, ages 15 to 24. Poverty level affects mental health status. Black or African Americans living below the poverty level, as compared to those over twice the poverty level, are twice as likely to report serious psychological distress. Learning Objectives and expected outcomes:

- 1) To identify ways to educate our teens on the many programs that offer assistance.
- 2) To collaborate on ideas with workshop attendees to identify suicide ideation and prevention.
- 3) To exploit what our teens are facing today, and develop a congressional call to action.

Robin A. Jones, PhD,
Vice President
PMO Office and Solutions, Inc.