

**From:** James Pitts Ph.D.  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2022 1:49 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Confirmation of your testimony at the AB 3121 Hearings on March 30, 2022 at 10:05 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Pacific Time

In short, I plan to discuss the way in which policing has historically been employed to manage minority (primarily Black) populations thereby resulting in higher numbers of negative police encounters (arrests, traffic stops, stop and frisk, police brutality). These police tactics have often been justified on a socioeconomic basis arguing crime is typically more prominent in areas of poverty. Interestingly, minorities most often reside in areas of poverty. As gatekeepers to the justice system, such arrest disparities result in higher likelihood of incarceration, criminal labeling, loss of government assistance, voting rights, etc. Stated differently, the War on Crime has been waged against minorities, targeting minorities ostensibly due to their economic inferiority or poverty, thus resulting in a system that perpetuates the economic oppression and inferiority of minorities, primarily Blacks. This economic oppression is perpetuated by criminal justice sanctions that make it more difficult to get jobs, incarceration interrupts income, criminal labels affect access to financial aid to enhance education, incarceration contributes to single parent homes/incomes, among other things. Stats indicate that Blacks (roughly 12.5% of the U.S. population) constitute more than half of the prison population and are substantially overrepresented with regards to incarceration for drug crimes despite research that indicates similarities among all races for drug use. The War on Drugs has similarly been fought in communities of color. Despite the major supply of drugs that comes from other countries, interdiction efforts to intercept international shipments of drugs constitute a mere fraction of government expenditures to remedy the problem.

I digress, essentially I am proposing two complex but interrelated arguments. First, the history of policing has targeted and criminalized Blacks in a manner that relegates them to being "slaves of the state" as mentioned in the 13th Amendment, thereby legally subjecting them to involuntary servitude through prison labor at higher frequencies than other races. Second, numerous policies (war on drugs, war on crime, war on poverty) have been applied in a discriminatory manner to perpetuate and exacerbate social inequities experienced by Blacks. Taken together, the combination of these two arguments illustrates not only why Blacks are deserving of reparations as descendants of slaves, but also the way in which slavery has been instituted by another name (criminal justice). This unfair system of justice has successfully oppressed generations of Blacks even in the aftermath of emancipation and continues to do so even today.

In conclusion, reparations would provide some degree of relief to at least remedy the socioeconomic burden of poverty that too often relegates Blacks to the poorest, most heavily policed communities. Reparations would help to provide opportunities for education at the highest levels and most prestigious schools. Among other things, reparations could result in such opportunities that enhance and promote equality in a more comprehensive manner.

Best regards,

James M. A. Pitts, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Criminology  
California State University Fresno

On Fri, Mar 18, 2022 at 1:59 PM Alecia Turner <[Alecia.Turner@doj.ca.gov](mailto:Alecia.Turner@doj.ca.gov)> wrote:

Dear Professor Pitts:

Thank you so much for agreeing to appear before the California Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans. This email is to CONFIRM your participation. Your testimony will be during the Criminal Justice System Panel which will be presenting on March 30, 2022, at 10:05 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Pacific Time. You will have no more than 12 minutes for your joint testimony/presentation.

**MEETING/PRESENTATION MATERIALS:**

Please send us a written statement or the materials you will use during your presentation no later than **Wednesday, March 23 by 5pm PST** which will be included in the Meeting Materials that will be provided to Taskforce Members and posted on the [DOJ website](#). We request that materials be submitted in final form by the deadline.

**TECH CHECK:**

On **Thursday, March 24 between 8am-4pm**, we will hold an open tech check. We will be using BlueJeans as our virtual meeting platform. Please download BlueJeans here: <https://www.bluejeans.com/downloads>.

To access the tech check on **Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> between 8am-4pm PST** please use this link: <https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/tswawayk>. We ask that you sign in anytime between 8am-4pm PST so that we can resolve any tech issues. **Please confirm that you will log into this tech check by replying to this email.**

Our team will run any presentation materials on your behalf. If your presentation materials are submitted by this time, we will also be able to share it and review it with you at this time. The tech check should take about 10 minutes of your time.

Important note: Please do not use Safari as your browser, other browsers such as Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge will work fine.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Please send us the best contact number to reach you on the day of your testimony in case any last minute issues arise.

I am your direct contact on the day of your testimony, my contact information is listed below. If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you,

**Alecia F. Turner**

Senior Legal Analyst

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