

Edition One

Queen Mary Criminal Justice Society

Attributes To Themis



In this Edition

- SOCIETY EVENTS
- BLACK HISTORY MONTH TRIBUTE
- WORK OPPORTUNITIES
- CURRENT FAVORITES
- RECENT NEWS STORIES

@qmcriminaljusticesociety



@qmcjs



Convicted by the Public



QM Criminal Justice Society



BLACK HISTORY MONTH EDITION

Society EVENTS



Criminal Justice Society
PUB DEBATE

TOPIC: TRICK OR TREAT SHOULD BE ILLEGAL AS IT CAUSES PROPERTY AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DAMAGE

LOCATION: WHITE HART PUB, E1 4TP
14TH NOVEMBER 6PM



Prison Adventures: Prison Tales from on Two Continents

Criminal Justice Society



Speaker:

**Professor Seán
McConville**



6:30pm

Start from 6:30 until the end



Date: 06 December 2023

Location: Bancroft 101

Learn about the experiences as a prison inspector and litigation specialist in the UK, US and Europe



Register now using
the link in our bio!



☀ Exciting News:

Join Us for a Black History Month Discussion Panel on the Challenges of Being a Person of Colour in the Legal Profession!

When: Tuesday 21st November at 6pm, in Bancroft 1.01

More Details to come... ✨

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Honoring the Past. Inspiring the Future.
Black History Month Special

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH



What is Black History Month ?

At the heart of October, the UK, like many other nations, celebrates Black History Month.

This annual celebration in October in the UK and in February in the USA and Canada highlights a legacy that is both remarkable and timeless and embodies the spirit of black culture.

Black History Month is not simply a temporal commemoration but an immersion into the heart and soul of the unshakeable spirit of the black community.

It is an opportunity to discover the bedrock of resilience and progress that has shaped the course of black history and society.

As we embark on this commemorative journey, we pay tribute to the pioneers who paved the way, the activists who demanded justice, and the remarkable figures whose contributions have written indelible chapters in black history. Their stories, their struggles and their achievements form the backbone of Black History Month.

In this tribute to Black History Month, we invite you to journey with us into the depths of this heritage, to pay tribute to those who have inspired and enabled progress, and to celebrate the ongoing quest for justice and equality.





BLACK HISTORY MONTH



The Origins of Black History Month ?

The origins of Black History Month go back to 1915, fifty years after the abolition of slavery by the Thirteenth Amendment in the United States.

That same year, the historian Carter G. Woodson and pastor Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH).

The association focuses on researching and promoting the accomplishments of Afro- Americans and people of African descent.

Now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), the group initiated a national Black History Week in 1926, choosing the second week of February to match the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. A week of celebration across the country

In the next few decades, many mayors across the country began issuing annual proclamations recognising "Negro History Week".

In the late 1960s, under the influence of the civil rights movement and a rising sense of black identity, Negro History Week evolved into Black History Month on numerous university campuses.

In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially recognised Black History Month encouraging the public to

"seize the opportunity to honour the too-often neglected achievements of black Americans in all fields of endeavour throughout our history".



BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Inspirational Figures: Paying Tribute to Black Icons



SHIRLEY CHISHOLM
(1924-2005)

Shirley Chisholm was a pioneering American politician. She made history as the first Black woman elected to the United States Congress in 1968.

Chisholm was a champion of civil rights and social justice, known for her fearless advocacy for marginalized communities.

In 1972, she further broke barriers by becoming the first woman to seek a major party's presidential nomination.



ROSA PARKS
(1913-2005)

Rosa Parks, a pivotal figure in the civil rights movement, is best known for her refusal to give up her bus seat to a white person in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955. This act of defiance sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a crucial event in the fight against racial segregation.



**MARTIN LUTHER
KING JR.**
(1929-1968)

His advocacy for nonviolent protest and racial equality was instrumental in achieving landmark legislation, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech, delivered during the 1963 March on Washington, remains a powerful symbol of the pursuit of justice and equality.



**THURGOOD
MARSHALL**
(1908-1993)

He was the first African American appointed to the United States Supreme Court in 1967. Prior to that, Marshall was a brilliant lawyer and advocate for civil rights, notably serving as legal counsel for the NAACP.

His most famous victory was the landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954, which led to the desegregation of public schools.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH



HARRIET TUBMAN
(1822-1913)

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery in the early 1820s, became a heroic figure in American history. She escaped slavery and subsequently made numerous perilous journeys to guide other enslaved individuals to freedom along the Underground Railroad, a network of safe houses and secret routes. She is known for her courage, resilience, and unwavering commitment to the abolitionist cause. Tubman also served as a nurse, cook, and spy during the Civil War and continued her advocacy for civil rights and women's suffrage.



**DOROTHY JOHNSON
VAUGHAN**
(1910-2008)

Dorothy Johnson Vaughan was a pioneering African-American mathematician and computer scientist. She made significant contributions to the early years of the U.S. space program, working for NASA at the Langley Research Center.

Vaughan's work in the segregated West Area Computing unit was instrumental in the success of the space agency's missions. She was a trailblazer for women and people of color in the field of science and technology, and her story gained greater recognition through the book and film "Hidden Figures."



RUBY BRIDGES
(BORN 1954)

In 1960, at the age of six, Ruby Bridges became one of the first African-American students to attend a previously all-white elementary school in New Orleans. Ruby passed by protesters every day, shouting insults at her.

Yet she never missed a day of school. Ruby became a lifelong civil rights campaigner and, in 1999, created the Ruby Bridges Foundation to fight racism and foster tolerance through education.



MAYA ANGELOU
(1928-2014)

Maya Angelou was a multifaceted American author, poet, and civil rights activist.

Her groundbreaking autobiography, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," is a classic in American literature, shedding light on her life experiences and struggles with racism and trauma.

Angelou's eloquent poetry and prose celebrated the strength and resilience of Black women. She was not only a literary giant but also a prominent voice in the fight for civil rights, using her words to inspire and uplift others.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HONOURABLE MENTIONS



Pop-Culture Black Icons

BEYONCÉ



KOEL ANTEY



MICHELLE



OBAMA

OPRAH



RU PAUL



USAIN BOLT



WITFREY



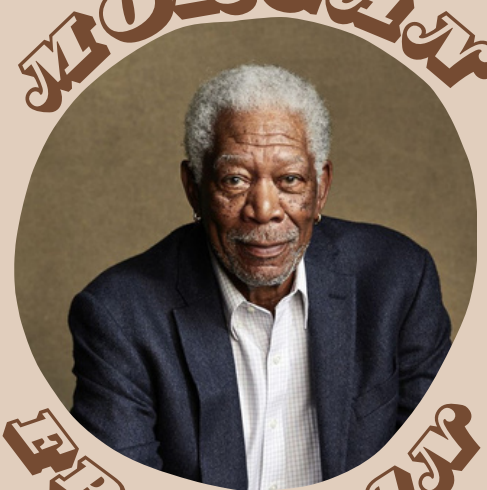
WHITNEY

BARACK



OBAMA

MORGAN



FREEMAN

And more...



BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Upholding the Civil Rights Legacy: Sustaining the Battle for Equality

Black History Month serves as a wondrous occasion to not only reflect upon the monumental achievements of the past but also to celebrate those who continue to uphold the enduring legacy of the civil rights movement.

Today, despite significant advancements in social equality, the United Kingdom's criminal justice system continues to grapple with persistent discriminatory behaviors directed towards Black people.

Numerous studies and reports have unveiled alarming racial disparities at various stages of the criminal justice process, from stop-and-search practices to sentencing. Black individuals are disproportionately targeted by law enforcement, experiencing higher rates of stop-and-search, arrests, and incarceration compared to their white counterparts.

Additionally, the overrepresentation of Black people in prisons reflects systemic issues related to policing, sentencing, and access to fair legal representation.



These disparities are indicative of an urgent need for systemic reforms and the implementation of anti-discrimination measures to address the deeply rooted racial biases that persist in the UK's criminal justice system.

Between April 2019 and March 2021, government data shows that in England and Wales, there were 52.6 stop and searches for every 1,000 black people, compared to 7.5 for every 1,000 white people.

In 2016, the Ministry of Justice (according to the Lammy review) found that for drug offences, the odds of receiving a prison sentence were around 240% higher for BME offenders, compared to white offenders.

In 2019 a Black person was 4.3 times more likely to be stopped and searched, over three times more likely to be arrested, three times more likely to be prosecuted, 2.8 times more likely to be convicted and 3.3 times more likely to be given a custodial sentence than a White person.

A February 2023 report by INQUEST revealed that black people in Britain are seven times more likely than white people to die following restraint by police.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Upholding the Civil Rights Legacy: Sustaining the Battle for Equality

Black activist groups have been at the forefront of the fight for racial equality and social justice. These groups have advocated for the rights and well-being of Black individuals and communities through various means, including protests, advocacy, and community engagement.

Here are some honorary mentions :

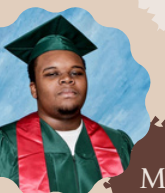


The Black Equity Organisation

The Black Economic Opportunities (BEO) Society is a dedicated organization in the United Kingdom that is committed to promoting economic, legal, social, and political equity for Black communities. Their core mission is ensuring that Black individuals have equal opportunities for progress and prosperity in all facets of society.



The movement gained momentum following the global resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement in 2020, sparked by the death of George Floyd under police custody.



Michael Brown was a young African-American man whom a white police officer fatally shot named Darren Wilson in 2014. His death sparked widespread protests and became a significant catalyst for the Black Lives Matter movement.

#Black Lives Matter UK



The #BlackLivesMatter movement was established in 2013 after the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's attacker. The Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation, Inc. is a global organisation with operations in the US, UK and Canada. Its core mission is to dismantle white supremacy and empower local communities to address violence directed at black communities, whether by state actors or vigilante groups.



Eric Garner was a Black man whose death in 2014 became a rallying point for the Black Lives Matter movement. Garner died after being placed in a chokehold by a white police officer while he repeatedly said, "I can't breathe." Those final words became a powerful slogan in the fight for justice and equality.



And unfortunately many more (find out more at the Black Lives Matter website)



BLACK HISTORY MONTH



London's Black History Month Events!

BALLET BLACK: PIONEERS

16–19 NOVEMBER 2023

Royal Opera House



Black History Month: A Musical Celebration

Thu, 16 Nov, 12:00

The Library at Willesden Green

The African Fashion and Textiles Experience

Sat, 11 Nov, 15:00 + 3 more
York Gardens Library



An intergenerational celebration of Black History Month

A meaningful way to engage with Afro Caribbean cultural heritage with delicious food, entertainment, music, spoken word, dance, and drumming workshop

Saturday 4th of November
Bernie Cameron Community Centre
32 Merchant Street, London, E3 4LX





WORK Opportunities

WITHIN THE
CRIMINAL
LAW FIELD

Kingsley Napley

Firm

Internationally recognised London law firm with top-ranked lawyers that practice in sectors such as :

- Criminal Defence and Police Investigations
- FCA Investigations
- International Crime and Extradition
- Investigations
- Proceeds of Crime and Money Laundering
- White Collar and Financial Crime

Placements:

Kingsley Napley offers a number of work experience placements from May to August every year, giving attendees an insight into life at a busy London law firm.

You will experience different aspects of the role of a lawyer, including;

- Attending court and meetings with clients and counsel
- Legal research tasks
- Drafting documents
- Shadowing qualified lawyers
- General administration such as bundling

If you have any queries regarding the work experience offered at Kingsley Napley, please email
MMacKenzie-Williams@kingsleynapley.co.uk

(visit : <https://www.kingsleynapley.co.uk/careers/work-experience> for more info on how to apply!)

Get your future on track !

YOU CAN DO IT !



WORK Opportunities

WITHIN THE
CRIMINAL
LAW FIELD

6KBW College Hill

Chamber

6KBW College Hill is committed to making itself and the legal profession as accessible, welcoming, and supportive as possible for those interested in pursuing a career at the Bar.

As part of that commitment, they welcome applications for mini-pupils, who will spend time shadowing one or more Members of Chambers.

Their mini-pupillage program extends a warm invitation to individuals aged 18 and above who have completed their schooling or sixth-form education.

Each application undergoes a thorough double-marking process by two Members of the Chambers.

These assessors evaluate the applicants' academic capabilities, enthusiasm for 6KBW College Hill, and the specialized areas of practice, and also consider their interests beyond law.

To apply, contact Leila Gaafar and Megan using this email:

reception@6kbw.com

Include your CV and a one-page cover letter, including your dates of availability.

Chambers particularly welcomes applications from groups that are under-represented at the Criminal Bar.

Get your future on track!

YOU CAN DO IT !





WORK Opportunities

WITHIN THE
CRIMINAL
LAW FIELD



10,000 Black Interns

The 10,000 Black Interns program provides paid internships for Black students and graduates, as well as paid internships for disabled students and graduates of all ethnicities, across a range of UK industries.

They offer internships in multiple sectors, including :

- Law (In-house)

Working in the legal department of an organisation rather than an actual legal firm, representing one client, namely the organisation (or group) you work for.

- Law (Private practice)

Involves working for a legal firm that supports various clients with the opportunity to interact with a wide array of clients and legal issues simultaneously.

- The Bar

The work focuses on (written and oral) advocacy as well as the provision of specialist legal advice.

Partners of the 10,000 Black interns scheme include:

- Russel-Cooke
- Osborne Clark
- 6KBW Chambers

Get your future on track !

YOU CAN DO IT !





WORK Opportunities

WITHIN THE
CRIMINAL
LAW FIELD



Bridging the bar

Bridging the Bar is a charity, founded in July 2020, that aims to support aspiring barristers from a range of statistically underrepresented groups at the Bar.

They are committed to increasing the equality of access to opportunities in the legal profession across all underrepresented groups.

BTB help students who, owing to their disability, ethnic background, socio-economic background, education, sexuality, or other characteristic, belong to groups that are statistically underrepresented in the profession.

Partners of the BTB scheme include:

- Blackstone chambers
- Essex Court Chambers
- 7BR Chambers

As well as ...

-Supreme Court

-Ministry of Justice

-Law Commission
(paid internships)



"Barristers will be as diverse as the society that we live in and diverse as the clients that we represent."

- Mass Ndow-Njie, Founder and Chairperson.

Get your future on track!

YOU CAN DO IT !



Current favorite

THE OCTOBER LITERARY SUGGESTION

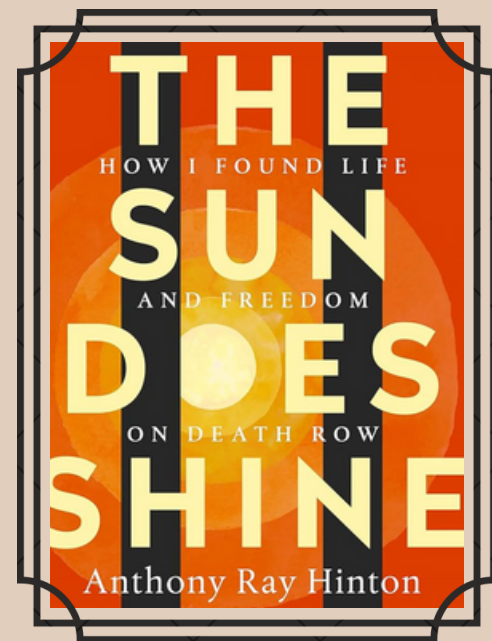
BLACK
HISTORY MONTH EDITION

"THE SUN DOES SHINE"

Is a memoir written by a wrongfully convicted African-American named Anthony Ray Hinton, who spent 30 years on death row for a crime he did not commit.

Anthony Ray Hinton retraces through the lines of his beautifully written memoir the injustice he has endured and his battle against a racially biased judicial system.

He shares with the reader an acute and perceptive view of the faults that exist in the American Legislature and his experience being an African-American in the modern USA.



"You never think about freedom until it is taken away from you."



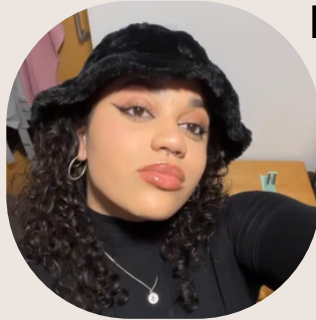
CURRENT FAVORITES

BLACK
MONTH EDITION
HISTORY

OCTOBER CINEMATIC SUGGESTION



Our CJS President,
Georgia
suggests :



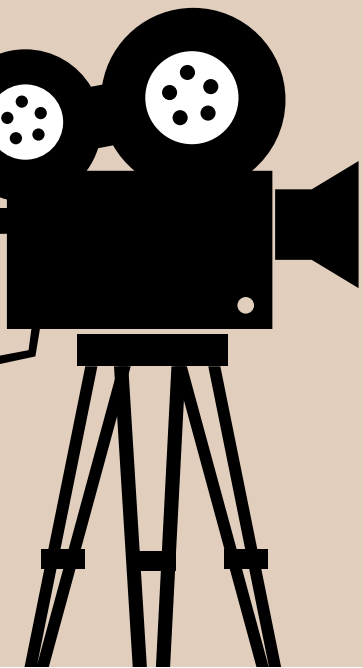
I've chosen this movie because it outlines the dedication that criminal lawyers have in their cases (granted this is a movie) and really draws on how racism can corrupt the legal system.

'A Time to Kill'
(1996) with Samuel
L Jackson



"A Time to Kill" is a 1996 legal drama film based on John Grisham's novel. The story centers on a young African-American girl who is sexually assaulted in a racially charged Mississippi town.

When her father is put on trial for killing her attackers, a young lawyer defends him against a backdrop of racial tension, exploring themes of justice, morality, and prejudice.



CURRENT FAVORITE



The CJS's competition officer Linda Mars suggests:

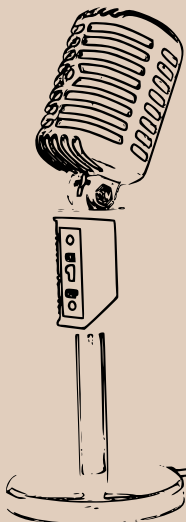
"Law Talks"



"I am currently into "Law Talks" by Ellie & Katie.

They are two aspiring Solicitors who talk about a wide range of legal topics, including:

- application tips
- different law sectors, including criminal law.
- discussions of various



BREAKING NEWS



Two Metropolitan Police officers who made false claims of smelling cannabis during the stop and search of athletes Bianca Williams and Ricardo dos Santos have been discharged.

The court found officers Jonathan Clapham and Sam Franks guilty of gross misconduct. Ricardo dos Santos, who was stopped and searched more than 20 times, said he was traumatised and had lost trust in the police.

He suggested that the officers' actions may have been driven by institutional racism, which the Metropolitan Police continues to deny.



Bianca Williams and Ricardo Dos Santos
Photograph: James Manning/PA

Lewis Edwards, an officer with South Wales Police, impersonated a teenage boy to manipulate 210 girls aged 10 to 16 into sending him explicit images, which he covertly recorded.

Subsequently, he used blackmail tactics, threatening to expose his victims to their families and friends if they didn't send progressively explicit content.

Edwards's extensive number of victims and his admission of guilt in 161 offenses establish him as one of the most prolific child abusers in the history of British criminal cases.



BREAKING NEWS

Justice Secretary Alex Chalk has revealed a series of penal reforms designed to address the surging prisoner numbers in England and Wales, now nearly reaching the 89,000 capacity.

A key component of these reforms is the urging of courts to release less serious offenders on bail, a move aimed at relieving the strain caused by a backlog of 15,000 remand prisoners awaiting trial. Chalk indicated that some "less serious offenders" could potentially be released on license up to 18 days prior to their automatic release date.

The government's strategy also includes plans to increase the removal of foreign prisoners, achieved through the deployment of more caseworkers and the pursuit of new prisoner transfer agreements with other countries.

Additional measures encompass a £400 million investment to create 800 new prison cells, legislation proposing a presumption against sentences shorter than 12 months, community-based sanctions for low-level offenders, and a doubling of the available GPS tags for more effective community offender management.

Another noteworthy proposal is the introduction of a law that would allow prisoners to be held overseas, following the precedents set by Belgium and Norway.



Scottish appeal judges have ruled that Sean Hogg, previously given a non-custodial sentence for raping a 13-year-old schoolgirl, should never have been convicted due to an "insufficiency of evidence." Hogg's lawyers successfully argued that the requirement for corroboration in Scottish law was not met and that the trial judge had misdirected the jury.

This decision comes after widespread criticism of the initial sentence, which sparked appeals from Scottish prosecutors and public figures. There will be no retrial.



BREAKING NEWS

Former President Donald Trump has been found guilty of committing fraud by a New York judge, adding to his growing list of legal troubles. The judge, Arthur Engoron, determined that Trump had consistently overstated his wealth by as much as \$2.2 billion.

Since leaving office, Trump has become entangled in numerous criminal and civil cases, some of which are set to appear in court next year as he seeks a return to the White House in 2024.

Among these legal challenges are allegations of attempting to manipulate election results, criminal charges related to hush money payments to a porn star, and mishandling White House documents.

Additionally, Trump faces various charges in Georgia, including violations of the Georgia RICO Act, solicitation of oath violations, conspiracy, and multiple counts of forgery, false statements, and filing false documents.



Japan's Supreme Court has ruled that a 2003 law requiring transgender people to undergo sterilization surgery to change their gender officially is "cruel" and unconstitutional.

The court criticized the "cruel choice" it imposed on individuals and sent the case back to a lower court to reconsider the need for gender-affirmation surgery.

While seen as a positive step for transgender rights, challenges remain as other conditions for gender recognition, such as remaining unmarried and not having children, persist.

Amnesty International praised the ruling as a landmark decision, and it reflects a broader trend in the region where countries are re-evaluating discriminatory laws affecting the LGBTQ+ community, though the battle for LGBTQ+ rights in Japan continues.





SOURCES



What is BHM and it's origins:

- <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-month>

Upholding the Civil Rights Legacy: Sustaining the Battle for Equality :

Statistics :

See Criminal Justice System Statistics 2023 published by the Institute of Race Relations at :

- <https://irr.org.uk/research/statistics/criminal-justice/>

See 2023 INQUEST Report :

- <https://www.inquest.org.uk/police-racism-report-2023>

See Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System 2018, available at

- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/849200/statistics-on-race-and-the-cjs-2018.pdf

- **See Government Statistics on Stop and Search 2023 available at :**

<https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/crime-justice-and-the-law/policing/stop-and-search/latest>

- **The Lammy review is available at :**

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a82009040f0b62305b91f49/lammy-review-final-report.pdf>

RECENT NEWS:

- **Two Met officers sacked after lying about shock arrest of Ricardo Dos Santos & his Team GB partner:**

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/24519167/met-police-guilty-misconduct-arrest-team-gb-athlete/>

- **Police officer unmasked as 'UK's most prolific online paedophile'**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/10/25/police-officer-lewis-edwards-paedophile-life-sentence/>

- **Prison policy is failing**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/2023/10/17/prison-policy-is-failing/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-67116658>

- **Convicted rapist found guilty of attacking schoolgirl, 13, has sentence quashed**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/10/11/sean-hogg-conviction-appeal-court-rape-glasgow/>

- **All the charges Donald Trump faces - and what happens next**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2023/10/25/what-next-donald-trump-indictment-charges-arrest/>

- **Forcing people to be sterilised to change gender is unlawful, Japan's Supreme Court rules**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2023/10/25/transgender-people-do-not-have-to-be-sterilised-japan/>