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The Color Of Justice

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**The
Color
Of
Justice**



JUDGES

Commonwealth Superior Court: 82 seats; Justice Shannon Frison; who is also a Marine as well as a Harvard and Georgetown graduate, is one of two African-American judges.

Frison was appointed to Boston's Municipal Court in 2009 and confirmed to the Superior Court in 2013; no African-American judges have been appointed to the high court since.

Massachusetts state data shows that there are 374 trial court judges; only 39 of which are people of color.

Since the Baker-Polito administration took office, there were 1,750 applications that were received by the Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC); only 61 (3%) have been African-American applicants.

1,750,309 applications have been reviewed by the JNC for Superior Court; of the 309 applications only 12 (3.8%) have been African-American applicants.

Governor Baker's office said that of his administration's 138 appointments, only 24 have been people of color. Yet, an African-American judge has not been appointed to the Superior Court by the administration.

JURIES

- Juries are supposed to be representative of the population where the trial is taking place, i.e. a jury consisting of one's peers.

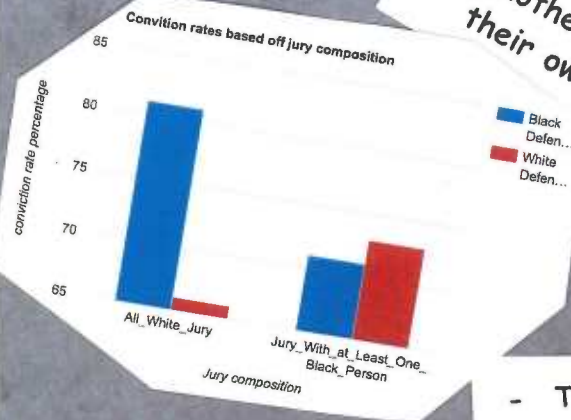
- In many Jury pools, there is a great difference in numbers of white to people of color, which then leads to an unproportional jury.

- A more recent example of this is in the case of Rodney Reed, who was tried and found guilty of abduction, rape, and murder of a 19 year old white woman in Texas. The Jury that was selected was all white, despite that not being representative of the local population.

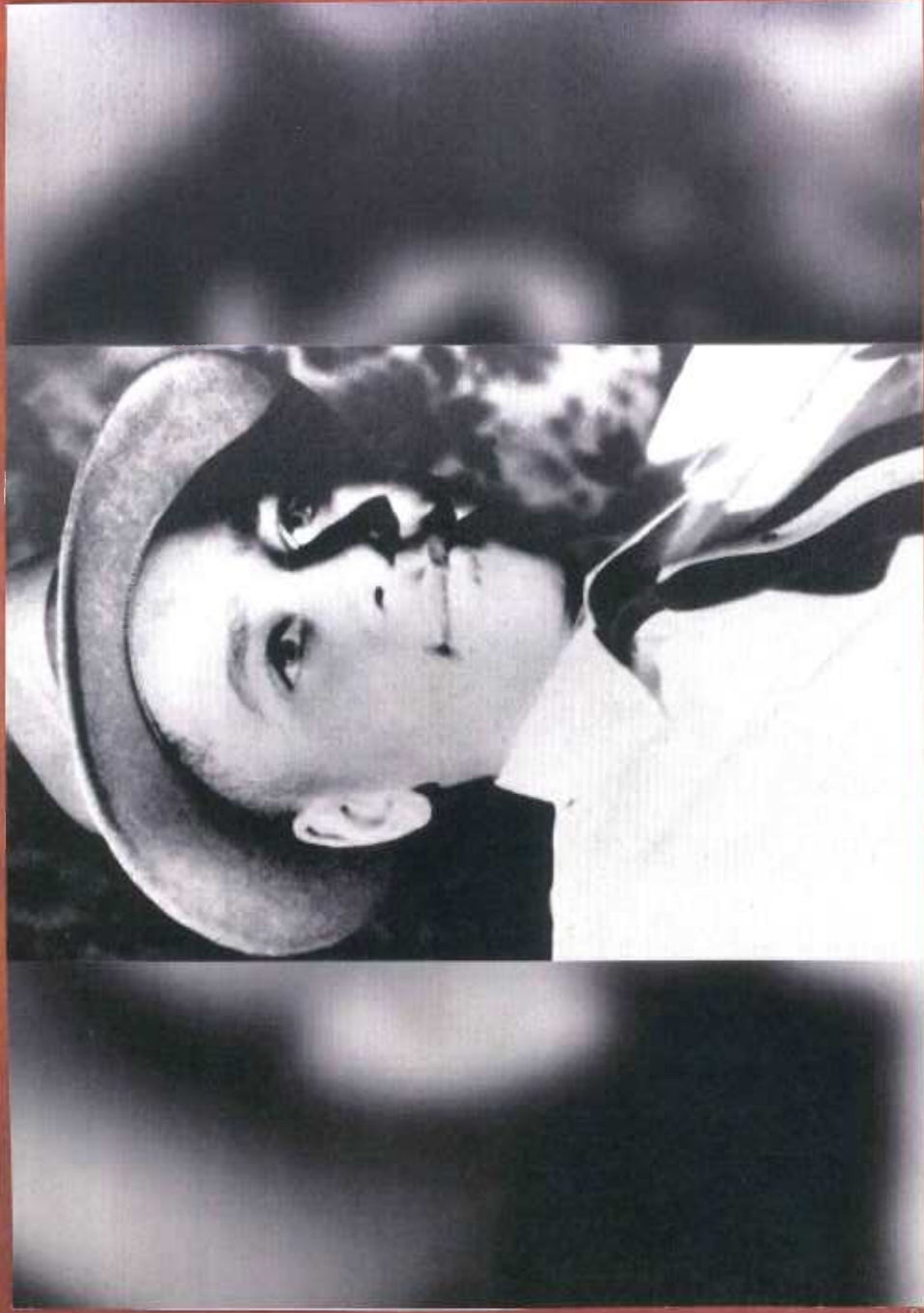
- Despite there being substantial evidence that lured to the idea that Reed was innocent, the jury found him guilty. His death however was postponed due to public outrage at the ruling and activists standing up for what is right.

- "While the Supreme Court has prohibited the use of race as a rationale for using peremptory challenges, numerous studies have shown that black members of the jury pool are systematically more likely to be excluded from juries in many contexts"

- There are many studies that have to do with the cross-race effect, where people have a harder time identifying those who are of another race, and how people are much more likely to stereotype someone of another race as opposed to their own.



- The great difference in the results of rulings when there is racial representation in a jury compared to one with no diversity is alarming, and brings to light how the government and judicial systems do not seem to have a problem with this and continue to do it despite the easy change of making sure that the jury pool is actually diverse and truly representative of the population.



CASES THAT DO NOT MAKE IT TO COURTROOM

In 1955, a 14 year old boy named Emmett Till was brutally murdered for being accused at whistling at a white woman at a grocery store. He was purchasing bubble gum when he was supposedly flirting with Carolyn Bryant.

4 days later she went to tell the story to husband who then proceed to kidnap Emmett with the help of his half brother. They then beat the teenager, dragged his body to the river, shot him in the head, tied barbed wire around his neck which was connected to a large metal fan and finally shoved his lifeless body into the water.

3 days later he was found unrecognizable and there was a trial held for Emmett's death. The trial consisted of all white male jurors and despite all the evidence of the defendant's case, the killers where acquitted from all charges.

A year later Emmett's killers confess to "Look" magazines about the murder but they were protected by the double jepordy law. Carolyn, Emmett's accuser also confess in a 2007 interview she had lied about Emmett being inappropriate to her the day he was in the grocery store.

FALSE

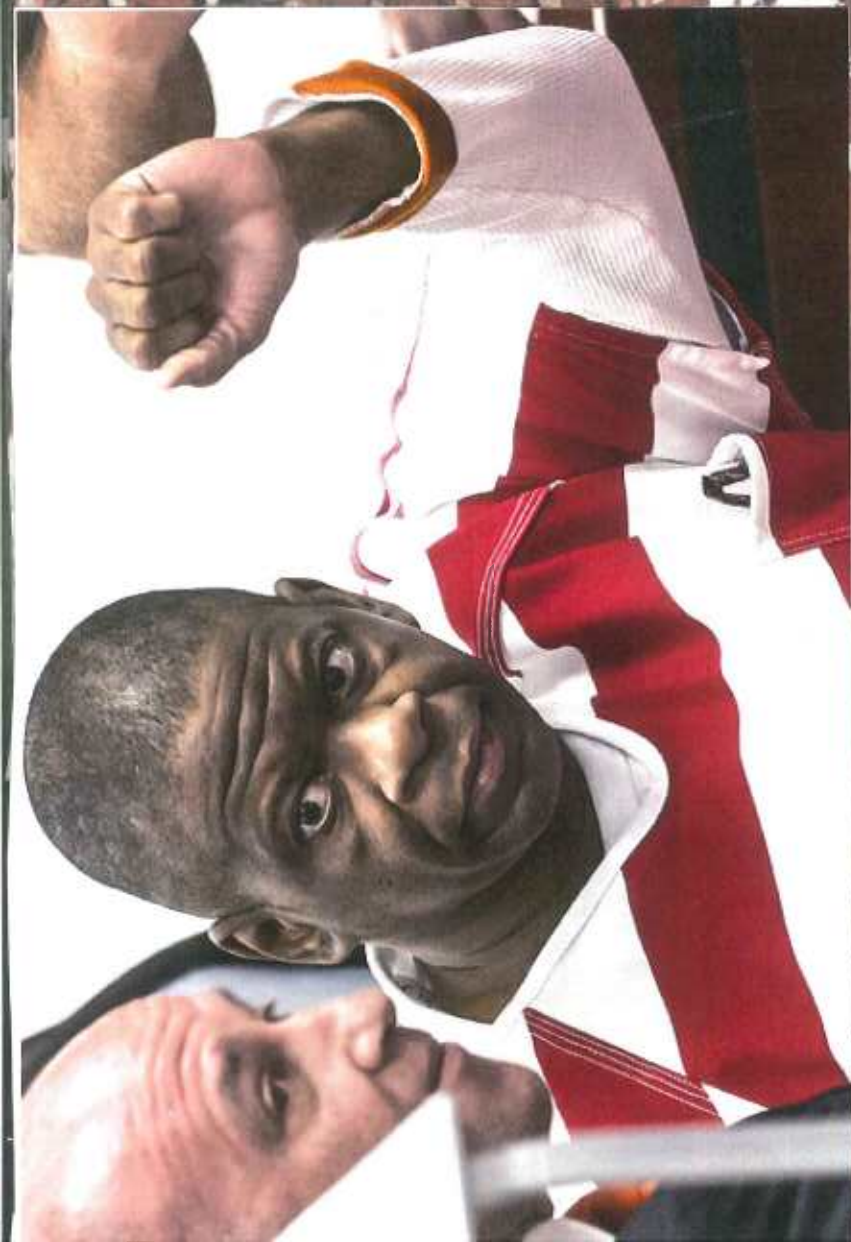
INCARCERATIONS

A recent case of false incarceration has to be the Rodney Reed case. Rodney Reed was going to be ordered for execution on November 20th, 2019. He was found guilty for the abduction, rape, and murder of 19 yr old Stacy Stites in Bastrop, Texas.

The jury that made the decision was an all white jury. He was involved with Stites in a consensual sexual relationship, but due

to the fact that there was evidence of Rodney's DNA on her body, the jury found him guilty despite the fact that the hair found on her body didn't even match Rodney's

This goes to show that the court system fails men of color because there was so much wrong with how they investigated her death. They didn't test the murder weapon either so they don't know who ACTUALLY killed her.





Minorities are
Underrepresented



32 percent of black males
and 17 percent of male Latinos
born in 2001 can expect
to spend time in prison
during their lifetime.

African-Americans make up
12 percent of the U.S. population,
but today compose 40 percent
of all prison inmates and 4
of those sentenced to death.

juries formed from all- white jury pools
convict black defendants significantly

only 6 percent of
white males
will go to prison.