

10TH ANNIVERSARY
NATIONAL PROSECUTION SUMMIT
COMMUNITY PROSECUTION FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES
WASHINGTON DC | NOVEMBER 16-18, 2015



The Summit will convene Nov 18 at:
The White House | Eisenhower Executive Office Building | South Court Auditorium
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue | Washington, D.C 20502

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2015

8:00 - 8:45 a.m.

Registration

8:45 - 9:00

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

9:00 - 9:30

Applying A Prosecutorial Lens to the 21st Century Task Force Report

Moderator: Roy Austin
*Deputy Assistant to the President
Office of Urban Affairs, Justice and Opportunity
Domestic Policy Council
Washington D.C.*

Discussants: Ronald Davis
*Director
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington D.C.*

Anne Milgram
*Vice President of Criminal Justice
Laura and John Arnold Foundation
New York, NY*

Hon. Anita Alvarez
*State's Attorney
Cook County State's Attorney's Office
Chicago, IL*

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9:30 - 10:30

Reducing Implicit Bias in Prosecution

Moderator: Hon. Carter Stewart
*U.S. Attorney
Southern District of Ohio
Columbus, OH*

Discussants: David Harris
*Professor
University of Pittsburgh School of Law
Pittsburgh, PA*

Hon. John Chisholm
*District Attorney
Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office
Milwaukee, WI*

Melba Pearson
*President
The National Black Prosecutors Association
Assistant Chief, Career Criminal/Robbery Unit
Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office
Miami, FL*

10:30 - 10:45

Break

10:45 - 11:45

Body-Worn Cameras: The Role of Prosecutors

Moderator: Michael White
*Professor
School of Criminology & Criminal Justice
Arizona State University
Phoenix, AZ*

Discussants: Hon. Vicki Hill
*Acting City Prosecutor
Office of the Phoenix City Prosecutor
Phoenix, AZ*

Damon Mosler
*Deputy District Attorney
San Diego District Attorney's Office
San Diego, CA*

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11:45 - 12:45

Lunch

12:45 - 1:45

Community Leadership: Strategies for Improving Witness and Victim Cooperation

Moderator: Steven Jansen
*Vice President & COO
Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
Washington, D.C*

Discussants: Steven Siegel
*Special Programs Unit
Director of Program Development
Denver District Attorney's Office
Denver, CO*

Kris Rose
*Deputy Director
Office for Victims of Crime
Washington D.C.*

1:45 - 2:30 p.m.

**Q&A Session and Closing Remarks:
Where Can We Go From Here?**

News

& Media Relations

November 16, 2015

Reducing Implicit Bias in Prosecution

Pitt law professor David A. Harris provides expert insights to White House conference on enhancing public trust in American law enforcement agencies

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PITTSBURGH—University of Pittsburgh legal scholar **David A. Harris**

(<http://www.law.pitt.edu/people/david-harris>)—a national authority on police procedure—will lend his expertise to a White House conference on enhancing public trust in the criminal justice system Nov. 18. The conference is part of the 10th Anniversary National Prosecution Summit, a collaborative environment for sharing ideas on how prosecutors can serve as leaders on criminal justice reform.

Harris will speak as part of a discussion titled "Reducing Implicit Bias in Prosecution." The session will explore how prosecutors can encourage the utilization of procedural justice tenets to promote fairness, efficiency, and integrity in their work. In addition to Harris, the panelists are John Chisolm, district attorney for the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, and Melba Pearson, president of the National Black Prosecutors Association. The moderator will be Carter Stewart, the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio.

"The science concerning implicit bias shows that race can influence us on the unconscious level, affecting our actions even when we don't know it. Understanding implicit bias will be crucial as we work towards a better and fairer justice system," said Harris. "The opportunity to speak about the impact of race on the justice system, and to do this at the highest level of government, doesn't come along every day. I'm grateful for the chance to take part in this national discussion and to help prosecutors and others in the criminal justice system understand the impact of race on their work."



David A. Harris

Throughout his legal career, which spans more than 30 years, Harris has thoroughly explored aspects of systemic inequality in the American legal system. He has provided testimony against racial profiling procedures and related issues before the U.S. Senate and numerous state legislative bodies. Harris frequently offers professional training for law enforcement agencies and presents his work regularly in academic conferences across the country.

National news organizations have cited Harris' insights in the high-profile police-involved shooting deaths of Michael Brown, Freddie Gray, Tamir Rice, and others. His commentary on such incidences has appeared in the *Associated Press*, the *Los Angeles Times*, National Public Radio, *The New York Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal* amongst numerous others.

Harris' 2012 book, *Failed Evidence: Why Law Enforcement Resists Science* (NYU Press), explored the reasons that police and prosecutors often fail to incorporate science on eyewitness identification, interrogations, and basic forensics into their daily work. The book was a direct challenge to police and prosecution leadership that tends to overlook the benefits that modern science has the potential to supply to routine police work. In 2005, Harris published *Good Cops: The Case for Preventive Policing* (The New Press), which makes the case that crime prevention-based strategies nullify the public perception that personal liberty must be sacrificed for safety. In *Profiles in Injustice: Why Racial Profiling Cannot Work* (The New Press, 2002), he made the case that profiling is not only legally and morally wrong but also ineffective at preventing crime. The book, along with Harris' related scholarly articles, influenced the national debate on profiling, leading to federal legislation to address the practice as well as internal efforts within police departments nationwide.

At the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Harris is a Distinguished Faculty Scholar and a professor of law. He also has been named the Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney Scholar for 2015-

2016. His scholarly research focuses on issues related to racial profiling as well as police behavior and regulation, law enforcement, and national security issues. A faculty member at Pitt since 2008, he teaches courses on criminal procedure, criminal law, evidence, homeland security, and criminal justice policy. Before beginning his legal teaching career in 1990, he worked as a public defender in the Washington, D.C., area. Harris also has served as a litigator in Philadelphia and a federal law clerk in Wilmington, Del.

The White House conference portion of the 10th Anniversary National Prosecution Summit is a follow up to the Obama Administration's 2015 Task Force on 21st Century Policing. The task force produced a range of recommendations for changing American police procedures following the events in Ferguson, Mo., in the fall of 2014.

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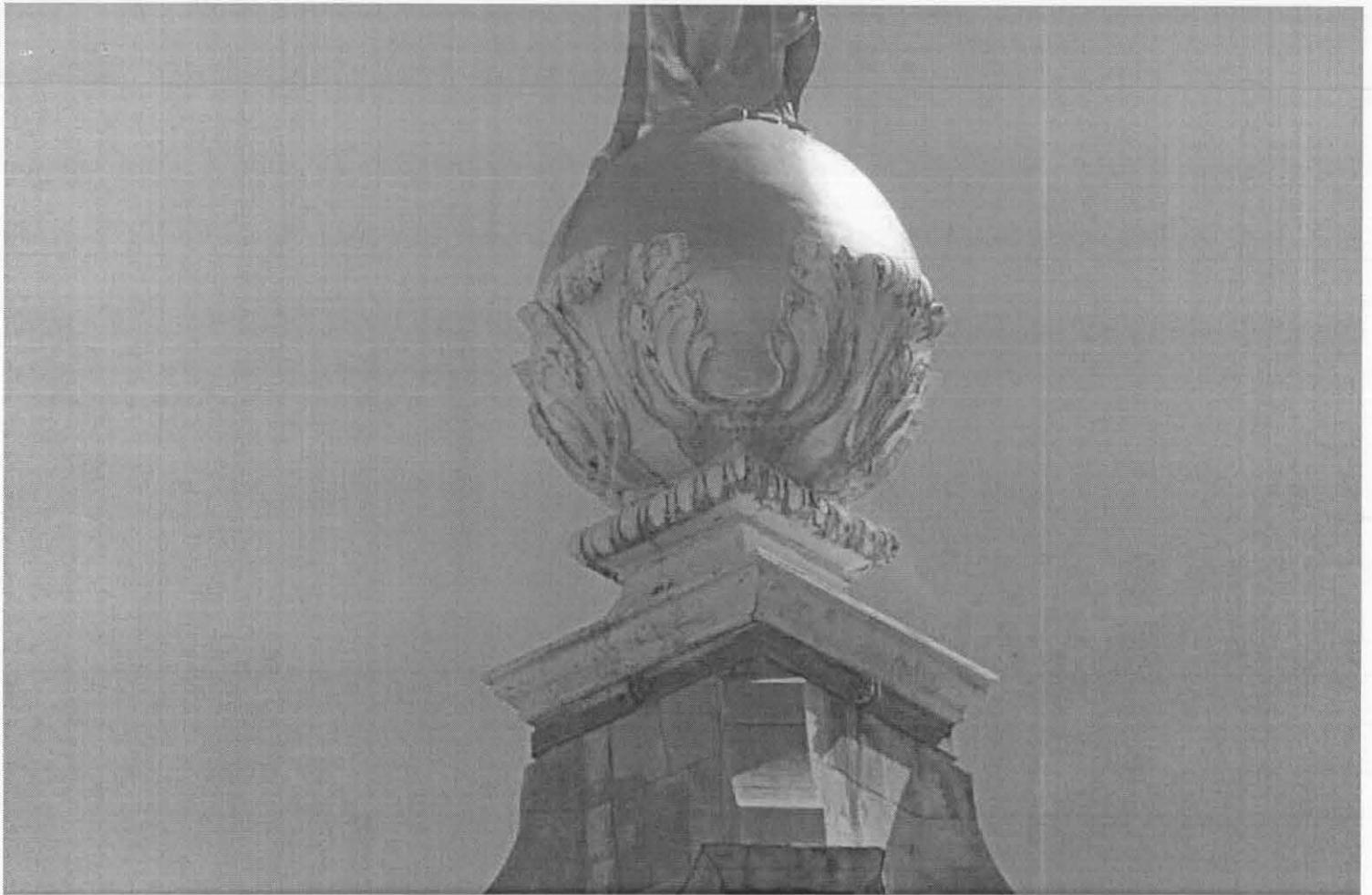
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Reducing Implicit Bias In The Judicial Process

By [EMILY STOCK \(/PEOPLE/EMILY-STOCK\)](#) & ESSENTIAL PITTSBURGH • NOV 17, 2015

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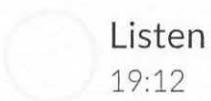




(http://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/wesa/files/styles/x_large/public/201511/8705733140_2160081dfc_o.jpg)

Pitt Law professor David Harris will be speaking in Washington D.C. at the 10th anniversary of the National Prosecution Summit.

RONNIE MACDONALD / FLICKR



Listen

19:12

The Supreme Court considers what it takes to show prosecutors are discriminating against minorities when selecting juries. This practice is known as implicit bias (http://www.news.pitt.edu/news/WHC_David_Harris), and continues to become more prevalent.

David Harris (<http://wesa.fm/people/david-harris>), a University of Pittsburgh Law professor, will soon head to the White House to address this practice. He explains that implicit bias causes us to make quick judgments about people or groups of people, resulting in unintended discrimination.

“Most racial bias occurs on the unconscious level. Most people today will tell you that they are fair minded, that they respect equality, but what we know is that unconscious bias affects almost all of us,” Harris says.

Harris explains the existence of implicit bias has been proven through the Implicit Association Test, an online assessment in which faces, objects, or adjectives are quickly matched with positive or negative concepts. Participants can then see the results, which measures both conscious and unconscious racial bias.

In the courtroom, the jury selection process, although un-scientific, is crucial in determining the outcome of a trial, as both the defense and prosecuting attorneys want jurors who have the same bias as they do. Harris believes that there are ways to combat such implicit bias in the courtroom.

“Make sure that the jurors notice it (racial content) because when race is brought out into the light, your conscious beliefs about equality can kick in, and the implicit, unconscious biases recede.”

Much of this implicit bias comes forth through pre-questions from lawyers to jurors. Lawyers possess the right to preemptive challenges, which allows for the removal of a potential juror without needing to give a reason.

Harris explains that the court must put new rules into place, removing the right to preemptory challenges, as implicit bias will always affect the jury selection process.

“Until we become aware of what this (implicit bias) is, what the mechanism is, we won’t be able to fight it. That’s why awareness is the first and most important step.”

More Essential Pittsburgh segments can be heard here (<http://wesa.fm/programs/905-wesas-essential-pittsburgh>).

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