

**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT  
John Adams Courthouse  
One Pemberton Square  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108  
MEDIA ADVISORY**

**CONTACT:**

Jennifer Donahue / Erika Gully-Santiago  
[PublicInfo@sjc.state.ma.us](mailto:PublicInfo@sjc.state.ma.us)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 19, 2021

**Massachusetts Court System to Host Community Conversation on  
Confronting Racism in the Courts**

**What:**

On Monday, February 22 at 5:00 p.m., Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Kimberly S. Budd and Trial Court Chief Justice Paula M. Carey will host a virtual listening session to hear about the experiences diverse communities have with the Massachusetts Court System and offer ideas on ways to improve the justice system. The listening session is open to the public and press.

The listening session, in honor of Black History Month, was organized as a follow up to the listening session that was held at Roxbury Community College in February 2020 in recognition of the 400-year anniversary of when the first documented African people were enslaved in the United States in 1619. This event is part of an ongoing series of community forums created to identify and address racial bias in state courts.

The listening session will include Chief Justices of each court department. Superior Court Judge Angel Kelley, and John Laing, Chief Experience and Diversity Officer for the Trial Court, will moderate the discussion. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions, provide comments, and make suggestions.

In advance of the virtual program, short video messages from Appeals Court Chief Justice Mark V. Green, each departmental Chief Justice, and the Commissioner of Probation, will be posted on the [Trial Court's YouTube Channel](#) with updates on the work that has been done to confront systemic racism over the past year.

**Where:**

The event will be livestreamed on the Massachusetts Trial Court's YouTube Channel:  
<https://youtu.be/0joiDSdHvKU>

**When:**

Monday, February 22, 2021, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

###