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Statement in Response to Ruling in NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund v. William Barr

District Court finds President's Commission on Law Enforcement in violation of federal law and blocks the release of any report or any further conduct of business

[Fair and Just Prosecution](#) Executive Director Miriam Krinsky issued the following statement today in response to Order and Memorandum Opinion by Senior District Court Judge John D. Bates for the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in [NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund v. William Barr](#). The court granted the NAACP's motion for summary judgement, finding the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice in violation of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and ordered the Attorney General to not publish or rely upon any report or recommendations produced by the Commission until the requirements of FACA have been satisfied.

“Today’s decisive summary judgement ruling is a victory for all those who are working towards building a more fair and just criminal legal system – one grounded in racial equity and that promotes community safety and well-being. The district court agreed with dozens of criminal justice reform leaders and advocates that the President’s Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice is subject to and in violation of federal transparency laws. The Commission was set up in a manner that completely ignored these provisions intended to ensure that the community has access to, and a voice in, decisions that necessarily impact them. The skewed makeup of the Commission and its working groups – and its secretive and closed process – underscores the bias and predetermined agenda inherent in the establishment of this group. Members were not selected through a bipartisan process, and civil rights experts, defense lawyers, formerly-incarcerated individuals, researchers, and scholars are glaringly absent from the Commission and its working groups. Sadly, at a time when trust in law enforcement is at an all-time low, this Commission represents nothing more than a sham proceeding designed to further a political agenda.

Now, more than ever, we need inclusive and transparent discussions about the future of policing, equity, and criminal justice in America. As the 76 current and former elected prosecutors and law enforcement leaders who joined an [amicus brief](#) in the case agreed, this “flawed process ... is the last thing a nation in crisis needs.”

Read FJP’s earlier testimony to the Commission, recounting its grave concerns with this closed process and the group’s skewed composition, [here](#).

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Fair and Just Prosecution is a national network of elected prosecutors working towards common-sense, compassionate criminal justice reforms. To learn more about FJP’s work, visit our [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).