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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Unequal Justice in Delaware Project Hosts First Public Program

Project to unearth the forgotten and unknown instances of unequal justice in the First State is a partnership between the Delaware Historical Society's Jane and Littleton Mitchell Center for African American Heritage, the University of Delaware, Delaware State University, and the Delaware Social Justice Remembrance Coalition.

Wilmington, DE (October 13, 2020) -- The Unequal Justice in Delaware Project has announced their first public program, a panel discussion on the formation of and path forward for the project. The virtual panel discussion will take place on Saturday, October 17, 2020 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm.

The abolition of slavery did not bring an end to anti-Black violence, nor did it foster equality in civil rights, and as a result, Black Delawareans have continued to fight for justice for centuries. Between 1861 and 1903, three documented instances of violent racial terror reshaped Delaware's landscape. These atrocities merit a reexamination of Delaware's Civil War history, its status as a Union state during Reconstruction, and its modern legacy of slavery and social justice. Panelists will discuss their research on this topic and plans to develop the Unequal Justice in Delaware Project as an educational public history venture.

"Many of the issues that have led to protests in communities across America have history at their core, history that is not always in plain sight," said Dr. David Young, Executive Director of the Delaware Historical Society. "When Delaware's first historic marker bearing witness to a 1903 lynching was dedicated in June 2019, it was promptly stolen. This project focuses attention to the ongoing research and public awareness of recurring patterns of racism that underlie lingering ills in our society. This project brings greater historical understanding, in lasting ways, to help all Delawareans address the effects of violence in its history."

Panelists Include:

- **Dr. James Jones**, Trustees' Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Psychological and Brain Sciences and Black American Studies and Director of the Center for the Study of Diversity at the University of Delaware.
- **Savannah Shepherd**, Founder, Delaware Social Justice Remembrance Coalition
- **Dr. Yohuru Williams**, dean at the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota
- **Alonna Berry**, Founder and Chairwoman, The Bryan Allen Stevenson School of Excellence
- **Dr. Stephanie Lampkin**, Director, Jane and Littleton Mitchell Center for African American Heritage at the Delaware Historical Society
- **Dr. David Young**, Executive Director, Delaware Historical Society

Educational content and supplemental materials, workshops, public programs, and digital resources are several goals of the Unequal Justice in Delaware Project. The project will also explore how research and public

engagement can inform policy. It is inspired by Bryan Stevenson's groundbreaking work with the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, AL. Inquiries and questions about the Unequal justice in Delaware project to unequaljusticede@dehistory.org.

VIRTUAL PANEL EVENT DETAILS:

What: Unequal Justice in Delaware Panel Discussion

When: October 17, 2020
1:00pm – 3:00pm

Registration: Register via Zoom - <http://bit.ly/UnequalJusticePanel>

About The Jane and Littleton Mitchell Center for African American Heritage:

The purpose of the Mitchell Center for African American Heritage is to collect, preserve, research, and present for public enrichment the history and heritage of Delaware's African Americans and it is headquartered on the Delaware Historical Society's Wilmington campus in the [Delaware History Museum](#).

About The Delaware History Museum:

The Delaware Historical Society owns and operates the Delaware History Museum; the Jane and Littleton Mitchell Center for African American Heritage; a nationally recognized Research Library; Old Town Hall; Willingtown Square, four 18th-century houses surrounding a picturesque urban courtyard located in downtown Wilmington; and the National Historic Landmark, Read House & Gardens located in Old New Castle. For more information, call (302) 655-7161, email deinfo@dehistory.org, or visit www.dehistory.org.

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