



# PITCH DECK

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DR. ANGELA MEYERS



# **HELP FREE SHAWN MOVEMENT: A MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE AND REFORM**

*LED BY DR. ANGELA MEYERS –  
FORMER WHITE HOUSE EMPLOYEE  
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**WRONGFULLY IMPRISONED.  
FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM.**

# WHO IS SHAWN RODRIGUEZ?

## A Story of Wrongful Conviction

- **Shawn's Background:** Shawn was convicted of conspiracy to commit murder and kidnapping under the now-illegal Natural and Probable Consequences Doctrine.
- **The Injustice:** Sentenced to 25 years to life for a crime he neither committed nor intended to commit. No murder was committed. Shawn was given a sentence as if a murder has occurred and he has been in prison for over 21 years basically for participating in a robbery as a homeless teenager.
- **Why His Case Matters:** Thousands like Shawn are serving excessive sentences due to outdated legal doctrines and systemic flaws.

**Why Good Morning America Should Care:** Shawn's story is emblematic of a broken system that needs to be fixed. In order to fix something broken, we have to start by telling the truth.

# WHAT IS THE NATURAL AND PROBABLE CONSEQUENCES?

- The Natural & Probable Consequences Doctrine was not a law passed by a legislative body; rather, it was a judicial doctrine developed and applied by the courts. This doctrine was designed to hold individuals criminally liable for unintended crimes committed by a co-conspirator during the commission of a lesser crime. This means person B could be punished for crimes committed by person A, even if person B had no intent or direct involvement in a greater crime.
- Shawn participated in a robbery, but was given a 7 to life sentence for a kidnapping he did not know would occur and was not physically present for when the entrapment occurred, and a 25 to life sentence for "conspiracy" to commit murder because his co-defendant had intent to kill her boyfriend, which Shawn repeatedly sabotaged to protect him.
- As a homeless, orphaned, teenage boy, he participated in a robbery, but was given an excessive sentence for crimes he did not commit.

# ACHIEVEMENTS BEHIND BARS – SHAWN'S RESILIENCE

## Despite the Injustice, Shawn Has Thrived

- **A Voracious Reader:** Shawn has read over 1,000 books during his incarceration, demonstrating his commitment to lifelong learning and self-improvement.
- **Educational Pursuits:** He has earned dozens of certifications through rehabilitative programs, equipping himself with skills for reintegration into society.
- **Leadership and Mentorship:** Shawn has remained both drug-free and gang-free, becoming a role model for other inmates. He leads by example, mentoring younger prisoners and helping them make positive choices.
- **Personal Growth:** Despite his wrongful imprisonment, Shawn has focused on growth, staying resilient and optimistic about his future.

**Why It's Important:** Shawn's achievements highlight his character and potential, reinforcing the injustice of his continued imprisonment and the need for reform.

# THE HELP FREE SHAWN MOVEMENT

## A Grassroots Call for Justice

- **What the Movement Stands For:** Immediate release and legal exoneration for crimes Shawn did not commit.
- **The Bigger Picture:** This isn't just about one man—it's about systemic reform to prevent future injustices.
- **Dr. Angela Meyers' Leadership:** Driven by years of government experience and her belief that the government should be a force for good, Dr. Meyers leads the charge to bring justice to Shawn and others like him.

## How Good Morning America Can Make a Difference:

Amplifying this story can bring crucial attention to Shawn's case and push for legislative reform.

# DR. ANGELA MEYERS – THE ADVOCATE BEHIND THE MOVEMENT

## From the White House to the Fight for Justice

- **6 Years in the White House:** Dr. Meyers is a former White House intern and worked at the Executive Office of the President from 2007 to 2013 (during Bush and Obama's Presidencies). Dr. Meyers believes the government should serve and protect the people.
- **The Beginning:** After her dissertation was critiqued and labeled as elitist, she decided to conduct research on polymaths somewhere not elite. She decided to study polymathy in a prison setting.
- **Getting Exposed to the Realities of the Criminal Justice System:** When she was in the first steps of her research on Polymaths in prison, she was exposed to how problematic the U.S criminal justice system is, leading her to take a pause on her research to focus on criminal justice reform work.





# DR. ANGELA MEYERS – THE ADVOCATE BEHIND THE MOVEMENT



## From the White House to the Fight for Justice

- **Why She Fights:** Her experience made her realize how deeply flawed the system is, especially regarding wrongful convictions and over-incarceration.
- **Polymathy in Action:** As a polymath, Dr. Meyers aims to bring unique, cross-disciplinary approaches to her advocacy work, ensuring holistic, strategic solutions to systemic problems.

**Why It's Personal for Her:** Dr. Meyers believes every human has the potential to flourish, but wrongful imprisonment destroys that potential.



# INTRODUCING THE PRISON TRANSPARENCY PROJECT (PTP)



## Shining a Light on America's Hidden Injustices

- **The Mission:** The Prison Transparency Project (PTP) exposes abuses, corruption, and systemic failures within America's prisons.
- **Accountability Through Transparency:** By gathering stories from those incarcerated and exposing inhumane conditions, PTP pushes for reform and accountability.

**Why This Matters:** The PTP seeks to prevent future cases like Shawn's by ensuring transparency and accountability in prisons nationwide.

# MASS INCARCERATION IN AMERICA:

## KEY FACTS

- The United States imprisons more people than any other country, with 25% of the world's incarcerated population, despite comprising only 5% of the global population.
- The 13th Amendment abolished slavery, except for prisoners. Today, inmates work for pennies while private industries and the government profit from their labor.
- African Americans make up 13% of the U.S. population, but 37% of the prison population—showcasing racial disparity in incarceration rates.
- Prisons function as modern labor camps, where inmates are often unpaid or underpaid, while publicly traded companies profit from their work.
- Poverty, mental illness, and addiction are criminalized in America, contributing to a humanitarian crisis of mass incarceration and excessive sentencing.
- The U.S. justice system favors the wealthy, with for-profit prisons and systems like cash bail disproportionately affecting lower-income individuals, creating a justice system where outcomes can be influenced by financial resources.
- Legalized wrongful convictions persist in the U.S. through the "Natural and Probable Consequences Doctrine," which punishes individuals for crimes they did not personally commit.

# MASS INCARCERATION IN AMERICA:

## KEY FACTS

- Over **\$80 billion** a year is spent on the prison system, with private companies running 8% of U.S. prisons, turning incarceration into a business where inmate labor fuels corporate profits.
- America spends more on incarceration than education in all of the states. America has more prisons than universities.
- The U.S. has some of the longest prison sentences in the world. More than 160,000 people are serving life sentences, a number that has increased by 30% since 2003.
- Nearly 70% of released prisoners are re-arrested within three years, pointing to systemic issues with rehabilitation and reintegration into society. This is a proof that the system is failing.
- An estimated 1% to 5% of all U.S. prisoners are wrongfully convicted, translating to 20,000 to 100,000 people serving time for crimes they did not commit.
- The U.S. also leads in juvenile incarceration. Approximately 43,000 youths are held in detention centers across the country, with Black and Latino youths disproportionately affected.
- Schools increasingly rely on law enforcement for disciplinary actions, funneling students—primarily Black, Latino, and disabled children—into the criminal justice system. Students with disabilities are three times more likely to be arrested than their non-disabled peers.

# WHY THIS STORY NEEDS TO BE TOLD

## The Urgency of Shawn's Case

- **Thousands Are Waiting:** Shawn's story represents many others who are wrongly imprisoned or serving excessive sentences.
- **Good Morning America's Role:** By sharing Shawn's case, you can help bring much-needed attention to the issue of wrongful convictions and broken legal doctrines.
- **The Time for Reform Is Now:** As more people become aware of cases like Shawn's, public pressure can push for legal and systemic changes that ensure justice for all.

**Why Dr. Meyers' Work Elevates This Story:** The combination of her government experience, 4 years of deep study into America's Justice system, and dedication to reform makes this movement credible and action-oriented.

# JOIN THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

- **Help Free Shawn:** Support Shawn Rodriguez's immediate release and legal exoneration for crime he himself did not commit. For more information, visit: [helpfreeshawn.com](http://helpfreeshawn.com)
- **Support Prison Transparency:** Advocate for prison reform and transparency to ensure cases like Shawn's don't happen again. Visit: [prisontransparency.com](http://prisontransparency.com) to learn more.
- **Learn:** In America, many people recognize that the criminal justice system is deeply flawed, yet few openly discuss it. Most may not fully grasp the severity of the issues--such as excessive sentencing and the staggering incarceration rates. There's a general awareness of the problem, but many avoid getting involved, perceiving it as too difficult to change.
- **Get Involved:** Sign petitions, share the story, and help spread the word about Shawn's case and the need for broader justice reform.

**What Good Morning America Can Do:** By covering this story, Good Morning America can play a pivotal role in raising awareness, mobilizing public opinion, and sparking a much needed national conversation on Criminal Justice Reform ensuring that those who are voiceless behind bars are finally heard.

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