

## Participant Bios

**Monday, March 22; 6 PM: Barriers to Democratic Participation for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals**



James Monteiro is the Founder and Director of the **Reentry Campus Program** which provides current and formerly incarcerated individuals with affordable pathways to post-secondary education programs critical to the reentry process.



**Stanley Alston** has lived in Providence, RI all his life. He was impacted by several life changing events that produced an insidious cycle of recidivism, addiction and poverty. Taking the initiative to break this cycle, Stanley enrolled in college, obtained a Case Management Certification, and now is two courses from obtaining an Associate's Degree. He is currently employed as a case manager at Reentry Campus Program which provides an affordable pathway for higher learning to the formerly incarcerated.



**Meko Lincoln** is a lifelong resident of Rhode Island. Having been directly impacted by the "War on Drugs," he spent a considerable amount of his life incarcerated. Learning life lessons through the unfortunate process of recidivism, he has embarked upon a life dedicated to change. Currently he works at Amos House as a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist and Reentry Case Manager assisting individuals navigating the challenges of returning to the community. Helping individuals overcome these barriers and challenges has become an integral part of his life.



**Melissa A. Long** was sworn in as an Associate Justice of the RI Supreme Court on January 11, 2021 and is the first African American to serve on the court. Prior, she served as a Associate Justice on the RI Superior Court. Justice Long received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Virginia and earned law degree at the George Mason University School of Law. She served as a law clerk to the Honorable Marcus D. Williams of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Court of Virginia and thereafter devoted her legal career to public service

and public interest law. A Washington, D.C., native, Justice Long is the daughter of two U.S. Army veterans who married six months before the Supreme Court decided *Loving v. Virginia*.



**Scott Slater** Deputy Majority Leader Representative Scott A. Slater (D) has served the people of Providence in District 10 since 2009. Rep. Slater successfully sponsored a law which created a new process with standards to be utilized when deciding whether an applicant's past conviction of a crime should disqualify the applicant from receiving an occupational license, permit, certificate, or registration issued by the state. In 2018, Representative Slater sponsored a successful bill which allows criminal conviction records to be expunged if the offense has been decriminalized since the conviction. In

addition to his legislative duties, he works as a budget analyst for the City of Providence. He earned a bachelor's degree at Bryant University.