Extensive research has been done on the presence of implicit bias in the American population against black people. The nature of implicit bias is that it is predominately subconscious and consequently is often uncorrelated with explicit commitment to egalitarian values. As defenders, we must be conscious of our own bias, conscious of how implicit bias affects our client as they move through the system, and work to overcome it. The following implicit bias studies are intended to expand our knowledge of implicit bias, both for self-education and to better understand the forces working against our clients of color.

In addition to the empirical studies listed here, Jerry Kang et al.,’s law review article Implicit Bias in the Courtroom, 59 UCLA L. Rev. 1124 (2012) provides a very useful summary of implicit bias research in the criminal justice system.

I. Establishing the presence of, nature of and extent of implicit bias


Sophie Trawalter et al., *Attending to Threat: Race-Based Patterns of Selective Attention*, 44 J. Experimental Soc. Psychol. 1322, 1322 (2008)
Jeffrey J. Rachlinski et al., *Does Unconscious Racial Bias Affect Trial Judges?*, 84 Notre Dame L. Rev. 1195 (2009)

Vanessa Edkins, *Defense Attorney Plea Recommendations and Client Race: Does Zealous Representation Apply Equally to All?*, 35 Law & Hum. Behav. 413 (2011)


II. Overcoming Implicit Bias


