

***ERASING THE THIN BLUE LINE:
AN ANISHINAABE PROPOSAL***



MATTHEW L.M. FLETCHER

THE GHOST ROAD: ANISHINAABE RESPONSES TO INDIAN HATING

MATTHEW L.M. FLETCHER



Matthew L.M. Fletcher, a member of the Grand Traverse Band, is Professor of Law at Michigan State University College of Law and Director of the Indigenous Law and Policy Center. He sits as the Chief Justice of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians Supreme Court and also sits as an appellate judge for the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the Hoopa Valley Tribe, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, the Match-E-Bé-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians, the Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians, the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska, and the Tulalip Tribes.

Matthew Fletcher examines both the philosophical foundations and anti-First Nation rhetoric that have been codified into laws which suppress and actively harm Native people even before the Revolutionary War. American colonists feared and fought “merciless Indian savages,” and through the following centuries, American law and policy have been molded by the relentless tradition of Indian-hating.

From proportional representation and restrictions on the right to bear arms, to the break-up of tribal property rights and the destruction of Indian culture and family, the attacks on tribal governance and people continue and remain endemic. More than just a study of the progression of law, this book balances each chapter’s history with the relating of a traditional Anishinaabe story or teaching, providing both context and a roadmap for survival.

“The Ghost Road is an informative, incisive, and witty tour through Native America that reveals the fault lines of US federal and tribal relations while highlighting Native cultural persistence and political innovation.” -Tiya Miles, author of *The Dawn of Detroit: A Chronicle of Slavery and Freedom in the City of the Straits*

“Philosophical, historical, and sobering - this gripping journey through the underpinnings of today’s reality transforms our views about discrimination in America.” -Kyle Whyte, Professor and Timmick Chair, Michigan State University

Find Matthew Online:

Turtle Talk Blog: <https://turtletalk.blog/>



@ILPCTurtleTalk

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SUMMER 2020 . . . SUMMER 2016 . . . AND SO ON

ABOLISH THE POLICE



IN MICHIGAN, TOO



WESTERN POLITICAL THEORY . . . THE SOCIAL CONTRACT



HOBBES,
LEVIATHAN

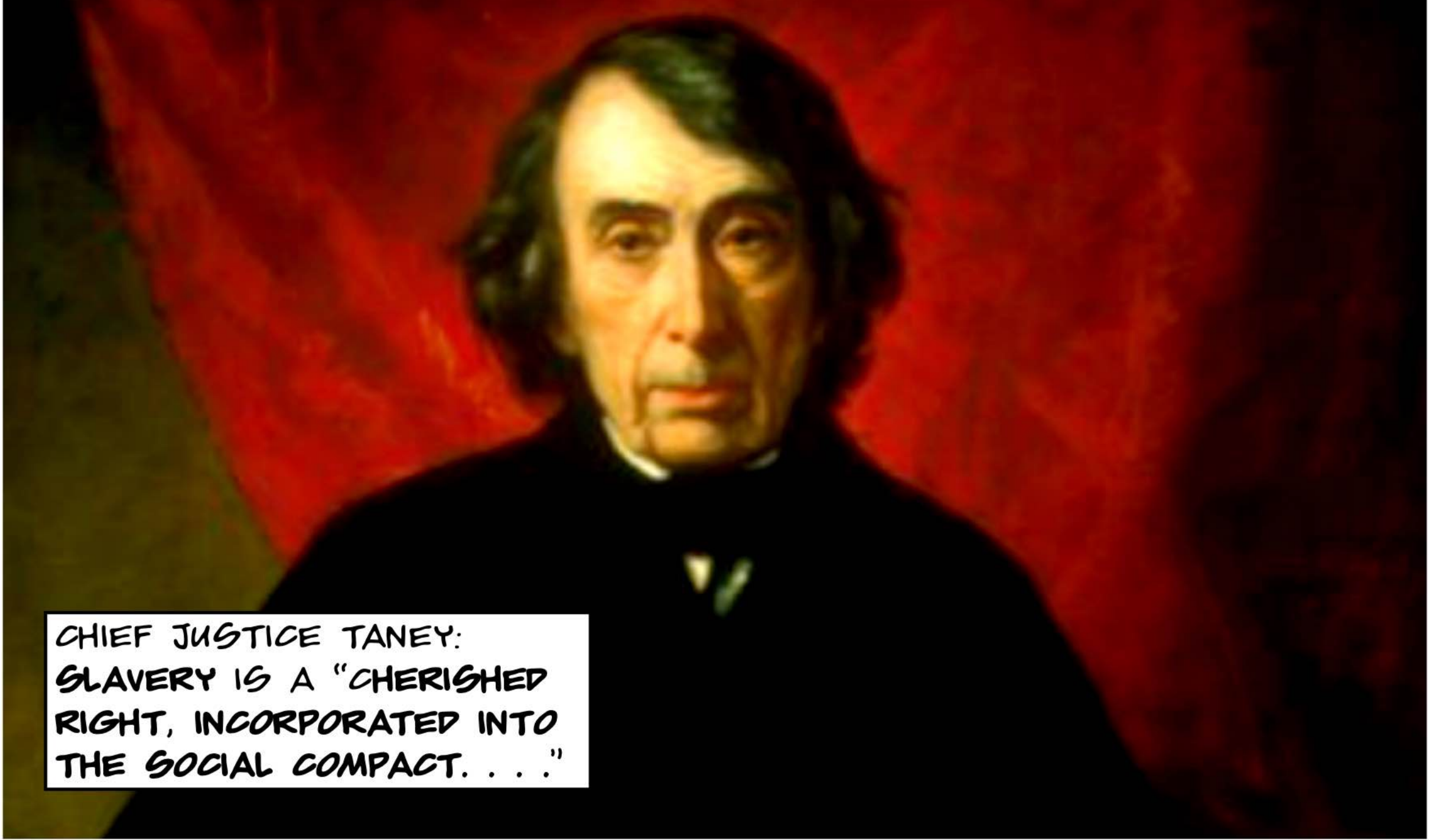


LOCKE



ROUSSEAU

THE ORIGINS OF THE POLICE



CHIEF JUSTICE TANEY:
SLAVERY IS A "CHERISHED
RIGHT, INCORPORATED INTO
THE SOCIAL COMPACT. . . ."

SLAVE PATROLS



SLAVERY INSPIRED THE BEGINNING OF INDIAN POLICE, TOO

the only law throughout a vast territory...

THE INDIAN LIGHT HORSE

By WAYNE T. WALKER

On the bluff above Colbert's Ferry on the Red River, the Cherokee sheriff and his deputy watched the six riders board the ferry on the Texas side. Even from their lookout point, the Indian watchdogs could see that the six were full of "Texas Lightning," as were the crack jags slung over their mounts.

They had been over to Maughn's Store, a mile south of the Big Red, trading ponies for tobacco and whiskey. Now they were on the return trip with a hefting load, for it was strictly illegal to bring booze into the Indian Nations.

CHEROKEE
LIGHT HORSE

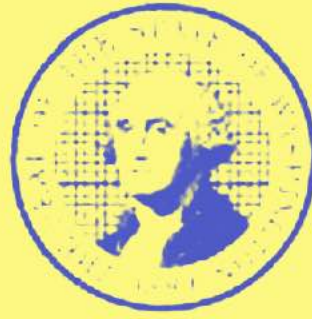


SEMINOLE
LIGHT HORSE



STATE COURT STATEMENTS ON BLACK LIVES MATTER

State of Washington



WASHINGTON
SUPREME
COURT

June 4, 2020

Dear Members of the Judiciary and the Legal Community:

We are compelled by recent events to join other state supreme courts around the nation in addressing our legal community.

The devaluation and degradation of black lives is not a recent event. It is a persistent and systemic injustice that predates this nation's founding. But recent events have brought to the forefront of our collective consciousness a painful fact that is, for too many of our citizens, common knowledge: the injustices faced by black Americans are not relics of the past. We continue to see racialized policing and the overrepresentation of black Americans in every stage of our criminal and juvenile justice systems. Our institutions remain affected by the vestiges of slavery: Jim Crow laws that were never dismantled and racist court decisions that were never disavowed.

The legal community must recognize that we all bear responsibility for this on-going injustice, and that we are capable of taking steps to address it, if only we have the courage and the will. The injustice still plaguing our country has its roots in the individual and collective actions of many, and it cannot be addressed without the individual and collective actions of us all.

As judges, we must recognize the role we have played in devaluing black lives. This very court once held that a cemetery could lawfully deny grieving black parents the right to bury their

Sincerely,

Stephens, C.J.

Debra L. Stephens,
Chief Justice

Johnson

Charles W. Johnson,
Justice

Madsen, J.

Barbara A. Madsen,
Justice

Owens

Susan Owens, Justice

González, J.

Steven C. González,
Justice

Sheryl Gordon McCloud, J.

Sheryl Gordon McCloud,
Justice

Yu, J.

Mary L. Yu, Justice

Montoya-Lewis, J.

Raquel Montoya-Lewis,

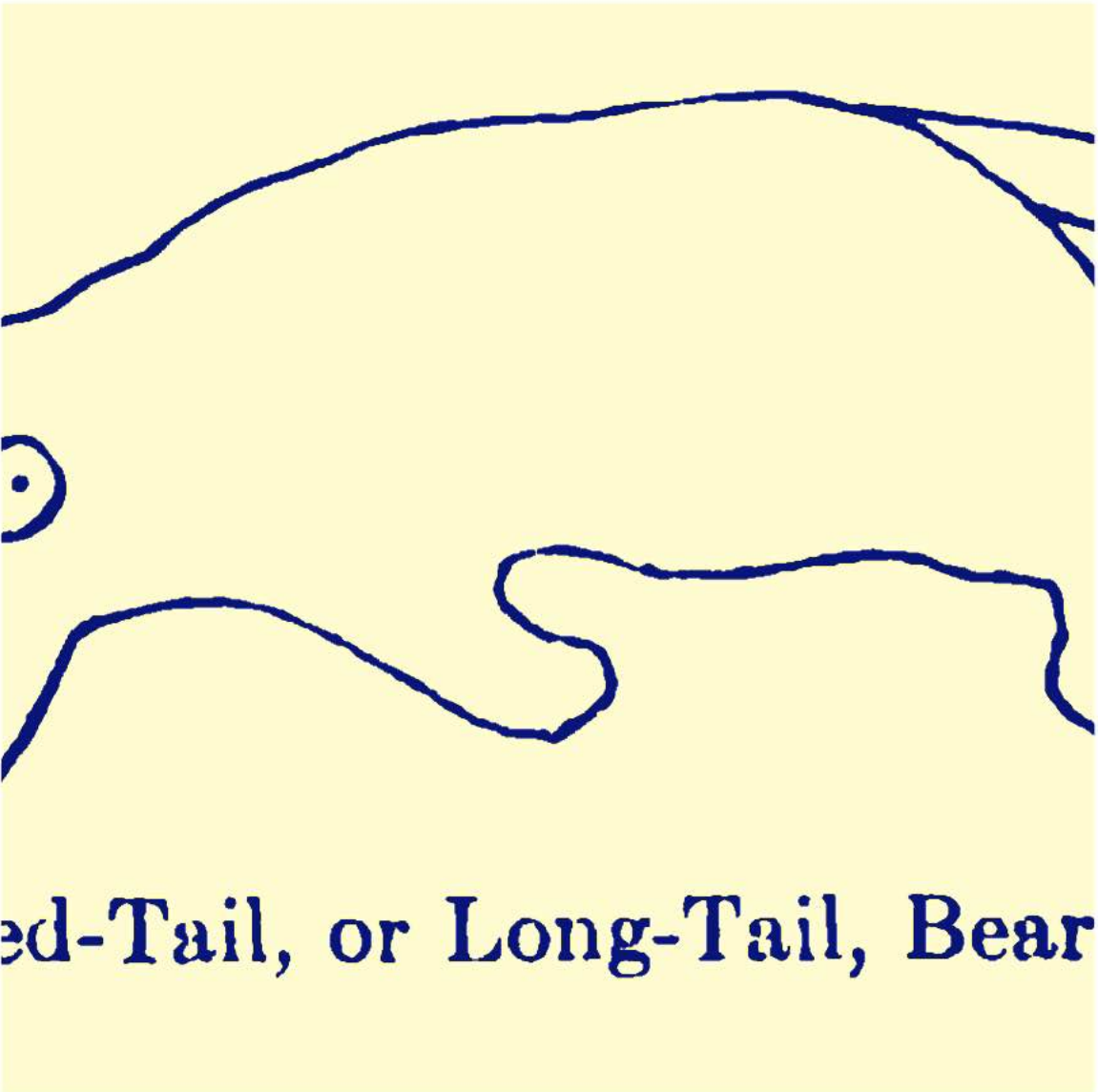
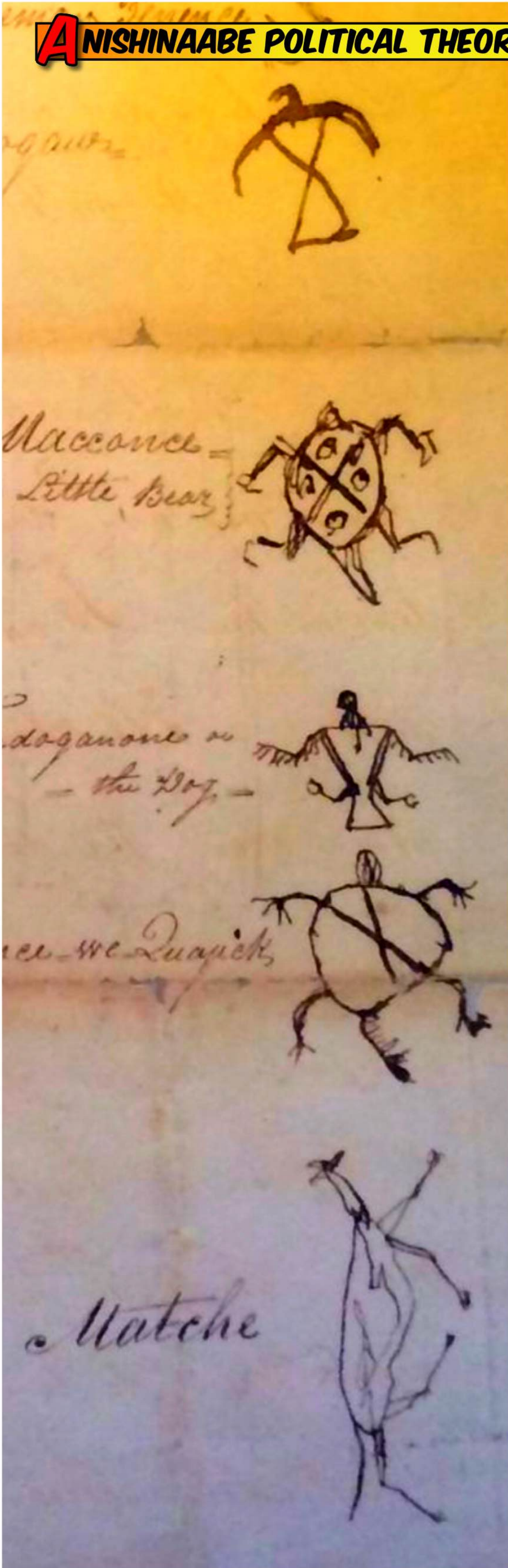
Whitener, J.

G. Helen Whitener, Justice

MINNEAPOLIS A.I.M. PATROLS



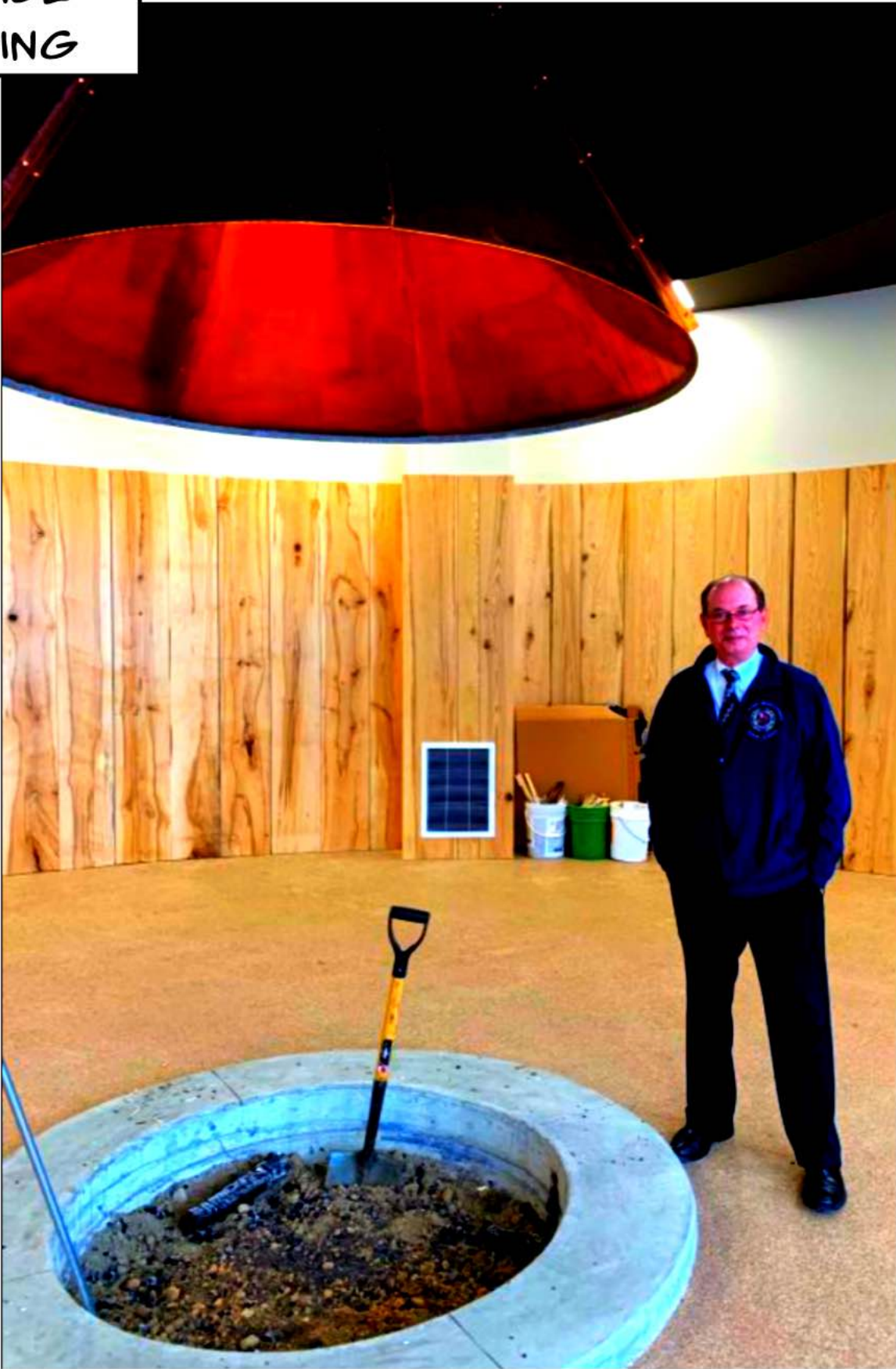
A NISHINAABE POLITICAL THEORY



JUSTICE AND HARMONY



POKAGON
JUSTICE
BUILDING



THE FUTURE, THIN BLUE LINE ERASED

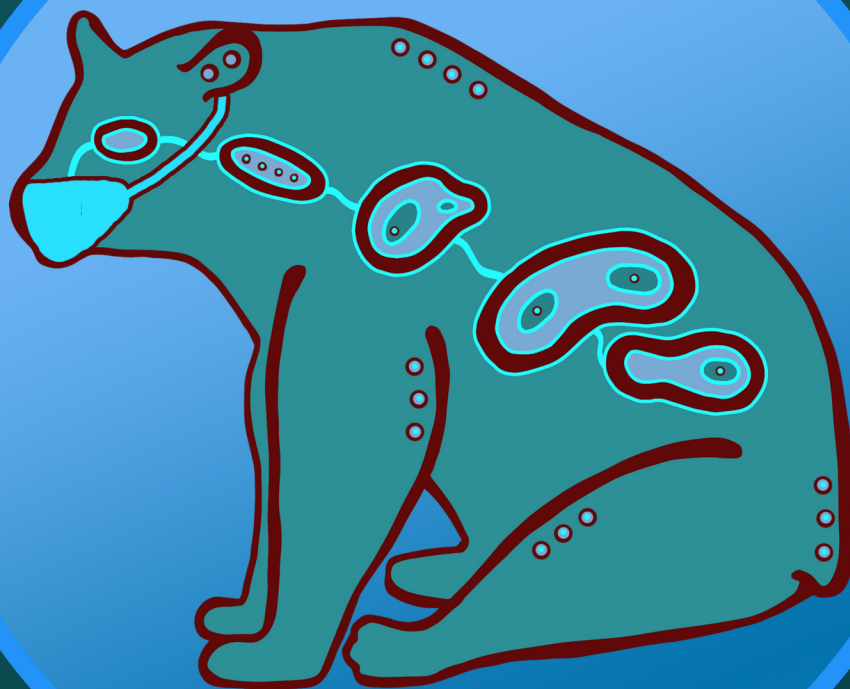
**NATIVE
LIVES
MATTER.**

**SURVIVING SYSTEMATIC
BRUTALITY SINCE 1492.**

WINNIPEG BEAR
CLAN MARCH



**GEGO
MAANDOOGAABOWIKEGO.**



**DON'T
GATHER SOCIALLY.**