

## **LaToya Whiteside**

LaToya Whiteside joined PLS as a Staff Attorney in October 2018. Since joining PLS, her work has focused on forging connections in communities of color and improving the conditions of Black and Brown prisoners. She is a 2020 graduate of the Shriver Center on Poverty Law's Racial Justice Institute (RJI) and a Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation (MLAC) 2021 Racial Justice Fellow. She is forging a path for race equity work at PLS having founded the organization's first race equity project, entitled the "Racial Equity in Corrections Initiative", on which she serves as the Project Director. More recently her work resulted in PLS being awarded a \$250,000 grant from RIZE Massachusetts Foundation, Inc. to ensure Black and Brown prisoners receive equitable access to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). She serves on the legislature's Structural Racism Commission and was recently appointed by the Attorney General to serve on the Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund Advisory Council. She is a graduate of Spelman College and Rutgers School of Law. After law school, she served as a federal law clerk to the Honorable Chief Judge Petrese Tucker in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Prior to attending law school, Whiteside worked in the mental health field as a substance use disorder counselor in North Carolina.