

Ronnie Dewberry: Born 7/13/58 in Oakland California

Clip #	Text Slide	Page in deposition	Quote
1	Talks about Swahili name, family history	9	<p>Q: What does your Swahili name mean?</p> <p>A: The first name Sitawa is Man of Destiny.</p> <p>Q: Did you take on that name yourself, or was it in connection with a group of other inmates that were studying Swahili?</p> <p>A: No. Actually, it come about, that name, is through historical development, through family and my personal growth and development, understanding African American history throughout the United States.</p>
2	Racial tension in prison	86	<p>Q: What was different about it? [the racial tension in the 1980s ]</p> <p>A: This here was different. The specific difference that there was a gap—it was a gap in between us up there, Africans, and other races up there having altercations. What—what happened, for the first time, CDC come up with an ingenious plan to put all rival groups of races on one yard with—without having any type of dialogue or some type of conflict resolution. Just throw hundreds of people on the yard together who have been isolated and segregated from each other for the better part of 10 years.</p>
3	Lack of due process	114	<p>Q: Did you petition the court to get legal representation in connection with this matter? [a shooting that took place at Corcoran jail] ***question included</p> <p>A: Yes. I tried to seek out counsel. I wrote letters to different lawyers. I requested the courts to appoint me one to represent me and of no avail. I didn't get nobody, so I had to represent myself.</p>
5	Lack of due process	201	<p>Q: What were the allegations that you were pursuing relief for in the Madrid litigation?</p> <p>A: It was actually to bring about something that we're trying right now today. Due process, equal protection. Placing people in SHU and not giving them a right to a hearing or proceeding, going through a 114-D hearing. Because so many people have been filing litigation throughout the system, fighting this one central issue, and that central issue was we are unjustly being placed in the hole on affiliation and being placed in the hole on what I would describe as a debriefer. Whatever other terms, rat, turncoat, snitch. You know what I mean? These are things that people have been placed in the hole with no factual evidence or supporting evidence for the crimes that they said are our activities, placed in the hole.</p>
6	Psychological warfare	204-205	<p>Q: Were you pursuing relief because of any mental harms that you believe you were experiencing because of your confinement in the SHU, back in the time of Madrid?</p> <p>A: As far as the physical harm, no. Mental harm, deprivation, yes. It—it was in the embryonic stages of that here at Pelican Bay. But you have to realize that myself and other prisoners had already been in the hole 10, 20 years, and when you put a person in this kind of structural environment, that exacerbate even worse under the—the auspices that this is a normal SHU setting. It's not. This is a behavior modification psychological low-intensity warfare against the mind of a human being. That's what exists here at Pelican Bay.</p>
7	Prison health care	218	<p>A: I go to the clinic when—when I need to go to to clinic. Like you see me sitting on the doughnut. I had hemmorhoid surgery—surgery, so I seen them for that—for that purpose. I have lower back problems that I'm constantly in pain. So I write, go to the clinic to—to try to deal with this problem. I have thyroid problems that haven't been—it's an unresolved issue. So it's—it's a number of things that I</p>

			would go to the clinic and try to get them to resolve it, you know. But, Pelican Bay have poor healthcare. When it comes to general prisoners, the healthcare up here is poor.
8	Lack of due process	221	<p>A: You go there and they tell you essentially the same thing. “Debrief or you’re going to be stuck here.” Simple. Anybody that go to the hearing going to get the same thing. Then they ask you, “Do you have anything else you want to talk about?” What is there more important to talk about than me getting out of the SHU and you’re holding me in here for allegations, but not a—a particular act that I supposed to have committed.</p> <p>You know, you can’t—you can’t tell one person that—when you go to classification at UCC and say, “Hey, this is because of what you do,” and then the—the rebuttal of that there would be “No, I ain’t doing nothing.” Therefore, you’re keeping me in here based on the label of the group you have identified me with. Therefore, I can never get my due process in this—in this setting dealing with the UCC.</p>
9	Physical health issues	250	<p>Q: In paragraph 74, page 15: “Dewberry suffers from melanin deficiency, leading to severe pigmentation loss; vitamin D deficiency, chronic lower back problems and pain; stomach problems; and swollen thyroid glands.”</p> <p>...</p>
		251	<p>Q: Are these the scope of physical issues that we’re talking about?</p> <p>A: Well I have insomnia, just several other things that—that this—this causes the—you know, the—like I said, lower back pain, the knee problem, the thyroid problem. You know? Some—sometimes the numbness. You know what I mean? And it goes on for me, you know, sometimes I have anger problems where I have to contain my own discipline—to not respond to—to not respond to a certain—you know, there’s a number of things that’s been going on over a period of time, and I didn’t have these problems prior to being at SHU.</p>
		252	<p>Q: Is it your testimony that Pelican Bay SHU has exacerbated these problems?</p> <p>A: Sure, when you is sitting for 90 percent of the day, it weighs a toll on a person’s knees.</p>
		253	<p>Q: You have been dissatisfied with the treatment?</p> <p>A: Well, not only dissatisfied with the treatment. It’s—it’s dissatisfied with how staff is so rigid against you seeking professionals that does not work for CDC as a whole.</p> <p>Every practitioner that you see that makes these analysis of your work for CDC, is on the payroll of CDC. And when you ask to have an outside professional, a specialist—because most of them is not specialists here—to see specialists, you get denied by a Pelican Bay committee of doctors that work for CDC at this prison.</p> <p>So you run into a brick wall. At some point, I may not have to file a writ or a civil suit just so I can get care of my knees, to figure out why my thyroid flare up and didn’t go down, because there’s never been a conclusive response to that.</p>
10	Insomnia	276 -277	<p>A: Your worst enemy is the unknown. And in my case, it’s the unknown. I really didn’t think it was going to---it—it’s having these effects. Actually, I had to sit—sit back and actually analyze myself. And then I say, “Well damn, this stuff actually has affected me, because I’m not getting enough sleep,” and all these other things I used to do longer, it—it has roots going to the sleep. And the headaches is</p>

			increasing because I have kind of extended my sleeping to about four hours, three, four hours now. It's more than it was prior, but I'm still having the headaches and stuff, so it limits myself..
11	Mental health services	289-290	<p>Q: In your experience, Mr. Dewberry, do mental health professionals at Pelican Bay fabricate issues with respect to the mental health of inmates that they meet with?</p> <p>A: In relations to that overall, the response would be yes, I do believe that, and the reason being is because having been around individuals that actually was out there suffering and nothing was done to aid them, and at the same time, when a person tell you, "Hey, this guy needs some help" and they ignore it and then that—as a result of that, that person become even more lucid (sic) and psychotic to the point they have to do physical harm to the individual, that—that becomes a problem based upon the mental health, because they was the one informed of that.</p>
12	Isolation from loved ones	312  313	<p>Q: So what is it about your continued confinement in the SHU that has increased your sense of isolation?</p> <p>A: It actually has a broader context to that, what I was talking about. I was talking about the ability to write and communicate with my family, friends, loved ones on the streets. That—that's part of my—my cultural deprivation. That's part of what you—what you right here in SHU have progressed. I'm—I'm trying to share with you all and everybody that look, I have family outside these walls. Due to ISU and IGI hindering and playing with my mail, has an effect on me having that relationship and ability with my family. I—it isolates you even further.</p>
13	Sensory deprivation	317-318	<p>Q: Can you explain how you have less opportunity to share thoughts and feelings with others? Who are others?</p> <p>A: We're talking about Africans that have—to have a common dialogue with another African is—when you start isolating, intentionally isolating groups of people, these are part of the results of cultural deprivation, sensory deprivation. It all plays a role in one's mental state.</p> <p>A: You know, being in an environment like this is—it mentally wear on you and is—it's destructive in and of itself, the confinement, you know. And most times, in any behavior modification unit, you—you always have the environment, structured environment that kicks in first, and—and then it starts to wearing on the minds of the individuals to which I speak to right there. And that—that's a general and simplistic application of what goes on in the type of environment that you know you are the target, and every prisoner in here is a target in this kind of structured environment for behavior modification.</p>
14	Despair	330	<p>Q: When you write to your family members, you are expressing to them how you are doing, right?</p> <p>A: I write to my family members to have them not worry about me. My family members, like any other family members, worry about their sons and daughters in prison. I am no different. I try to protect my family from the harsh treatment that one receives here within CDC...I try to talk more—much of it upbeat, lighter. "What're you doing? Are you going to school, or you got a tarde or you got a business out there?"</p>