

BLACK PEOPLE HAVE GOOD SKIN: WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM ANYWAY?¹

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I. “UNSUSPICIOUS”²

This Essay is about how scams hurt Black skin.³ Scams are crimes that cause damage when defendants lie and steal.⁴ Scams violating family, criminal, immigration, and other law hurt Black people’s skin.⁵ Therefore, avoidance is necessary for the health of Black people.⁶

Black people’s skin is sensitive to scams in certain situations.⁷ Sexual fraud, sexual violence, domestic violence, and sexual abuse could lead to skin damage caused, for example by apparatuses

¹ Rosemonde Gérard, "Les Vieux" (1889), “*Car, vois-tu, chaque jour je t’aime davantage, Aujourd’hui plus qu’hier et bien moins que demain.*” *Id.*

² EDMOND ROSTAND, *CYRANO DE BERGERAC* (1900) at 40.

³ *Id.* Sections I-III.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.* See generally, RESTATEMENT (THIRD) OF TORTS (2012).

⁶ RESTATEMENT (THIRD) OF TORTS § 46 (2012).

⁷ *Id.*

resulting in maiming and burning and exposure to disease.⁸ It is sensitive like White people's, thus this

⁸ *E.g.* O.C.G.A. §16-5-60 (2023). Jim Kepner, "HIV and STD Criminalization Laws," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Mar. 3, 2023), <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/policies/law/states/exposure.html>. University of California School of Law (UCLA) Williams Institute, HIV Criminalization in Georgia: Penal Implications for People Living with HIV/AIDS January 2018, <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/hiv-criminalization-in-georgia/>. "Black men were more likely to be convicted of an HIV-related offense than White men." *Id.* "However, in some smaller counties, as many as 10% of the residents living with HIV had experienced an HIV-related arrest. The counties with the highest arrest rates among people living with HIV were mostly rural counties clustered in the northern part of the state." *Id.*

Among the remaining 25% of reckless conduct incidents, nearly half (49%) had some sort of concurrent drug offense in the same incident, indicating that the arrest may have been related to the needle sharing subsection of the code, 29% had a concurrent sex offense, indicating that they may have been related to the sexual exposure subsection of the code and 29% had a concurrent sex work offense, indicating that they may have been related to the sex work subsections of the code. *Id.*

"Black men and Black women were more likely to be arrested for HIV-related offenses than their White counterparts: 26% of HIV-related arrests were of White males, while 46% of HIV-related arrests were of Black males; additionally, 11% of those arrested were White females, while 16% were Black females." *Id.* See also Amira Hasenbush, "HIV Criminalization in Georgia: Penal Implications for People Living with HIV/AIDS," The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law, The Center for HIV Law and Policy (CHLP), (Jan. 2018) <https://www.hivlawandpolicy.org/resources/hiv-criminalization-georgia-penal-implications-people-living-hiv-voids-amira-hasenbush>. "The report was based on arrests and convictions under Georgia's one HIV-related criminal exposure statute, which contains seven separate offenses." *Id.*

There are numerous striking findings in the Williams Institute report on HIV criminalization in Georgia. White women, who make up 3% of PLHIV in Georgia, represented 11% of HIV-related arrests. Yet—perhaps because of disparate HIV rates

Essay may use examples from Whites and other non-Whites to explain the cause and damage, while yet some situations may cause Black skin to be more sensitive.⁹

Not all causes and damage are extreme.¹⁰ Black people may be stressed by scams leading to skin damage, breakdown, and loss of repair mechanisms, for example temporarily have no ability to resist the

among black people in Georgia—black men and women were more likely to be arrested for HIV-related offenses than their white counterparts: 26% of HIV-related arrests were white men, 46% were black men, 11% were white women, and 16% were black women. Once charged, black men were nearly twice as likely to be convicted of the HIV-related offense (16%) as white men (9%). However, when charged with concurrent offenses (44% of total arrests), white men were more likely (24%) than black men (15%) to be convicted of the non-HIV related offenses and not the HIV-related offense. *Id.*

⁹ Andrea Jordan, “Here’s How Eczema on Black Skin Looks Different, and How to Treat It: Plus, How to Stop the Itching ASAP,” *WOMEN’S HEALTH* (Jan. 24, 2022), <https://www.womenshealthmag.com/beauty/a35386534/eczema-on-black-skin/>.

Dr. Robinson agrees that Black patients are more likely to develop eczema, and she says that their skin also tends to be more resistant to treatment. ‘There is a complex mix of factors, including genetics, skin barrier function, and environment that seem to play a role in these differences.’

Id.

“All of these treatments are the same no matter what race or ethnicity you are.” *Id.*

¹⁰ RESTATEMENT (THIRD) OF TORTS § 46 (2012).

burning by the sun.¹¹ Then they may develop ongoing skin conditions and fall victim to other scammers labeling them targets, for example because they cannot recover from scars as easily.¹²

A scar is a patch. While a scar is not the only damage envisioned here it is a poignant image that perpetuates the feeling of being scammed.¹³ Healing may cause a scar that then reduces in coarseness throughout the duration of the scar.¹⁴ Scars cannot

¹¹ “Sunburn on black skin is often not recognized.” S. KARGER, CURRENT PROBLEMS IN DERMATOLOGY: CHALLENGES IN SUN PROTECTION, Vol. 55 (2021). *See also id.* at Chapter, 62 – 71; Damilola Fajuyigbe & Michèle Verschoore, “Sun Exposure and Black Skin.” *Id.* ARTHUR C. GIESE, HOW SUNLIGHT AGES SKIN LIVING WITH OUR SUN’S ULTRAVIOLET RAYS (1976), at 87. “With continuous exposure to the sun, **black skin** ultimately gets ‘weather-beaten.’” *Id.* *See also*, R. G. Freeman, “Effects of Aging on the Skin,” In *The Skin* (Editors, E. E. Helwig & E. K. Mostopi) (1971), at 244. Roselyn E. Epps & John A. Kenney Jr., *Diseases of Black Skin*, DERMATOLOGY (O. Braun-Falco et al., Editor) (2000), at 1681. “Many problems described as racial actually reflect availability of care, occupational patterns, economic status and other sociologic issues.” *Id.* at 1681. Olayemi Bello, Holger Sudhoff, & Peter Goon, *Sunburn Prevalence is Underestimated in UK-Based People of African Ancestry*, 14 CLINICAL, COSMETIC & INVESTIGATIONAL DERMATOLOGY 1791 (2021). “In total 69% reported that the episode of sunburn occurred when they were not using sunscreen, and another 10% could not recall whether sunscreen was used.” *Id.*

¹² *Generally supra* note.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.*

recede as well in some Black people.¹⁵ Their skin must be preserved.¹⁶ To do this, lawyers should focus on reducing scam activity, helping Black people to recover from scams, and disseminating important tips to avoid scams.¹⁷ Section Two discusses examples of laws and scams.¹⁸ Section Three describes advocative procedures, tips, and thoughts.¹⁹ Recommendations and philosophies for Blacks are included in the concluding Section.²⁰

¹⁵ See, Molly Burford, “9 Types of HIV Rash,” Very Well Health, (June 28, 2023) <https://www.verywellhealth.com/hiv-rash-5198418>.

“A rash is one of the symptoms associated with a new and recent HIV infection.” *Id.* “In people with HIV, it is one of the most common skin conditions.” *Id.* “In the U.S., psoriasis is more common in [W]hite people than Black people. However, in Black people, it may be more likely to cover larger areas of the body.” *Id.*

¹⁶ Claire Sissons, “How Rashes Look on Darker Skin and Their Treatments,” MEDICAL NEWS TODAY, (Dec. 23, 2020) <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/rash-on-black-skin>. “On darker skin, the blisters may be gray or white.” *Id.*

¹⁷ *Supra* and *infra* Sections I-III.

¹⁸ *Infra* Sections II.

¹⁹ *Infra* Sections III.

²⁰ *Infra* Sections IV.

II. "FIGHTING ABILITIES"²¹

A. "Together"²²

The *L.E. v. K.E.W.* case uses the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (PDVA) to defend victims against scams.²³ The case is applicable to Black people who suffer skin damage during domestic violence.²⁴ An expanded analysis of romance scams is presented in Subsection C after explication of different detrimental skin conditions is discussed in the next Section.²⁵ Though the history provided typifies a victim's struggle to prove that injuries sustained under criminal law also prove that a scammer damaged the victim in additional ways, the scam itself is a separate crime giving rise to actionable consequences under family law.²⁶

²¹ Smithsonian, "Popular and Pervasive Stereotypes of African Americans," National Museum of African American History and Culture, <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/popular-and-pervasive-stereotypes-african-americans>.

²² "SUZANNE SOMERS (Live In Vegas)," *Youtube*, (Oct. 8, 2008) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dxcdyKzSNtY>. The "first time" makes a "new attitude." *Id.*

²³ N.J.S.A. 2C:25-17 to-35 (2019).

²⁴ *L.E. v. K.E.W.*, No. A-5712-17T1 (N.J. Sup. Ct., 2020).

²⁵ *Infra* Sections II and III.

²⁶ *Infra* note.

L.E., Plaintiff-Respondent, overcame a defense by K.E.W., Defendant-Appellant.²⁷ The higher court held that the trial court correctly ruled that the defendant was a household member under a domestic violence statute PDVA.²⁸ New Jersey’s appellate court found the defendant elaborately deceived in an alarming and seriously annoying manner disturbing the plaintiff with a ruse resulting in quasi-criminal harassment.²⁹ The defendant bilked a charity and

²⁷ L.E. v. K.E.W., No. A-5712-17T1 (N.J. Sup. Ct., 2020). This matter was heard by the court in the Appellate Division on October 2, 2019 and decided on January 22, 2020.

²⁸ N.J.S.A. 2C:25-17 to-35 (2019).

²⁹ L.E. v. K.E.W., No. A-5712-17T1 (N.J. Sup. Ct., 2020) (citing *Desiato v. Abbott*, 261 N.J. Super. 30, 33 (App. Div. 1992)). A flexible list of factors may be needed. This approach is used to determine “family-like setting.” *Id.* “Household” has greater comprehensiveness than “family.” *Id.*

We identified five factors to consider in evaluating whether a person is a ‘household member’ within the meaning of the PDVA:

1. Constancy of the relationship.
2. Over-night stays at each other's residence.
3. Personalty [*sic*] items such as jewelry, clothing and personal grooming effects stored at each other's residences.
4. Shared property arrangements, such as automobile usage, access to each other's bank accounts and one mailing address for billings or other legal purposes.
5. Familiarity with each other's siblings and parents socially in dining and/or entertainment activities together, and/or attendance together at extended family functions such as weddings. *Id.* at 34.

moved in with the plaintiff. Similar to the case at bar, the defendant used a close proximity to the victim to create an injury.³⁰ In this case, this injury is not just domestic violence.³¹ The damage caused in a victim's home may be domestic violence.³² Physical cons leaving physical scars relate to interpersonal violence.³³ Therefore this case is analogizable.³⁴

The plaintiff was a pastor's wife at a church where the defendant posed as a cancer patient in need.³⁵ The defendant showed a picture of another cancer victim at a hospital to the victim to deceive the victim.³⁶ The victim believed the picture.³⁷ The scammer later did admit the fake nature of the photo.³⁸

³⁰ N.J.S.A. 2C:33-4 (2019); PDVA (2015); Tribuzio v. Roder, 356 N.J. Super. 590, 595 (App. Div. 2003) ("household member" has a "special opportunity for `abusive and controlling behavior.'" *Id.* (quoting Jutchenko v. Jutchenko, 283 N.J. Super. 17, 20 (App. Div. 1995))).

³¹ *Infra* Section III.

³² *Id.*

³³ *Id.*

³⁴ *See* Section IV.

³⁵ *Id.*

³⁶ L.E. v. K.E.W., No. A-5712-17T1 (N.J. Sup. Ct., 2020).

³⁷ *Id.*

³⁸ *Id.*

The court quoted *Fireman's Fund of N.J. v. Caldwell*.³⁹ The trial court alluded to the significance of skin in similar cases saying that a "household" definition is "chameleon-like."⁴⁰ The statement is not meant to hide the type of case at bar, but shows great attention to skin in other senses.⁴¹ Though the case centers around domestic violence the perpetrator would have attacked in another state and had a prior history.⁴² The circumstance in this case favored the plaintiff, specifically recovery through a final restraining order (FRO), but the case was remanded to the lower court to find how the victim was at risk for further abuse by the defendant.⁴³

The victim in this case is like Blacks suffering from skin damage.⁴⁴ Skin damage is one type of injury.⁴⁵ It can be caused by stress, direct contact, or

³⁹ *Fireman's Fund of N.J. v. Caldwell*, 270 N.J. Super. 157, 163-64 (Law Div. 1993).

⁴⁰ *Id.*

⁴¹ *Id.*

⁴² R.G., 449 N.J. Super. at 219 (quoting N.G., 426 N.J. Super. at 409).

⁴³ *Id.* L.E. v. K.E.W., No. A-5712-17T1 (N.J. Sup. Ct., 2020).

⁴⁴ *See* Section IV.

⁴⁵ *Id.*

indirect exposure to hazards.⁴⁶ The damage calculation is for the court.⁴⁷ Injury proof is part of the elements.⁴⁸ For example fraud requires a lie made with intent, reliance by the victim, and damage to the plaintiff.⁴⁹ The law community should cautiously allow victims of several crimes to propose theories under different bodies of law to recover for scams affecting Black skin.⁵⁰

Normally, few victims will emerge after a scam into the system.⁵¹ The absence of direct help for Black's skin is calling for more attention to private remedies, such as advocacy, deterrence, and social conscience programming.⁵² While some victims prefer to stay out of court and seek holism, such as the pastor's wife that spent her time practicing faith healing arts, the avoidance of the system cannot

⁴⁶ *Id.*

⁴⁷ *Id.*

⁴⁸ *Infra* note.

⁴⁹ Restatement (Second) of Torts § 525 (1977).

⁵⁰ L.E. v. K.E.W., No. A-5712-17T1 (N.J. Sup. Ct., 2020).

⁵¹ *See generally* Section I.

⁵² Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt, 579 U.S. 582 (2016) (no number of victims is too low).

allow multiple crimes to affect the scam victims.⁵³ Therefore recovery may be facilitated by this research.⁵⁴

This research demonstrates that Black people, and others, can be damaged by aggravating and persistent scams.⁵⁵ The scams are often described as other problems, such as domestic violence.⁵⁶ When Black people's skin suffers, scams affecting Blacks and scams across all relevant legal areas should be researched to recover for Blacks.⁵⁷ Skin damage discussed in the next Subsection may not be obvious and may occur in the future, therefore fields of law prepared to assign responsibility should be researched.⁵⁸ Congruent fields may be managed affectively to offer more solutions for different types of damage and recovery.⁵⁹

⁵³ David North, "The Victims of Marriage-Related Immigration Fraud Tell Their Stories," Center for Immigration Studies, (Aug. 31, 2020) <https://cis.org/North/Victims-MarriageRelated-Immigration-Fraud-Tell-Their-Stories>.

⁵⁴ See generally Section IV.

⁵⁵ *Id.*

⁵⁶ *Id.*

⁵⁷ *Id.*

⁵⁸ See *infra* Subsection B.

⁵⁹ *Id.*

B. "First Time"⁶⁰

For con artists, “romance scams are a transaction, not a crime.”⁶¹ The aggressors harbor criminal intent.⁶² One explained that conning is his motive for making women fall in love.⁶³ “That’s my main occupation — online. I want somebody to be my lover, my fiancé.”⁶⁴ “She wanted to see me. Sometimes I feel like, wow, this lady, she’s really in some misery or pain because she really wants to see me and she can’t see me.”⁶⁵ He thinks like they do.⁶⁶ “He shows me himself naked, full naked. And I will make sure to make him happy, like he will fall in love with me.”⁶⁷

⁶⁰ Somers (2008).

⁶¹ Sean Rubinsztein-Dunlop, Lesley Robinson, and Suzanne Dredge, “Meet the Scammers: Could This Be Your Online Lover?,” Four Corners/ABC Investigations, (Feb. 11, 2019) <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-02-11/ghana-meet-the-scammers/10785676>.

⁶² *Id.*

⁶³ *Id.*

⁶⁴ *Id.*

⁶⁵ *Id.*

⁶⁶ *Id.*

⁶⁷ ABC Investigations (2019).

After the con, the victim thinks differently.⁶⁸ One victim thought that he wanted her life.⁶⁹ “I suspect my last husband tried to kill me. He may have been slowly poisoning me, most likely with arsenic.”⁷⁰ “It [may] look like the victim [is] growing sicker with age or ill health, or suffering from cholera in acute poisoning cases.”⁷¹ “We quickly met with an attorney to create a will.”⁷² “Shortly after we signed the will, I discovered more betrayals.”⁷³ “Some have urged me to take legal action, but it’s too late.”⁷⁴

The damage is emotional and physical.⁷⁵ “While many scars will fade with time, deep scarring that results from trauma may only fade with medical intervention.”⁷⁶ “For example, eczema can cause the

⁶⁸ *Id.*

⁶⁹ *Infra* note.

⁷⁰ Kerry McAvoy, “How I Nearly Lost My Life in a Marriage Scam,” Good Men Project, (Feb. 20, 2021) [https://goodmenproject.com/featured-content/how-i-nearly-lost-my-life-in-a-marriage-scam/..](https://goodmenproject.com/featured-content/how-i-nearly-lost-my-life-in-a-marriage-scam/)

⁷¹ *Id.*

⁷² *Id.*

⁷³ *Id.*

⁷⁴ *Id.*

⁷⁵ *Id.*

⁷⁶ Steph Coelho, *How to Treat Scars on Black Skin*, MEDICAL NEWS TODAY, (Feb. 25, 2022) <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/scars-on-black-skin>.

skin to appear brown, gray, or purple.”⁷⁷ “Fine scars may even fade on their own.”⁷⁸ The scars may demonstrate hostility more than on other lighter or darker parts.⁷⁹ “Hyperpigmentation is when spots of skin are darker than the surrounding skin,” so injuries stand-out.⁸⁰ Features may appear distinct, for example show personality, and the shades vary.⁸¹

People may be likelier to fall for scams when their skin is sensitive, and scars may change the sensitivity, for example “cause irritation in those with sensitive skin.”⁸² “A doctor will advise a person on how long.”⁸³ Elevated pores may correlate with scars.⁸⁴ “Black people may also have other symptoms, such as dark circles around the eyes. They may also be prone to developing a form of eczema called papular eczema, which involves small goosebump-like protrusions.”⁸⁵ “For the best results,

⁷⁷ *Id.*

⁷⁸ *Id.*

⁷⁹ *See id.*

⁸⁰ *Id.*

⁸¹ *Id.*

⁸² Coelho, *How to Treat Scars on Black Skin.*

⁸³ *Id.*

⁸⁴ *Id.*

⁸⁵ *Id.*

a person should speak with a dermatologist.”⁸⁶ “If home remedies are not working, it is best to seek a dermatologist’s help.”⁸⁷ When possible home treatment should exclude a scammer because that would make it worse or do damage.⁸⁸

C. "New Attitude"⁸⁹

Black skin exposed to scams is likelier to get hurt than skin not exposed to them.⁹⁰ Crime increases the likelihood of damage.⁹¹ Trauma also can cause damage.⁹² Some traumatic events expose them to unprovoked violence, serious and severe sunburns, and diseases contracted outdoors.⁹³ Scams can include fraudulent sale and buying schemes, child abduction, and divorce.⁹⁴

⁸⁶ *Id.*

⁸⁷ *Id.*

⁸⁸ Coelho, *How to Treat Scars on Black Skin*.

⁸⁹ Somers (2008).

⁹⁰ See Coelho, *How to Treat Scars on Black Skin*.

⁹¹ *Id.*

⁹² *Id.*

⁹³ *Id.*

⁹⁴ *Id.*

Blacks exposed to scams are likelier to hurt their skin.⁹⁵ They may traumatize and abuse victims causing skin problems from emotional and physical injuries and irritation.⁹⁶ Falling in love is a scam for some Black people.⁹⁷ They are set-up by con artists seeking to ask them for money later.⁹⁸ The tort of intentional infliction of emotional distress may offer a remedy when criminal law falls short.⁹⁹ This tort may require proof, but the following elements may be satisfied: intent to behave in an extreme and outrageous way; causation arising from reckless disregard; and extreme emotional distress or damage.¹⁰⁰

The law does not show great deference for Blacks, but a plain reading demonstrates how broad laws show attention to the needs of those who would be harmed.¹⁰¹ Some laws may be used to prevent,

⁹⁵ *Id.*

⁹⁶ Coelho, *How to Treat Scars on Black Skin*.

⁹⁷ Alain Tambe Ebot, *Advance Fee Fraud Scammers' Criminal Expertise and Deceptive Strategies: A Qualitative Case Study*, INFO. & COMP. SEC. (2023).

⁹⁸ *Hughes v. Pair*, 46 Cal.4th 1035, 1050 (2009).

⁹⁹ § 46 (2012).

¹⁰⁰ *Id.*

¹⁰¹ *Id.*

slow perpetuation, and end injury to the Black image.¹⁰² While laws cater to Blacks’ problems and solutions, Blacks can prevail under legal theories that harm related to race or not.¹⁰³ On top of that, the law can be used by Blacks to stop other Blacks who are misusing the law.¹⁰⁴

The federal government’s authority can be used to aid Blacks victimized by false relationships, such as fraudulent marriage, in §275(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) or 8 U.S.C. § 1325.¹⁰⁵

(a)Improper time or place; avoidance of examination or inspection; misrepresentation and concealment of facts Any alien who (1) enters or attempts to enter the United States at any time or place other than as designated by immigration officers, or (2) eludes examination or inspection by immigration officers, or (3) attempts to enter or obtains entry to the United States by a willfully false or misleading

¹⁰² *Id.* 18 U.S.C. § 1015. Naturalization, citizenship or alien registry; § 1025. False pretenses on high seas and other waters; § 1030. Fraud and related activity in connection with computers; § 1038. False information and hoaxes. NC G.S. 14-32.5 (2023).

¹⁰³ *See* § 46 (2012).

¹⁰⁴ *Id.*

¹⁰⁵ INA (1952). 8 U.S.C. § 1325 (2023).

representation or the willful concealment of a material fact, shall, for the first commission of any such offense, be fined under title 18 or imprisoned not more than 6 months, or both, and, for a subsequent commission of any such offense, be fined under title 18, or imprisoned not more than 2 years, or both.¹⁰⁶

Abuse, abandonment, and adultery empty the Black partner of vital energy causing skin to become vulnerable to increasing toxic variables.¹⁰⁷ False marriage can weaken the skin.¹⁰⁸

Scientific insight explains that the people are not weak.¹⁰⁹ “The studies identified by the search yielded prevalence rates of 3.4% to 20.3% for domestic physical violence against men. Most of the affected men had been violent toward their partners themselves.”¹¹⁰ Among males “10.6–40% of them reported having been abused or maltreated as

¹⁰⁶ 8 U.S.C. § 1325 (2023).

¹⁰⁷ *Id.* See § 46 (2012).

¹⁰⁸ See § 46 (2012).

¹⁰⁹ *Infra* Section IV.

¹¹⁰ Verena Kolbe and Andreas Büttner, *Domestic Violence Against Men—Prevalence and Risk Factors*, 117 DTSCH ARZTEBL INT. 534 (2020).

children.”¹¹¹ “The reported consequences of violence include mostly minor physical injuries, impaired physical health, mental health problems such as anxiety or a disruptive disorder, and increased consumption of alcohol and/or illegal drugs.”¹¹² “Alcohol abuse, jealousy, mental illness, physical impairment, and short relationship duration are all associated with a higher risk of being a victim of domestic violence.”¹¹³ They are victims.¹¹⁴

Experts have built ways for Blacks to escape ignorance of scams.¹¹⁵ They also escape networks of abuse that turn into criminal lifestyles.¹¹⁶

The first contribution identifies four processes by which individuals build scamming criminal expertise as they transition from scammers-in-the-making to full-blown active scammers. The second contribution identifies the rationalizations used by scammers-in-the-making and scammers to justify transitioning into scamming and

¹¹¹ *Id.*

¹¹² *Id.*

¹¹³ *Id.*

¹¹⁴ *Id.*

¹¹⁵ See e.g., Coelho, *How to Treat Scars on Black Skin*.

¹¹⁶ *Infra* note.

engaging in scamming criminality. The third contribution explains how the digital environment contributes to the processes of building scamming criminal expertise and why scammer's [sic] deceptive tactics are sometimes successful.¹¹⁷

Expertise shoos scammers. Demonstrating expertise by researching law enforcement and rights in this Essay is one tactic to protect, label, and avenge Black skin.¹¹⁸

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is sensitive to Blacks' romance scams leading to bad skin conditions.¹¹⁹ Bad conditions related to domestic deception may involve tainted beauty products and infectious tonics.¹²⁰ Blacks scar readily

¹¹⁷ Ebot, *Advance Fee Fraud Scammers' Criminal Expertise and Deceptive Strategies*, INFO. & COMP. SEC.

¹¹⁸ *Supra* Section I; *infra* Section IV.

¹¹⁹ "How We Can Help You: Romance Scams," Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), <https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/safety-resources/scams-and-safety/common-scams-and-crimes/romance-scams>.

¹²⁰ *E.g.*, Shiboli Chakraborti, "11 Best Soaps For Dark Skin That Improve Its Tone – 2023," StyleCraze, (July 11, 2023) <https://www.stylecraze.com/articles/best-soap-for-dark-skin/>.
Melanie Rud, "The 14 Best African Black Soaps," Byrdie, (Oct. 28, 2022) <https://www.byrdie.com/black-soap-reviews-2442556>.

"African black soap is a good hydrating soap made from natural ingredients that can help with acne, moisturize dry skin, and also due

from traumatic domestic violence and behavioral diseases, also linked in cases to romantic and familial failure.¹²¹ The following is a general description of how people get hurt by romance scams, which is just one example of a scam that may be hurting Black skin:¹²²

Romance scams occur when a criminal adopts a fake online identity to gain a victim's affection and trust. The scammer then uses the illusion of a romantic or close relationship to manipulate and/or steal from the victim. The criminals who carry out romance scams are experts at what they do and will seem genuine, caring, and believable. Con artists are present on most dating and social media sites.¹²³

Con artists scam those they do not pity or protect physiologically.¹²⁴ Strong organizations and people

to its antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties, can soothe skin while achieving a deep pore cleanse." *Id.*

¹²¹ Steph Coelho, *What Causes Discoloration on Black Skin?*, MEDICAL NEWS TODAY, (Feb. 26, 2021) <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/black-skin-discoloration#hyperpigmentation>. "Skin discoloration can happen on any type of skin. However, it may be more apparent when it occurs on darker skin." *Id.*

¹²² FBI, Romance Scams.

¹²³ *Id.*

¹²⁴ *Id.*

that follow them too can get scammed, warn others, and spot scams that are in progress.¹²⁵

Experts have been hurt, too.¹²⁶ They are in need of forthrightness.¹²⁷ Doctors who met patients online and caused damage are an example, and a woman with a skin condition from a romance that gives bad information to a doctor is another twist in an example.¹²⁸ “The scammer’s intention is to establish a relationship as quickly as possible, endear himself to the victim, and gain trust. Scammers may propose marriage and make plans to meet in person, but that will never happen.”¹²⁹ The person may spend less on skincare to accommodate the scammer or may share cosmetic items to provide luxury leading to skin irritation.¹³⁰ “Eventually, they will ask for money.”¹³¹ The con will be irresistible.¹³²

¹²⁵ *Id.*

¹²⁶ *Contra id.*

¹²⁷ *Id.*

¹²⁸ See FBI, Romance Scams.

¹²⁹ *Id.*

¹³⁰ *Id.*

¹³¹ *Id.*

¹³² *Id.*

A con artist committing scams may pervade other industries to cause scams, such as immigration, revitalization, environmental compliance, and municipal authority.¹³³ They may contaminate the Black person's skin, cause stress, and reap attacks from additional victims on the original victim for financially supporting the scammer.¹³⁴

Scam artists often say they are in the building and construction industry and are engaged in projects outside the U.S. That makes it easier to avoid meeting in person—and more plausible when they ask for money for a medical emergency or unexpected legal fee. If someone you meet online needs your bank account information to deposit money, they are most likely using your account to carry out other theft and fraud schemes.¹³⁵

Black people have been described as being oppressed by scams.¹³⁶ Even though they have shown more fortitude by accepting others during times of need, momentarily, because they have had

¹³³ *Id.*

¹³⁴ FBI, Romance Scams.

¹³⁵ *Id.*

¹³⁶ *See e.g. id.*

nowhere else to go in society.¹³⁷ Therefore they must be assured their money should not be used by scammers, which can hurt their appearance.¹³⁸

III. “NEXT”¹³⁹

More advocacy is warranted.¹⁴⁰ Black people may not believe, as a whole, that they need special advocacy, which is why information should be generated.¹⁴¹ Advocacy does not need to be firm, but should prepare those who are ready to react for themselves and alert other Blacks to potential future scams causing skin damage.¹⁴² Government agencies provide examples of advocative strategies.¹⁴³

The FBI proposes dependable ways to avoid being scammed.¹⁴⁴ These work for avoiding romance

¹³⁷ *Id.*

¹³⁸ *Id.*

¹³⁹ “Man Searches Crowded Bus For Least-Wounded Person To Sit Next To,” *The Onion*, (Oct. 13, 2023)

<https://www.theonion.com/man-searches-crowded-bus-for-least-wounded-person-to-si-1850907125>.

¹⁴⁰ FBI, Romance Scams.

¹⁴¹ *Id.*

¹⁴² *Id.*

¹⁴³ *Id.*

¹⁴⁴ *Id.*

scams, Internet-based scams, financial scams, and other kinds, and are especially useful for Black people seeking to protect their skin because they reiterate the importance of image communication and relying on skin to interpret actions.¹⁴⁵

Tips for Avoiding Romance Scams:

Be careful what you post and make public online. Scammers can use details shared on social media and dating sites to better understand and target you.

Research the person's photo and profile using online searches to see if the image, name, or details have been used elsewhere.

Go slowly and ask lots of questions.¹⁴⁶

Blacks using online platforms should slowly research who they talk to so that the person is in less of a position to hurt their skin.¹⁴⁷ If the person turns

¹⁴⁵ *Id.*

¹⁴⁶ FBI, Romance Scams.

¹⁴⁷ Catholic Legal Immigration Network, *Practice Advisory: Sham Marriages and Marriage Fraud: A Summary of Recent Case Law and Tips for Practitioners*, (Dec. 15, 2021) <https://www.cliniclegal.org/resources/family-based-immigration-law/spousal-petitions/practice-advisory-sham-marriages-and-matter-of-mensah>, 28 I&N Dec. 288 (BIA 2021); *Bark v. INS*, 522 F.2d

out to be a good friend, then the wait will have paid off, but if not then the self-protectiveness will improve their chances of avoiding trauma, irritation, pain, exposure to elements, disease, misuse, injury, and conflict.¹⁴⁸

Conflict is when people fight.¹⁴⁹ It can occur in a Black person's emotions when a person wants to advance a romance but the scammer removes access.¹⁵⁰ Victims suffering from inner and outer strife complain that perpetrators stir conflict.¹⁵¹ Conflict plays a dual role.¹⁵² It occurs above and

1200 (9th Cir. 1975); *Oddo v. Reno*, 27 F. Supp. 2d 529 (E.D. Va. 1998); *Matter of P. Singh*, 27 I&N Dec. 598 (BIA 2019); *Joseph F. Risoli P.E., LLC v. Johnson*, 274 F. Supp. 3d 88 (D. Conn. 2017); *Matter of Pak*, 28 I&N Dec 113 (BIA 2020); *Matter of R.I. Ortega*, 28 I&N Dec. 9 (BIA 2020).

In order for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to make a section 204(c) finding, there must be 'substantial and probative evidence' in the record that the beneficiary attempted or conspired to enter into a fraudulent marriage. In *Matter of P. Singh*, the BIA clarified the relevant standard of proof and set forth a burden-shifting analysis for determining whether a beneficiary is subject to the 204(c) bar. (*Id.* at 2).

¹⁴⁸ *Id.*

¹⁴⁹ See FBI, Romance Scams.

¹⁵⁰ *Id.*

¹⁵¹ *Id.*

¹⁵² *Id.*

under the outer layer of the skin during domestic violence.¹⁵³

Conflict labels can help people to remember the types of situations that can harm skin.¹⁵⁴ Conflict may be evident to laymen for example it gets labeled when skin gets saggy and hangs.¹⁵⁵ Pain may be felt when skin seems rejuvenated by a new online interaction and then the Black person seems detectable.¹⁵⁶ After the scam ensues, the person's skin returns to normal, but the pictures from and products purchased during that time cause tension and injury, emotionally and physically.¹⁵⁷

Some caution should be paid to other people's *modus operandi*.¹⁵⁸ The person may seem sweet, but limitations should guide the Black person to avoid the scam.¹⁵⁹

Beware if the individual seems too perfect or quickly asks you to leave a

¹⁵³ *Id.*

¹⁵⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵⁵ See FBI, Romance Scams.

¹⁵⁶ *Id.*

¹⁵⁷ *Id.*

¹⁵⁸ *Id.*

¹⁵⁹ *Id.*

dating service or social media site to communicate directly.

Beware if the individual attempts to isolate you from friends and family or requests inappropriate photos or financial information that could later be used to extort you.

Beware if the individual promises to meet in person but then always comes up with an excuse why he or she can't. If you haven't met the person after a few months, for whatever reason, you have good reason to be suspicious.

Never send money to anyone you have only communicated with online or by phone.¹⁶⁰

Blacks should not generously give money to help scammers because the con artists may be taking scarce resources from Blacks, who have special skin regimens.¹⁶¹

Blacks who have financial concerns should be especially cautious.¹⁶² They may have constrained

¹⁶⁰ *Id.*

¹⁶¹ FBI, Romance Scams.

¹⁶² Anthony Hill, "In-Depth: Top Scams That Are Targeted against the Black Community; How to Avoid Falling Victim," ABC, (Aug. 12, 2021) <https://www.abcactionnews.com/news/in-depth/in-depth->

budgets and not be able to afford to remove the scammers and cons from their lives.¹⁶³ Limited Blacks may also suffer from impaired communication.¹⁶⁴ Due to budgetary constraints Blacks may not be able to afford telephones, Internet, post office boxes, and other modes of communication.¹⁶⁵

Blacks may not be capable of communicating non-consent to scammers during cons to advance relationships to something legitimate.¹⁶⁶ Blacks also may lack the means to express themselves using certain linguistic skills because they come from

top-scams-that-are-targeted-against-the-black-community-how-to-avoid-falling-victim. According to a story by American Broadcasting Company (ABC) covering the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), “41% of African Americans say they were targeted by a scam.” *Id.* “Willie almost fell for a scam by someone he trusted: a former classmate.” *Id.* “If they really want to speak with you, they’ll leave a voicemail.” *Id.*

¹⁶³ *Id.*

¹⁶⁴ *Id.* According to ABC and AARP, African Americans are targets. *Id.*

¹⁶⁵ *See id.* People of other racial and ethnic backgrounds are also targeted at about the same percentage rate, but this is the first time AARP has studied in detail the types of scams that target the Black community.

¹⁶⁶ Katherine Skiba, “Education, Action Needed to Deter Fraud Affecting Black Americans,” *AARP*, (Aug. 3, 2021) <https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/info-2021/survey-black-adults-targeted-by-scams.html>. “The survey was conducted from Sept. 14 to Oct. 2, 2020, over landlines, cellphones and online.” *Id.*

distinct diaspora backgrounds causing breakdown between Blacks.¹⁶⁷ Blacks have linguistic skills suitable to their environments where they are utilized by the resources.¹⁶⁸ They cannot analogize those linguistic skills in relationships that are instigated by scams.¹⁶⁹

When the scam persists and the relationship does not grow, Blacks may get injured.¹⁷⁰ In any economic group domestic violence can cause injury, but poorer Blacks may be likelier to receive disproportionately worse injuries although wealthier Blacks could suffer unfair hurt when poorer Blacks attack them.¹⁷¹ Bite marks are a source of hurt in domestic violence that illustrate attacks on status.¹⁷² Love may be a way

¹⁶⁷ “Consumer Fraud in America: The Black Experience Facebook Twitter LinkedIn by BVA BDRC,” *AARP*, (Aug. 2, 2021), <https://www.aarp.org/pri/topics/work-finances-retirement/fraud-consumer-protection/scam-experiences-african-american-black.html> (citing Matthew Petrie, *Consumer Fraud in America: The Black Experience*, AARP Research, Washington, DC, (Aug. 2021) <https://doi.org/10.26419/res.00456.001>).

¹⁶⁸ *See id.*

¹⁶⁹ *Id.*

¹⁷⁰ *See id.*

¹⁷¹ *Id.*

¹⁷² Jessica Washington, “Identifying Domestic Violence Bruises on Black Skin Might Become a Lot Easier,” *Yahoo*, (Feb. 21, 2023) <https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/identifying-domestic-violence-bruises-black-181814782.html>.

that bite marks are left, but fighting shows hostility.¹⁷³

Despite intimacy romance scams likely lead to violence for some Black people.¹⁷⁴ Over 40 percent of Black women suffer from intimate partner violence throughout their lives.¹⁷⁵ However, Black survivors of domestic violence lack direct evidence.¹⁷⁶ Even a bite mark may look suspicious but not cause a prosecutor to believe that a con was the cause.¹⁷⁷ In cases where Blacks fight back, they may be questioned.¹⁷⁸ Ability to prove injuries decreases around con artists.¹⁷⁹ Courts want to help, but insurers may thwart insured survivors and uninsured survivors may fail to receive any help because some medical practitioners think that “bruises” can be less likely to “see on darker skin tones.”¹⁸⁰

¹⁷³ *Id.*

¹⁷⁴ *Id.*

¹⁷⁵ *Id.*

¹⁷⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷⁷ *Id.*

¹⁷⁸ Washington, “Identifying Domestic Violence Bruises on Black Skin Might Become a Lot Easier” (2023).

¹⁷⁹ *Id.*

¹⁸⁰ *Id.*

Blacks are confronted by con artists and dismantled from the system because of their economic problem.¹⁸¹ Blacks are usually unable to avoid some scams because many Blacks live in poverty.¹⁸² They have no access to government offices due to corruption and scams in many cities.¹⁸³ Blacks cannot relate to the majority advocating for Blacks to be free from all types of scams.¹⁸⁴

IV. “NEED”¹⁸⁵

This Essay describes four reasonings to help Blacks.¹⁸⁶ First, Black skin is sensitive and demonstrates damage.¹⁸⁷ Second, scams hurt skin.¹⁸⁸

¹⁸¹ *Id.*

¹⁸² *Id.*

¹⁸³ *Id.*

¹⁸⁴ *See infra* note.

¹⁸⁵ Alexis Soloski, *Justice Smith Doesn't Need Your Assumptions*, THE NEW YORK TIMES, (Mar. 5, 2021) <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/05/arts/television/justice-smith-generation-hbo.html>.

¹⁸⁶ Patrice Yursik, “20 Black Mixologists You Need on Your Radar,” *Food & Wine*, (June 27, 2023) <https://www.foodandwine.com/drinks/black-mixologists-bartenders-drinks-instagram>.

¹⁸⁷ *See supra* Section I.

¹⁸⁸ *See supra* Section II.

Third, curricula can end scams.¹⁸⁹ Fourth, Blacks can benefit from sociolegal programming.¹⁹⁰

They must receive help through sociolegal programming that ends scams.¹⁹¹ Help cannot just attack the problem arising after their skin suffers.¹⁹² Blacks will benefit from additional help.¹⁹³ Help available to Blacks may preserve their children, marriages, pets, businesses, and the American way of life.¹⁹⁴

A brief discussion about Black skin and American resolutions is effective.¹⁹⁵ Black women, for example, and the culture that supports their skin may encourage reclaiming the courts.¹⁹⁶ Courts are powerful enough to shape their communities through brief discussions, such as hearings and

¹⁸⁹ See *supra* Section III.

¹⁹⁰ See *infra* Section IV.

¹⁹¹ *Id.*

¹⁹² See *supra* Section III.

¹⁹³ *Id.* Yursik, *Food & Wine* (2023). “Patrice is the creator of Afrobella.com, a popular award-winning Black beauty and natural hair blog.” *Id.*

¹⁹⁴ See FRANTZ FANON, *BLACK SKIN, WHITE MASKS* (2008).

¹⁹⁵ See *infra* Section IV.

¹⁹⁶ Carmen M. Cusack, “Courts in a Woman’s World: Reclaiming Courts by Transforming Neglect, Jealousy, and Vengeance among Mothers,” Abstract, Gender and Sexuality Studies 2024 Conference (July 2023).

supervision.¹⁹⁷ An aggressor can be molded and a person in a vulnerable position may be assisted.¹⁹⁸

Sociolegal programs that increase control over con artists and want to be in charge of a court proceeding expose the victims to the aggressors' tactics further to disseminate tools of authority and increase awareness.¹⁹⁹ Participation by Black women may show particular avenues of escape and ways to avoid damage, like how gender roles and even human-animal relationships are affected.²⁰⁰ The example of programming assisting Black women affected by romance scams demonstrates how the problem would be worsened without courts that normally have been involved with family and criminal matters; yet expands the remedies throughout other bodies of law protecting skin and helping scam victims.²⁰¹ Courts, aiding organizations, Black victims themselves, and outsiders, barring inept contributors, can replace

¹⁹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁹⁸ *See infra* Section II.

¹⁹⁹ Cusack, Abstract (July 2023).

²⁰⁰ *Food & Wine* (2023). "Follow them...for....tips." *id.*

²⁰¹ Cusack, Abstract (July 2023).

high-strung intercession with positive group pressure.²⁰² The complaint that Black problems are channeled through the court system is a subject that is researched in the field of law, but can unite with this research due to the preceding recommendation.²⁰³

Blacks suffering from scams affecting their skin should avoid becoming involved in court cases when they require Blacks to enter the courthouse and interact with others, even aggressors, in a way that may not facilitate rehabilitation.²⁰⁴ More quickly than a lengthy or difficult proceeding, the solution is to use common methods to solve Black problems if they have skin problems and are not in court.²⁰⁵ Neighborhood police interested in supporting their community members can be helpful without the courts as well.²⁰⁶ This presents an end to cycles of

²⁰² *Id.*

²⁰³ *Id.*

²⁰⁴ *Id.*

²⁰⁵ *Id.*

²⁰⁶ *Id.*

domestic violence described in this Essay dealing with scams.²⁰⁷

Mothers deliberately using the system as a protective device that cannot be mobilized, a common scheme among scam artists, need to be made more attentive and considerate when using the system.²⁰⁸ Instead of ushering them, and their victimized children for example, toward fathers and final decisionmakers, they must take responsibility to teach them loving kindness.²⁰⁹ The people forced to use the courthouse to air problems are being treated like terrorists, experiencing a lot of suspicion and very little trust when they claim that they need a method to stay out of court and get results.²¹⁰ The answer is not just alternative resolutions.²¹¹

Diversion from court through neighborhood and family toning goals will help victims benefit when culprits follow trends and teach children to trend.²¹²

²⁰⁷ Cusack, Abstract (July 2023).

²⁰⁸ *Id.*

²⁰⁹ *Id.*

²¹⁰ *Id.*

²¹¹ *Id.*

²¹² *Id.*

Their innate status, for example motherhood, could be used to remedy problems with counselors and antagonists who see them as victims rather than as neighbors or loved ones.²¹³ Different gender tendencies may be used systemically, rather than criminally, to bring order.²¹⁴ When scammers reproduce, they must act like they want to raise children, including at times their animal companions, if they want to teach children how to rear children.²¹⁵

Some Black women can be vengeful, but when children learn not to overuse courts, those people hurting their mothers and fathers will learn a bigger lesson, if one is deserved, about how the community, and eventually the country, is healing them.²¹⁶ Children will seek retribution for their parents to discuss Black women as mothers, describe their gender frailty as strength, and make it useful for resolving the courts' problems.²¹⁷ Those with cases

²¹³ Cusack, Abstract (July 2023).

²¹⁴ *Id.*

²¹⁵ Carmen M. Cusack, *A Right Not to Parent One's Children*, 18 J. L. & SOC. DEVIANCE 103 (2019). Cusack, Abstract (July 2023).

²¹⁶ Cusack, Abstract (July 2023).

²¹⁷ *Id.*

or skin problems that allow them to stay out of court will seem like the courts cannot hear these matters unless there is the right legal issue.²¹⁸

Black women should use their emotions to improve their situations and seek informal resolutions, such as mediation and addiction intervention between the victim and victimizer, who sometimes remain friends or family.²¹⁹ If not in a binary relationship, then some are likely to be jealous of other Black women after equal protection fails.²²⁰ When aggressors are inculcated and assigned family values to uphold, the court case is canceled, Black people will be treated with more trust, and Black females would be allowed to resolve problems amicably.²²¹

Concluding for Blacks, remarks against scams will indicate to them that they can avoid them.²²² With consistent messages and input from experts,

²¹⁸ *Id.*

²¹⁹ *Id.*

²²⁰ *Id.*

²²¹ *Id.*

²²² *See supra* Section III.

Blacks can avoid and heal from scams.²²³ Without that the hopefulness and possibility will decrease leading audaciously to scamming of Blacks.²²⁴ Therefore, it is recommended through this Essay, for the promotion of Blacks that they protect their skin, and when required by law (e.g., children), the skin of others.²²⁵

²²³ *Id.*

²²⁴ *Infra* note.

²²⁵ “The Facts on Children’s Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence,” Futures without Violence, [https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/userfiles/file/Fact sheet on Children Exposed to IPV 2013.pdf](https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/userfiles/file/Fact%20sheet%20on%20Children%20Exposed%20to%20IPV%202013.pdf).