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Qualified immunity was originally created as an exception for police (judiciary, etc.) to the statute that was designed to protect the lives and suffrage of Black folks. Removing it doesn't take anything away from the police. It restores those protections.

Pierson v. Ray, 386 U.S. 547 (1967), was a [United States Supreme Court](#) case in which the Court first introduced the justification for [qualified immunity](#) for police officers from being sued for civil rights violations under [Section 1983](#). The case refers to the incident in [Jackson, Mississippi](#) where 15 [Episcopal](#) priests were arrested after entering the coffee shop at the local Trailways bus terminal. The group were part of 28 priests from Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity, taking part in the [Mississippi Freedom Rides](#),

On September 13th 1961, a group of 15 including three black priests took taxis from Tougaloo into the nearby Jackson [Trailways](#) bus terminal to catch the bus to [Chattanooga](#). When entering the coffee shop to have lunch before their departure, they were stopped by two policemen, Officers David Allison Nichols and Joseph David Griffith, who asked them to leave. After the priests refused to leave, Captain J. L. Ray arrested and jailed all 15 priests for [breach of peace](#), using a now-repealed section of the [Mississippi code](#) § 2087.5

To be clear, [42 U.S.C. § 1983](#): *Civil action for deprivation of rights* is the most widely used [civil rights](#) enforcement statute, allowing people to sue in [civil court](#) over civil rights violations. IT IS A component of the **Enforcement Act of 1871** (17 [Stat. 13](#)), also known as the **Ku Klux Klan Act, Third Enforcement Act**,^[1] **Third Ku Klux Klan Act**,^[2] **Civil Rights Act of 1871**, or **Force Act of 1871**. The act was the last of three [Enforcement Acts](#) passed by the [United States Congress](#) from 1870 to 1871 during the [Reconstruction Era](#) to protect Black folks and

their ability to vote. This is what was used to completely dismantle the KKK and end the "first Klan" era.