

Witness Biography – Bianca Tylek

Bianca Tylek is one of the nation's leading experts on the prison industry and the Founder and Executive Director of Worth Rises, a national organization working to end the financial incentives for incarceration.

Bianca is a leader in the national movement to make prison and jail communication free, which has saved families more than \$400 million and generated two billion additional minutes of call time to date. She also leads the #EndTheException campaign to end prison slavery. Bianca has wreaked havoc on the prison industry, blocking mergers, inspiring divestment, limiting access to capital, and removing prison profiteers from the boards of cultural institutions. Her work has cost the prison industry and its investors billions, and saved communities tormented by incarceration millions.

Previously, Bianca worked for the Justice Program at the Brennan Center for Justice and Campaign to End Mass Incarceration at the American Civil Liberties Union, and co-founded College Way, a preparation program for students on Rikers Island interested in pursuing higher education upon their release.

Bianca has also worked with various state and local corrections agencies, including New York City, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts, and consulted to the Association of State Correctional Administrators. Before committing her career to justice, Bianca worked as a financial analyst at Citigroup, Morgan Stanley, and Goldman Sachs.

Bianca has been honored as an Ashoka Fellow, Elevate Prize Winner, Draper Richard Kaplan Entrepreneur, Art For Justice Fellow, TED Fellow, Equal Justice Works Fellow, Harvard University Presidential Public Service Fellow, Ford Foundation Public Interest Fellow, Paul & Daisy Soros New American Fellow, and an Education Pioneers Analyst Fellow. Bianca holds a B.A. from Columbia University and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.