



PIE's Statement of Solidarity with the Black Lives Matter Movement

Black Lives Matter. Public Interest Experience's mission is to facilitate opportunities for Kline students to utilize their legal degrees to pursue social justice and public interest careers through summer grants. We are committed to pursuing social justice and working towards a more inclusive, diverse, equitable and accessible America. Recognizing this is an ongoing effort, we proudly stand with our black community now and always. To our Black colleagues and peers, we are here for you in this painful and stressful time. Police brutality and state-sanctioned oppression will not be tolerated, and we must **act**; to do otherwise is to perpetuate systemic racism. We mourn over the recent murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery and recognize that more than 400 years of oppression and a justice system built to control and harm Black people have led us to this moment. We must stand and act together.

We urge our community to participate in a variety of ways:

Donate Time and/or Money – If you are able, donate to the following causes: Philadelphia Bail Fund, Black Visions Collective, funds for the recent victims of police brutality: George Floyd Memorial Fund, Justice for Breonna Taylor and I Run With Maud. Use your legal skills to assist organizations providing legal representation to protestors and others seeking justice.

Protest – If you are in the Philadelphia area, Danielle Boardley and others have created a Facebook group: 3320 Peaceful Protesters which can be a resource for where to locate protests, supplies, and more. If not in the Philadelphia area, organize your friends and neighbors to speak out; we must make our voices heard. Many communities are organizing “clean-ups” in the wake of recent protests; organize your neighborhood or join your community's efforts.

Learn – Take the time to educate yourself and your peers. As students pursuing a legal degree, we have the responsibility to educate ourselves the systemic racism that our justice system was built upon and continues to perpetuate. Read books, listen to podcasts, watch movies; then educate your friends and family.

Support – There are many opportunities to make your voice heard. Sign the petition being circulated on behalf of Philadelphia Law Students (emailed to every Drexel student); sign the petition urging Philadelphia City Council to reject the proposal increasing the police budget for the coming year; and many more. Take this opportunity to support Black-owned businesses in Philadelphia and in your own communities. Use social media to educate, activate, and organize your network, making sure to keep your community informed of BLM events and locations.

“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.” Desmond Tutu

Wishing our community strength and health,

PIE Executive Committee

Spencer Plante, Chair

Alex Goldberg, Procurement Chair

Desjénéé Davis, Events Chair

Alyssa Mallgrave, Alumni Chair

Peter Doulis, Finance Chair

Bridget Fassano, Recruitment Chair

Morgan Burns, Procurement Co-Chair

Caroline Leuer, Events Co-Chair

Sarah Lee, Alumni Co-Chair

Anna Hadlock, Finance Co-Chair