

## Thomas R. Kline School of Law

## **Student Bar Association**

## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE KSOL COMMUNITY

We offer sincerest condolences to those grieving the loss of George Floyd. We cannot possibly imagine the grief that his family is going through and our hearts go out to them. Mr. Floyd's murder has opened old wounds for the Black community and peoples' reaction to this incident shows that time has not healed those wounds. His death is not an isolated incident and his experiences of facing racial injustice are the experiences of too many of our classmates, fellow Drexel students, Philadelphians and Americans. We cannot call ourselves a community and future lawyers if we don't take a stand against the atrocities.

The Student Bar Association is appalled by the violent actions of the police force and of people supporting their brutality. We are appalled by their treatment of protesters. Now more than ever, SBA stands with the Black Law Students Association and our Black peers during this time. We recognize your pain. We urge our community to support each other and stand in unity against this tragedy. We urge each other to educate ourselves, listen to the oppressed, and lend our strength to their message.

Sincerely,

The Student Bar Association Executive Board

Abhinandan Pandhi Richard Crane Katherine Bell Sandra Graise
President Vice President Vice President Events Finance

In the spirit of educating ourselves and supporting the Black community, the SBA is offering following resources:

- Petition
  - NAACP: Justice for George Floyd: <a href="https://naacp.org/campaigns/we-are-done-dying/">https://naacp.org/campaigns/we-are-done-dying/</a>
    - Demanding immediate arrest of the remaining three officers involved in George Floyd's murder, appointment of an independent special prosecutor to investigate the murder, reinstitution of consent decrees, sweeping police reform including a zero-tolerance approach to officers who kill unarmed, non-violent, non-resisting individuals in arrest.
- Organizations needing support:
  - o Black Lives Matter: https://blacklivesmatter.com/
    - International activist movement campaigning against violence and systemic racism towards the Black community.
  - Color of Change: <a href="https://colorofchange.org/">https://colorofchange.org/</a>
    - Organization leading campaigns building real power for Black communities. They challenge injustice, hold corporate/political leaders accountable, commission game-changing research on systems of inequality, and advance solutions for racial justice that can transform our world.
  - Organization for Black Struggle: <a href="https://www.obs-stl.org/">https://www.obs-stl.org/</a>
    - Longstanding Missouri organization, fighting for political empowerment, economic justice and the cultural dignity of the African-American community, using programming based on the Black Freedom Agenda.
  - Directory of Community Bail Funds: https://www.communityjusticeexchange.org/nbfn-directory
    - Compilation of bail funds across the US, organized by state.
  - Reclaim the Block: https://www.reclaimtheblock.org/home
    - Volunteer organization aiming to move money from the Minneapolis PD fund into other areas of the city budget that would promote community health and safety.
  - o Campaign Zero: https://www.joincampaignzero.org/
    - Non-profit police reform organization, providing specific policy solutions and encouraging policy-makers to take specific, deliberate action.
- Books:
  - o How to be Anti-Racist by Ibram X. Kendi
  - o White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of our Racial Divide by Carol Anderson
  - Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson
  - American Lynching by Ashraf H.A. Rushdy
  - Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice that Shapes What We See, Think, and <u>Do</u> by Jennifer L. Eberhardt
  - White Fragility: Why It's So Hard For White People to Talk About Racism by Robin DiAngelo