



June 4, 2020

The Multicultural Judges and Lawyers Section (“MJL”) of the Delaware State Bar Association declares unambiguously, without qualification or hesitation: Black Lives Matter.

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd was detained on suspicion of passing counterfeit bills at a deli in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Minneapolis police officers handcuffed and laid George Floyd face down on the pavement. George Floyd died after a White Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck for eight minutes and forty-six seconds. George Floyd was unarmed. He was Black. We add George Floyd, as well as Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor, to the already too-long list of Black men and women senselessly murdered in America due to the all too real oppression, violence, marginalization, and repression of the Black Community.

The nationwide response to these senseless murders has been swift and pronounced. People of all colors, backgrounds, and walks of life have come together to not only condemn the callous, inhumane killing of a defenseless Black man by the very people sworn to protect him, but also the deep systematic and institutional racism that still exists in this country. The MJL unequivocally supports all peaceful protests currently taking place around the United States and the world. The MJL wholly supports the voices demanding an end to police brutality, seeking accountability, and fighting for the equal and just treatment of all citizens.

We of the MJL add our own plea:

Do Not Ignore This Moment.

The MJL was created to foster communication and understanding among diverse groups within the legal and greater community at large in Delaware. In furtherance of that purpose, we say to the law firms, judges, lawyers, and governmental agencies of our State:

Do Not Ignore This Moment.

Delaware’s history is rich with lawyers and jurists who have lent powerful voices to fight racism—including leading the charge in desegregating American public schools. The MJL asks that the Delaware Bar once again rise to the occasion and take a stand against injustice. The current

silence is deafening and is no longer an option. Now is the time to act, now is when it counts. Words on paper alone do not accomplish change; actions do. Here are steps we should take together as a legal community:

- Governor John Carney, Attorney General Kathy Jennings, and all other elected officials in Delaware should publicly condemn George Floyd's murder, as well as the racism and police brutality that led to it. Additionally, pledge support to peaceful protesters.
- Delaware law firms and legal departments, of any size, should publicly denounce the police brutality and racism, and stand with the Black Community. Join forces with other law firms, both in Delaware and abroad, and make public commitments to work together to direct time and resources to increase pro bono efforts in assistance of those being criminally prosecuted for taking a stand.
- Delaware judiciary, governmental agencies, law firms, and legal departments should reach out to employees, take the time to listen, and ensure they understand you are with them.

If any Delaware firm or agency is interested in working with the MJL to find ways to aid our community during this time, we welcome all forms of collaboration. The MJL has already begun mobilizing to secure mental health resources for members of the section during this difficult time. We are also working to compile information and resources so that all members of the Delaware Bar may support the fair, just, and equal treatment of all of our citizens. We intend to assist those speaking out on racial inequality and the systemic mistreatment of people of color.

To those who have been long fighting this fight through peaceful demonstrations and heartfelt calls for change—we thank you. To those who have had enough and have been spurred to join this cause—we welcome you. And to the family of George Floyd and all victims of oppression, violence, marginalization, and repression—we promise that you are not alone, you are heard, and we are fighting for you.

Do Not Ignore This Moment.

In Solidarity,

The MJL Executive Board