Answering a Call to Action:

The Arab American Law Student Association is an apolitical group focused on serving minority communities and exposing Detroit Mercy Law to Arab American culture. In serving as an apolitical group, we have refrained from making statements in support of our own brothers and sisters, as well as other communities of color. However, we refuse to stay silent about the systematic oppression and the murders of Black Americans at the hands of law enforcement. As aspiring attorneys we inherently strive toward justice for all communities, regardless of race, class, religion, or sexual orientation. We therefore believe that this is not a political issue, but rather a humanitarian crisis that cannot be ignored. The Arab American Law Student Association condemns acts of violence toward Black people in America.


As minorities, and as law students, we believe it is our duty, to not only demand justice, but also work toward justice. During this time, we have educated ourselves on the oppression of Black people in this country, how we have benefited from their oppression, and what it means to be anti-racist. As Arab Americans, we have had our own taste of discrimination, but we will never know the systematic struggle Black Americans have had to endure in this country for centuries. After reading the Open Letter from Detroit Mercy Law’s Black Law Student Association, we felt a small increment of the pain our own Black classmates have to endure. This movement is not a trend. This movement is a promise to Black communities that we will do better. We must do better.

The Arab American Law Student Association stands in solidarity with Black Americans in their fight for long overdue justice. We vow to actively work toward a system that values equality, justice, and love.

President: Fatmeh Cheaib  
Vice President: Nour Alaouie  
Treasurer: Hussien Hider  
Secretary: Juliana Gumma  
Director of Social Media: Azal Arabo  
Outreach Committee Co-Chairs: Narissa Ayoub and Stephanie Hana  
Scholarship Committee Chair: Nicole Miller
We invite you to do this work with us. Some media you can consume to self-educate include, but are most certainly not limited to:

Books
1. *White Fragility: Why it’s so Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin Diangelo
2. *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson
3. *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander
4. *How to be Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi
5. *Freedom is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement* by Angela Y. Davis

Film
1. 13th
2. Selma
3. When They See Us
4. Dear White People
5. Fruitvale Station

Podcasts
1. Ear Hustle
2. Code Switch
3. Seeing White
4. Intersectionality Matters with Kimberlé Crenshaw
5. Pod for the Cause

We also encourage you to donate to the following organizations, if it is within your means:
1. COVID Bailout NYC
2. Know Your Rights Camp
3. Black Lives Matter
4. Innocence Project
5. Unicorn Riot

May the current shock, anger, and sadness Americans are feeling today be turned into adequate reform tomorrow.

Sincerely,

The Arab American Law Student Association 2020-2021 Executive Board

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