



---

An Open Letter from Detroit Mercy Law's Black Law Students Association:

The members of BLSA are writing to you all to echo the pain and anguish that we are experiencing right now as a result of the recent murders of **George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Sean Reed, Tony McDade**, and so many other Black Americans. We have repeatedly been failed by a system that is supposed to protect and deliver true justice to us. Recent events have proven to us that, yet again, systematic racism continues to be an overwhelming problem in this country. Black people continuously and disproportionately suffer from police brutality in America.

We as Detroit Mercy Law BLSA have had enough. We are tired of seeing Black people fighting for their lives and losing. We are tired of being seen as a threat because of the color of our skin. We are tired of living in fear in our homes, in our cars, and in our own neighborhoods. We are absolutely exhausted from begging for our right to life.

We write to you all to ask that you reassess the disparity in our criminal justice system. We ask that you educate yourselves on the reality of racism and its consequences. We believe it is our duty as law students to be effectively informed and advocate for justice where it truly belongs.

Furthermore, we stand in solidarity with the actions that Black communities have taken across the country. Prominent Black figures in American history have proven to us that activism, regardless of its form, is the key to freedom. Until the color of our skin is no longer a crime, we will continue to fight for that freedom, by any means necessary.

We demand that the Justice System effectively takes action. We demand that justice be served uniformly. We demand that America recognize the value of our lives, decriminalize the color of our skin, and embrace our humanity.

We are all collectively experiencing hurt. We are mourning every day. As usual, though, we are expected to show up and perform regardless of the circumstances. This is an unfair burden that we all must bear as we endure the fear and violence that the world is constantly deaf to. We encourage you all to join us in combating the inequity that exists in our country. Here are a few ways to do so:

1. Donate to the following groups working towards the cause
  1. Black Visions Collective
  2. Reclaim the Block
  3. Northstar Health Collective
  4. LGBTQ Freedom Fund
2. Sign the following petitions:
  1. NCAA Exploitation No More
  2. Justice for George Floyd on Change.org
3. Educate yourselves. Utilize any privilege or platform you may have to educate others as well.

We leave you all with this:

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. **Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.**”

— Martin Luther King Jr., Letter from the Birmingham Jail

Best Regards,

2020-2021 Detroit Mercy Law Black Law Students Association