Black Law Students Association
Cleveland-Marshall College of Law
1801 Euclid Ave. LB 138
Cleveland, OH 44114
@CMLawBLSA

To Cleveland-Marshall College of Law's Students, Staff, and Faculty:

The Black Law Students Association is deeply impacted by the recent murders of Black citizens at the hands of police officers. We are taking the time to make this statement to *call in* and *call out*. *Calling in* because we know there are many feelings, time to process is needed and will look different for everyone involved. We are here for you. We see you. We VALUE you. *Calling out* because we will not stand by for the continued attempts to silence and erase Black lives. We expect anyone who supports us to do the same.

Before COVID-19, the pandemic of racism has plagued this country for years. As students of the law and future lawyers, we are emboldened to change the system. We recognize that despite its flaws, our system is dynamic and can, in fact, be changed. We see the problems within this system as our community experiences the disproportionate impact of it daily. The legal system has sanctioned the mistreatment and erasure of Black citizens and we have had enough. We will not be erased. We will not be silenced. The legal system demands our immediate and consistent attention.

The current state of America is not a Black problem. This is a problem that affects us all. Being silent on this topic will permit these injustices to continue. We must be vocal and present. We must talk to anyone and everyone about police brutality, the weaponizing of police for the assassination of black people, and systemic oppression. In addition to having these vital conversations, we must take action. Below, you will find various organizations that are fighting for equality and you can show support through engagement.

To our allies: We appreciate your support and solidarity. Please make sure that you are also making your voice heard. There is no room for silence during this time. Make sure that you are calling out racism within your family, within your circle of friends and in your workplace. You have to show your solidarity by putting a stop to the injustices in circles where there are no underrepresented voices to be heard. BE HEARD.

To our fellow Black peers: Please take care of yourself. You matter. Your mental health matters. What we are seeing in the media is deeply disturbing and traumatic, so please make sure that you are finding the time to make sure that YOU are okay.

For more information visit our Instagram page @cmlawblsa.

Ways to SHOW support:
- Donate
  - National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
  - Black Lives Matter
  - American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
  - Black Visions Collective
- Sign and share the petition to bring justice for <u>George Floyd</u>. The petition can be found by searching "Justice for George Floyd" at www.change.org. Call District Attorney Mike Freeman and demand immediate justice and hold the law enforcement agents accountable. Text "FLOYD" to 55156.
- Sign and share the petition to help bring justice for <u>Breonna Taylor</u> at www.standwithbre.com.
- Sign and share the petition to help bring justice for <u>Ahmaud Arbery</u> at www.runwithmaud.com. Donate to his family at https://www.gofundme.com/f/i-run-with-maud
- Sign and share the petition to help bring justice for <u>Tony McDade</u> by searching "Justice for Tony McDade" at change.org. Donate to his memorial at https://www.gofundme.com/f/in-memory-of-tony-mcdade
- Call and write to demand justice for <u>Desmond Franklin</u>. Call Mayor Frank Jackson at 216-664-2000. Call Cleveland Chief of Police, Calvin Williams, at 216-623-5000. Email Cuyahoga County Sheriff, David G. Schilling Jr., at shcuy@cuyahogacounty.us.

"BE the change..."

Warm Regards,

CMLaw BLSA Executive Board

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