

RUTGERS LAW SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION — CAMDEN
STATEMENT AGAINST RACIAL INJUSTICE

The [Rutgers Law School](#) — Camden Alumni Association stands with the families of [George Floyd](#), [Ahmaud Arbery](#), [Breonna Taylor](#), and others, along with our Black alumni and communities throughout the United States. The words “I can’t breathe” are all too familiar to us, having heard them just a few years ago from [Eric Garner](#) when confronted by a similar police injustice. We mourn with their families and the Black community. We recognize the persistent predicament of Black people suffering due to the systemic and deeply rooted racism pervasive in our country.

As is well-documented for decades, even after the [Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s](#), Black communities continue to face unjust persecution and brutality at the hands of police, having been targets simply because of the color of their skin. This is no recognition of the content of their character. Floyd, Arbery, and Taylor are just the latest victims of this injustice. Racial injustice must stop! We, as lawyers, are very privileged to have the ability to help combat inequality and injustice better than most communities. We call to action our alumni to give back to the community to accomplish this.

CLAW fully supports our Black alumni and students at Rutgers Law, particularly The Black Law Students Association. We encourage students and alumni to reach out to us as we continue to support programs and events addressing the social injustices facing the Black community.

After the protests stop and we all return to work after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, we must all remain vigilant. The Department of Justice should investigate pattern and practice violations to hold police departments accountable for systemic racism where necessary consent orders should be re-instituted. We urge our alumni to reach out to members of Congress to expand the [Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994](#). We further encourage our alumni and the community to do the following:

- Vote;
- Urge federal, state and local elected officials to reform police departments and ensure accountability;
- Donate to organizations that support equal justice;
- Put your legal knowledge in action to help the most vulnerable communities; and
- Voice your concerns.

Change will not come overnight. While critics think the fight for equality and justice may cease once COVID restrictions are lifted, when media coverage declines and the donations stop — that must not happen. Change will only occur if we continue to talk about the issues and pledge support for the cause. The reality is there is widespread oppression and persecution of the Black community. We implore you not to remain silent on this issue until there is “equal justice under law.”

Below are several helpful resources for our Alumni:

REFORM/ADVOCACY/POLICY ORGS

Link

Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

<https://civilrights.org/>

NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund

<https://www.naacpldf.org/>

Major Cities Chiefs Association

<https://www.majorcitieschiefs.com/>

National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives

<https://noblenational.org/>

Center for Policing Equity

<https://policingequity.org/>

National Urban League

<https://nul.org/>

National Action Network

<https://nationalactionnetwork.net/>

American Civil Liberties Union

<https://www.aclu.org/>

RESEARCH REPORTS

Link

Vision for Justice 2020 and Beyond: A New Paradigm for Public Safety (2020)

<https://civilrights.org/resource/vision-for-justice-2020-and-beyond-a-new-paradigm-for-public-safety/>

National Consensus Policy and Discussion Paper on Use of Force (2017)

<https://noblenational.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Consensus-Policy-and-Discussion-2017.pdf>

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Link

Protestor's Rights

<https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/protesters-rights/>

In Solidarity,

The 2020-2021 Rutgers Law School – Camden Alumni Association