



The Criminal Law Society writes to express our sincerest condolences to the families of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and the countless other Black lives we have lost to police brutality. We stand with our friends in the Association of Black Law Students (“ABLS”) at Rutgers Law School during this painful time and support any and every action they choose to take in response to this injustice.

The events that occurred in the past few weeks, decades, and centuries have brought to light over and over again how broken our criminal justice system is. Black men and women are targeted and surveilled every day, only because of the color of their skin. At a time when there should be unanimous support for the Black Lives Matter movement and immediate response to bring justice to every Black life lost because of police violence, we see police officers gearing up to bring people down, inflicting more unnecessary violence. In response, we can only say this: **fight harder**. Keep fighting to be the heroes we need. Our heroes are the brave protestors on the streets across the nation and the world. Our heroes are the lawyers working to represent people who were arrested and the donors who are providing people with bail money. Our heroes are the doctors and nurses providing health care to the injured. We are our own heroes when our elected officials refuse to step up.

And as we fight, we demand that all the officers involved in George Floyd’s death to be arrested, tried for murder, and convicted. We demand a more just and accountable system where our officers and elected officials represent our communities and our needs. We must call for a criminal justice system that sees Black people as an equal part of society and acknowledges that Black lives matter.

We are aware that this change will not occur overnight. Instead, as long as we continue to show up, demand our rights, and advocate for our Black communities, we will bring change. The Criminal Law Society pledges to fight for what is right, whether it is through protests, pro bono work, community outreach, donations, etc. We ask you all to do the same. Everybody, please stay safe and remember, as Nelson Mandela says “it always seems impossible until it’s done.”

Sincerely,

The Criminal Law Society