



RUTGERS

Law School
Newark Alumni Association

RUTGERS LAW SCHOOL – NEWARK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION’S STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE MURDER OF GEORGE FLOYD, SUPPORTING DEMONSTRATIONS, AND CALLING FOR CHANGE

The Rutgers Law School – Newark Alumni Association (the “Association”) is outraged and saddened by the continuous, countless, and needless killings of Black and other people of color taking place across the country. The murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and others, individuals who lost their lives solely because of the color of their skin, further evidence the systematic, institutionalized, and targeted racism infecting this nation and the hearts of many Americans. Rutgers Law, one of the most diverse law schools in the United States, has long been a leader and advocate for civil rights and liberties, public interest and policy, and equal opportunity across racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic lines. Indeed, the institution’s legacy of social justice is what inspires proud graduates to become alumni leaders.

The Association stands united with the Black community and its Trustees are moved by the many demonstrations challenging ongoing, systemic, institutionalized oppression. While the horrific videos showing the murder of George Floyd have rightfully captured the attention of the nation, the events depicted represent a reality for the Black community often ignored by others. The frustration, pain, anger and sadness will not be silenced - *change is necessary*. Acknowledging our differences and the disparate treatment of the Black community and other people of color is only the first step in addressing the many mistakes this country has made and continues to make. Rutgers Law School works tirelessly for a just and antiracist society, and the Association remains a resource for students, graduates, and all others engaging the legal and justice system to promote systemic reform addressing the racism and biases, whether conscious or unconscious, and the deadly role those prejudices play within some police departments and the country as a whole.

The members of the Minneapolis Police Department involved in the murder of George Floyd must be held accountable and appropriately prosecuted, and duly elected officials must consider and enact policies to demilitarize police and develop programs to rebuild trust in law enforcement.

The fact that the demonstrations continue despite the unavoidable reality that the COVID-19 pandemic is heavily impacting communities of color resulting in disproportionately higher death tolls among Black, Latinx and other minority communities should not be lost on the world. The willingness of people across the nation to come together despite the pandemic only magnifies the significance of this moment.

The Association extends its deepest sympathies the families of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and others who have lost loved ones to police brutality or senseless and violent hatred. Our hearts also go out to communities of color that are scared, hurt, and tired of mistreatment. “As lawyers educated at Rutgers Law, the Association believes the justice and legal system should serve, lift and engage all communities; that is what Rutgers Law trains and prepares its graduates to do. The rights and liberties afforded by this country are reserved for all people, equally. Real and meaningful change is necessary, and the Association is a valuable resource for connecting and supporting those proposing change through legislation, regulation, effective police training programs, or the courts.” (Joseph L. Linares, *Association President*). “Racism exists and its consequences are deadly. It is vital that laws are fairly applied - this is one of the cornerstone duties of legal professionals.” *Id.*