



Student Bar Association’s Statement Condemning the Deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery

The Student Bar Association at Rutgers Law School (“SBA”), Newark, unequivocally condemns the tragic, unjustifiable deaths of George Floyd, 46; Breonna Taylor, 26; and Ahmaud Arbery, 25. These three Black adults had their lives taken from their families, loved ones, and communities. In addition, SBA stands in solidarity with the families and communities affected by the senseless loss of Black life, especially by individuals acting on behalf of the state or vigilantes.

Due to the prevalence of COVID-19 cases in America, combined with stay-at-home orders issued by governors across the country, members of the public are forced to seek safety in their homes due to the enormous health risk posed by this pandemic. When home has become too stifling, many individuals have found temporary comfort outdoors for exercise and fresh air, or else have had to leave their homes to purchase basic necessities. Tragically, for Mr. Floyd, Ms. Taylor, and Mr. Arbery, making these routine decisions cost them their lives.

On May 25th, Mr. Floyd, a father of two children, was savagely killed by a Minneapolis police officer. The officer, who has now been charged with third-degree murder and manslaughter, killed Mr. Floyd by placing his knee on Mr. Floyd’s neck for approximately eight minutes and forty-six seconds, while two other officers held down Mr. Floyd despite Mr. Floyd being handcuffed. In March, Ms. Taylor, an EMT serving her community, was fatally shot at least eight times in her apartment by plainclothes Louisville Metro Police Department (KY) officers while the officers issued a “no-knock search warrant.” In February, Mr. Arbery, was chased and killed by two white residents in Glynn County, Georgia, while going on one of his frequent jogs. Their deaths have led to outrage and protests throughout the country,

calling attention to the deplorable history of violence against Black people by self-deputized community members and the state.

Part of our duty and responsibility as a student organization is to ensure that our community, inside and outside of the law school, is a reliably safe space for all students, especially our most vulnerable classmates. Considering the randomness of these and other deaths of unarmed Black people, it is critical that we decry these tragedies and stand in solidarity with everyone affected by these devastating events to demonstrate that SBA is committed to fostering a culture of inclusion and diversity at Rutgers Law School.