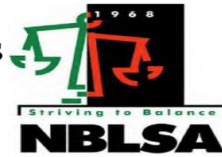




The Association of Black Law Students

Rutgers Law School, 123 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102



Statement on the Deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery

“That’s not a chip on my shoulder. That’s your foot on my neck.”

– Malcolm el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz

The Association of Black Law Students (“ABLS”) stands in solidarity with the communities and families of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and the other Black lives lost to police and vigilante violence. We join those calling for full accountability of the police and the individuals who have criminalized Black people for simply existing. As law students, we will equip ourselves with tools necessary to fight, advocate, and speak out for Black people throughout our careers. It is our responsibility to use our privilege to support and protect the most vulnerable in our society.

These most recent deaths occurred in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our community is getting sick and dying at higher rates. We have less access to adequate health care. We are losing jobs at a faster rate, even though many essential workers are Black. Moreover, our communities are facing hypocritical police enforcement for social distancing measures. Needless to say, the mental and physical health of our people are in a state of emergency. The pain that our community feels is profound.

Let us be absolutely clear: Black men and women are dying at the hands of people sworn to protect us--the police and elected officials. We demand that the incessant violence against our people must come to an end. Our Black lives are worth more than any property destroyed in a country built by us for free.

ABLS urges the law school community to be on the right side of history by standing with us in advocating for justice and supporting the grassroots efforts that are providing direct services to those in need. We must learn to confront the reality of the aggressive attack against Black bodies that has continued, in many ways, unabated in this country.

Onward,

The Association of Black Law Students