



From Thomas Savino, CEO:

Prospanica condemns the violent insurrection on January 6, 2021, in which the United States Capitol was breached and desecrated in an attempt to stop the work of the people. Our mission—to empower and enable Hispanic MBAs and business professionals to achieve their full educational, economic, and social potential—relies on our democracy.

Like good business decisions, democracy is most successful when fact-based. To paraphrase, the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing. Let us remind ourselves that democracy can be conquered by a coup or disappear with the democratic support of a segment of the population, as has happened in Russia and Venezuela. Prospanica is committed to its mission and the democracy it relies upon.

We are concerned with the poor security at our nation's Capitol and the appearance of disparity in policing this protest and for those protesting racial justice—93% of which were peaceful and non-destructive. The perpetrators must be held accountable for the loss of life and trauma caused to our nation.

I know that the events of the last year have been traumatic and that many hoped the New Year would bring relief. That it hasn't has many feeling distraught. We have and will continue to address this trauma. Keep in mind that positive change continues. Elected officials, both nationally and regionally, are becoming more diverse. Women are starting to make historical strides in leadership positions, including corporate boards and major sports. Finally, despite the attack, our democracy still waves, and we are still the home of the free.

This issue has an important statement from Michael Dell, founder and Chairmen of Dell Technologies, founding sponsor of the **Prospanica Center for Social Justice (PCSJ)**, and an article on protests, riots and insurgencies that all our members should read. Over the next month, the PCSJ will explore other issues the attempted insurgency raises.

From Evan Cleveland, Director of Programs & the Prospanica Center for Social Justice:

There are reports that a prominent far-right activist filmed and photographed all over the Capitol has tested positive for Covid, which is to be expected, as this event would certainly become another super-spreader. These people—protester and pre-meditated insurrectionist alike—had the means to leave whatever responsibilities they hold and travel to DC. On the way home or when they're back in their hometowns, they'll likely continue to go about their days without masks, spreading infection to people who do not have the same means. These could be the waiters at restaurants, gas station employees, cashiers

at the grocery store. According to the CDC, nearly 60% of Covid cases are spread by asymptomatic people, and, as the data also suggest, those more heavily affected by these mask-less travelers will be people of color.

We've accepted lies about voting fraud and lies about Covid. Two days after the insurrection, the nation had 300,000 new cases; we've since crossed more than 4,000 daily deaths. These lies have been amplified across positions of leadership, resulting in disastrous breakdowns in democracy and safety.

We have to stop believing lies. Some lies we want to believe. To my fellow White Americans, we have to stop believing what Ta-Nehisi Coates calls the Dream, this misconception that all of us have equal footing, equal access, equal protection. I can't imagine what it must have been like as a person of color watching the news on Wednesday, as White people ransacked the halls of democracy, people who, as Joy Reid aptly said, "are never afraid of the cops, even when they're committing an insurrection."

Again and again, current events have laid bare the inequality that is part of our national system. My charge for myself and for White America is to listen to and learn from the experiences of people unlike us. We must understand the data and the lived experiences behind it. We must know our history. We must demand our leaders address the inequality our nation has thrived on. But we must also do the difficult work of recognizing and adjusting our own responses and biases, removing those specks in our own eyes, so we can clearly see, name, and strike down untruth when it arises.

From Jason J. Vicente, an Attorney Licensed in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York:

This is an excerpt. [Read the full article](#), which contains further historical Constitutional context.

A Siege, Constitutional Context, & Our Responsibilities

On Wednesday, January 6, 2021, the alarming siege of the Capitol of the United States illuminated our screens. These events demand a united response from the Prospanica community, and we must join our voices with other Americans to condemn the insurrection. However, we must also consider relevant information that will inform and guide our response, our discussions with others, and our future actions as Latino leaders.

We strengthen our country by engaging in the marketplace of ideas. Henry David Thoreau promoted resistance to the government in his essays on Civil Disobedience. This inspired Susan B. Anthony in her efforts for women's suffrage, Mahatma Gandhi in his fight for Indian independence and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in his use of passive resistance in the Civil Rights movement. Civil disobedience has been the basis for the most successful protests.

As educated professionals in our communities, we are leaders obligated to seek truth and established facts. We need to diligently confirm facts and reject conspiracy theories and other unproven information. We should not retweet, repost or republish information that we have not confirmed to be true. We need to appreciate that social media is a tinderbox where misinformation easily spreads and even the well-educated consumer can fall victim to the allure of a story that comports to his or her own worldview. We need to protect ourselves and, to the best of our ability, our communities from misinformation. In this regard, there are many reputable sites devoted to fact checking. Media Bias/Fact Check

tracks the biases of various news outlets. Specific stories can be fact checked at Snopes.com, Politifact.com. Factcheck.org, Hoax-Slayer.net. All are signatories of the International Fact Checking Network.

We need to be willing to always speak truth, to correct open-minded family, friends, colleagues, and co-workers when necessary with a measured explanation, and to outright reject falsehoods. As a leader in your community, you may be considered an authoritative resource. Make sure to use that influence appropriately. To reiterate the most quoted line of the past year, when asked whether we have a monarchy or a republic, Benjamin Franklin responded, "a republic if you can keep it." Let's do our part to keep it.

From the PCSJ's Founding Sponsor:



"The violence and intimidation taking place in our nation's capital is disgraceful. President Elect Joe Biden won in a fair election. As Americans, each of us has a civic duty to respect and honor the peaceful transition of power, which is at the heart of the American political system and our way of life. This attempted subversion on our democracy is an attack against us all, and we must stand together, united, in the defense of our values and our country." - Michael Dell, CEO of Dell Technologies

What Now?:

Call on your representatives and make your voice be heard. Voicing your opinion and what you would like to be done is important.

[Find your Representative.](#)

[Find your Senators.](#)