SABA Northern California
June 4, 2020

Statement Re: George Floyd Protests

SABA-NC is horrified and saddened at the tragic deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and the countless other Black community members who have needlessly died due to racial profiling and police brutality. Their deaths are a tragic reminder of the deep-seated systemic and societal racism faced by the Black community all across America. This goes beyond the graphic reality of police brutality and extends to the numerous inequalities faced by the Black community based upon decades of systemic racism. SABA-NC stands in solidarity with the Black community to fight anti-Blackness and promote anti-racism.

As South Asians, we have to challenge ourselves to fight racism in our own lives and also recognize how much of our own privilege in the United States is owed to the suffering of members of the Black community. Without the Civil Rights Movement in 1965, many of us would not be here in the United States at all. The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 was enacted because the Civil Rights Movement paved the way for so many policy changes. We are standing on the shoulders of so many members of the Black community who allowed us to seek opportunity here. At the same time, the South Asian community knows firsthand the power of protest to raise awareness of the racial injustice of colonialism and overcome British oppression. It is time for us to recognize how we can promote anti-racism and take concrete steps to do so.

As South Asians and as lawyers, we have the unique opportunity not just to fight racism and anti-Blackness in our own daily lives, but to find ways to use legal means to do the same.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1) Donate to SABA-NC's fundraiser here, supporting (a) the National Lawyers Guild - San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, (b) the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and (c) Black Futures Lab. The SABA-NC Foundation will match up to $4000, so every dollar you donate through this link will be multiplied and made to go further. We’ll continue to raise money until the fundraiser ends on June 18, 2020, even if the match amount has been met.

2) Find ways to educate yourself about the struggles faced by the Black community in America by reading books such as How to Be an Antiracist by Ibrahim X. Kendi, Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates, Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson, Freedom is a Constant Struggle by Angela Davis, and Me and White Supremacy by Layla F. Saad. You can also learn more by watching documentaries such as "13th" on Netflix and TED Talks by Baratunde Thurston, Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi.

3) Talk to your families about anti-racism-- your parents, kids, uncles, and aunts (yes, even the ones whose names you don’t know!). Find ways to have meaningful conversations and dialogue about ending anti-Black sentiment, promoting anti-racism, and taking concrete steps to do so.

4) Get Involved:
• Sign Petitions at Colorofchange.org and call your local and state representatives to demand police reform, community-based police review commissions, and other changes to fight systemic racism.
• Attend rallies and make your voices heard peacefully.
• For more ideas, please check out this article by Deepa Iyer [here](#).

5) **Attend the forthcoming SABA-NC training** on how you as an attorney can take concrete steps right now to help dismantle systemic racism. **Date/Time tentative for mid-June – please see our newsletter and Facebook group for further information!**

Systemic racism is the cause; the symptoms are injustice such as police brutality that have terrorized communities of color. But our system of checks and balances can provide us with some tools to fight these injustices. Our training will focus on the following areas:

• How we as South Asians can and should change our language, messaging, and narratives;
• What is the Public Records Act and how to use it effectively;
• What is Qualified Immunity in 42 U.S. Section 1983 police brutality cases and how you can help change legislation;
• Combat systemic racism at its core – Join a police commission. What is it? How can you get on a police commission? Leverage your participation on the police commission to work with police departments to hire and train only those qualified to police without brutality.

SABA-NC stands in solidarity with the Black community. We look forward to seeing you at the training. Black Lives Matter.