



## WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF LOS ANGELES - STATEMENT ON THE MURDER OF GEORGE FLOYD

"There comes a time when silence is betrayal." - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles (WLALA) is deeply saddened and disturbed by the recent deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery and the many Black individuals before them. WLALA expresses its sincere condolences to their families, friends and loved ones and hope that they can find strength, comfort and peace in this time of deep grief.

Last week, in Minneapolis, a video circulated showing the murder of George Floyd. WLALA stands with Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, who stated that the entire video is "wrong on every level...Being Black in America should not be a death sentence." WLALA cares deeply about fighting social injustice and racism in America. We are outraged and heartbroken at the senseless deaths and daily race-based harassment our members and others suffer, both in Los Angeles and across our country. We are committed to being part of the solution.

In the fight for an anti-racist world, we all have a responsibility to educate ourselves and to combat hate, discrimination and injustice done to our fellow humans. As an ongoing commitment, WLALA is creating and committing to an anti-racism plan. We may never be perfect, but we can, and we will do better every day.

We stand with our members and members of our Sister Bars against racism, because we know that we are stronger together. Today, we particularly acknowledge and stand in solidarity with our sister members of Black Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, Inc. (BWL), the John M. Langston Bar Association, and other Black bar associations. We are guided by the words of Michelle Obama: "But if we ever hope to move past it [racism], it can't just be on people of color to deal with it. It's up to all of us—Black, white, everyone...to do the honest, uncomfortable work of rooting it out. It starts with self-examination and listening to those whose lives are different from our own. It ends with justice, compassion, and empathy." We accept the invitation.