

Mother Attorney Mentoring Association of Seattle (MAMA Seattle) stands with the voices of the Black Lives Matter movement. We condemn the ongoing police brutality against the Black community and are outraged by the murders of Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and countless others. We acknowledge we practice in a judicial system in need of reform. And, we know as mother attorneys we are in a unique position to not only advocate change within that system, but to also teach our children to recognize racism and help them be better than the generations before them.

MAMA Seattle was created to empower attorney mothers by creating a space where we can network, share experiences, learn from each other, problem solve, and talk about issues we face in a supportive and forward-thinking environment. Now is the time to talk openly with each other regarding systemic racism throughout the legal community, Washington state, and the country at large.

We have been listening, reading, watching, and researching over this past week on how we as an organization can do more than make a statement in support. We commit to develop programming and resources, to be a part of the change the Black Lives Matter movement is calling for. We will redouble our efforts to encourage firms to hire, retain, and promote Black female attorneys, to ensure our programming and leadership reflects and supports the Black community, and to educate us all on how to teach our children to identify and call out racism.

Rachel Costa, mother to a 9-year old boy, wrote "All mothers were summoned when George Floyd called out for his momma." We agree.

To start, we are hosting an online and interactive seminar mid-July on speaking to your children about racism. We will be sending an online invitation soon and we encourage you all to attend.

As a community, we are working to do better. We hope you join us.

Sincerely, MAMA Seattle Board