



Advancing WSBA's Vision of a Just Washington

AFFIRMING BLACK LIVES MATTER

The Washington State Bar Foundation joins with those who call for an end to systemic racism and the end of violence against Black people. We have all watched in horror the events of the past few months: Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and Manuel Ellis in our own backyard in Tacoma. All of this against the backdrop of a pandemic that has disproportionately affected Black communities.

It is no longer acceptable to be silent. Conversations must be had, no matter how uncomfortable they may be. Action must be taken beyond sharing an MLK quote and continuing on as if these issues do not exist. We must respond to misguided opinions from our peers, colleagues, and family members. These issues are not new and are deeply rooted in the history of this country. However, there is renewed energy to deconstruct the systems that perpetuate oppression and discrimination. We cannot lose this momentum and must continue the work every day until meaningful change has been achieved.

As an organization that supports WSBA programs that create opportunities for legal professionals to serve their communities, provide services to Washington's most vulnerable populations, and build an equitable and inclusive profession, the Foundation and its supporters are in a position to effectuate change.

We encourage each of you to confront racism and inequality. If we hold each other accountable to take action now and after the voices of the protesters have quieted, we can achieve an equitable society for all.

Endorsed by the Washington State Bar Foundation Board of Trustees, June 18, 2020.

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