In response to recent events, and more importantly, ongoing acts of violence perpetrated against Black persons throughout our nation, the USD Pride Law Board writes to express our support of the Black Lives Matter movement, ending police brutality, and all forms of systemic oppression. We find these recent senseless acts of violence perpetrated by police officers reprehensible. Our hearts go out to all those personally affected, and to Black Americans across the nation whose lives remain burdened by fear for merely existing in their own country. We are saddened that many of these events would have gone unnoticed by national media had there not been thoughtful grassroots organizing and social media campaigns.

The LGBTQ community is by its very nature diverse, but far too often the focus of LGBTQ advocacy has centered on white cisgender members of our community to the exclusion of LGBTQ people of color, particularly black trans women. It is important as we enter Pride month to remember Pride began with the actions of two black women at the Stonewall riots, Stormé DeLarverie and Marsha P. Johnson. Our ability to live freely comes from their actions and the work of other queer Black people.

We stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and all those protesting police brutality and systemic racism. We are proud to join BLSA, La Raza, LS4CRU, APALSA, and the many other student orgs at USD law who have used their platform to speak up and show support for the Black community in San Diego and across this nation.

As future lawyers and advocates, it is our upmost responsibility to stand against racial injustice and systemic oppression of any kind, and to ensure our nations promise of equal justice. We must strive to do whatever we can to create a country and a legal system where it is clear that Black Lives Matter.