LETTER OF SOLIDARITY

Our hearts are heavy. With the amount of pain, anger, outrage, and sadness we see in the nationwide protests, we must acknowledge that the justice system is not working as it should.

In response to both local and nation-wide current events, the Criminal Law Society of the University of San Diego School of Law stands in solidarity with the families of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless others who should still be alive today. These deaths were preventable. Saddened and enraged, we insist that all officers responsible for George Floyd’s death are arrested and held accountable.

As future criminal prosecutors and defense attorneys, we recognize our heightened duty to speak up and fight against systemic racism and police brutality. We vow to operate under a higher ethical standard, both in and outside of the courtroom. We vow to promote dialogue surrounding mass incarceration of marginalized groups, re-examine bias, and actively dismantle inequity throughout our careers as future attorneys in the American criminal justice system.

We call upon all parties of the San Diego criminal justice system and local leaders to take a stand against the injustices of a system that must be healed and reformed. Prosecutors, criminal defense attorneys, and police officers alike all carry immense responsibility for the betterment of our community.

USD CLS stands in solidarity with Black communities nationwide. We join USD La Raza, USD WLC, and USD APALSA and invite other USD organizations to unify in supporting uniform application of the rule of law and equal justice for all regardless of color, sex, race, religious or political affiliation. We promise to continue to fight alongside you until this system is one day healed.

Criminal Law Society Executive Board, 2020-2021
Jessica Vaughn – President