



CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

FOWLER SCHOOL OF LAW

Dear Fowler School of Law Community,

I hope that this email finds you healthy and safe. On Monday, President Struppa sent out a campus-wide email addressing the pain and anger that so many of us are experiencing due to the events of the past several days and weeks, including the horrific killing of George Floyd as well as those of Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor. Permit me to echo President Struppa's message that we stand together with those members of the Chapman Family and beyond who are grieving and angry at the injustices they and their loved ones experience in their daily lives. We must not only address the pain and emotions so many are feeling, but the systemic racism and injustice that have caused them.

In his email, President Struppa noted that the Fowler School of Law and the Wilkinson College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences are hosting a special virtual event featuring Jimmie C. Gardner and Prexy (Rozell W.) Nesbitt. Gardner was wrongfully convicted and imprisoned for more than 27 years before being exonerated. Nesbitt is a Presidential Fellow in Peace Studies at Chapman and has worked for decades for civil rights reform. These two incredible speakers will help Chapman engage in a much-needed dialogue on the persistence of racism in our society and actions we can take towards positive change.

Our Black Law Student Association is sponsoring the event, along with the following co-sponsors: Asian Pacific American Law Student Association, Chapman Women Lawyers Association, Christian Law Student Society, Diversity and Social Justice Forum, Hispanic American Law Student Association, Jewish Law Student Association, Korean American Law Student Association, Minority Law Student Association, Muslim Law Student Association, OUTLaw, and the Student Bar Association.

While no one event can provide all of the answers or solutions that our society so desperately needs, we thought that this event could serve as an important first step to help the Chapman Family begin its own dialogue about all that has occurred in the past several days – and the history that precedes it – as we recommit ourselves to addressing these critical issues. Our hope is that faculty, students, and our entire campus community will continue these conversations throughout the coming academic year and beyond.

I encourage you to attend and participate in this virtual event on Tuesday, June 9th at 2 p.m. You can view the event [here](#). I look forward to seeing you all there.

Best,

Matt Parlow
Dean and Donald P. Kennedy Chair in Law
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