

June 4, 2020

Dear Chase Community,

Together we have experienced upheaval in our world that will forever mark this time as one of pain, loss and sadness for many. We watch as COVID-19 claims over 100,000 lives in the U.S. and wonder how the pandemic will indelibly shape our future. We see, in plain view, the death of George Floyd under the knee of a police officer and understand that deep seeded inequities persist in American life. We witness, in our own back yard and across the nation, the wrenching peaceful cries for justice peppered with senseless destruction of businesses on the verge of reemergence and worry that this cycle of outrage and despair will forever grip our society. No one person can salve these wounds. Only together can we build a better tomorrow for all.

Earlier this week, I asked our faculty and staff to share their thoughts, perspectives and ideas for supporting our community through this difficult time. With gratitude for their thoughtful responses, I reflect on the lessons imparted. Let us recall that Salmon P. Chase fought mightily against racial injustice, representing people arrested under the Fugitive Slave Act - a law he would challenge in the U.S. Supreme Court. His anti-slavery advocacy in this region inspired many to join his calls for law reform. We are worthy of his legacy as we continue to strive for justice, equality, and inclusion through the law.

In the coming weeks, Ashley Siemer, our beloved Director of Student Affairs, will be working with our student leadership to create opportunities for dialogue and action so that all of our voices can be heard. Our goal is to persist in educating ourselves throughout the coming academic year to unpack the complexities, interconnections and underpinnings of recent events. Please consider joining in these opportunities as they become available.

I'll leave you with a link to the [letter Martin Luther King, Jr.](#) penned from the Birmingham jail in 1963. Famously, he observes, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Looking forward to our next chance to be together.

With hopes for health and peace,



Judith Daar
Ambassador Patricia L. Herbold Dean and Professor of Law
Northern Kentucky University
Salmon P. Chase College of Law
502 Nunn Hall
Highland Heights, KY 41099
859.572.5781
jdaar@nku.edu