



Elisabeth Haub School of Law

PACE UNIVERSITY

Shock. Outrage. Despair. Disgust. Outcry. Protest. Violence. It has been one week since the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin. Mr. Floyd's death came on the heels of the killings of Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor. Sadly, the list of names of victims of similar killings is long and keeps growing. I am emerging, as many of you are, from a week of heart wrenching conversations with loved ones about the criminalization of Blackness and the impact of the cancer of racism on all of our communities. These conversations produce many more questions than answers. Who are we as a nation? How does who we are square with who we have purported to be? How do we actually make America's reality match its promise? These questions are not new; they have merely been brought into sharper focus by the availability of video evidence. These questions are very personal, and complex, for me, because I inhabit one of those criminalized bodies, I am raising two Black sons, and I count among my friends and family current and former law enforcement officials.

I write to you because the Haub Law community needs to be a part of answering the questions that I posed above. The work starts with not losing sight of who we are as a community. Just as we have during the COVID-19 pandemic, we need to look out for each other and take care of each other. We need to respect each other's perspectives and empathize with each other's struggles. Beyond our campus, we need to do what Pace has always done – use the law as a tool to pursue social change. In the coming weeks and months, we will be getting together (virtually) to discuss how we move forward with our work, and how we lend our intellects and energies to answering the question, “What next?” Stay tuned.

Sincerely,
Dean Anderson

Horace Anderson
Dean and Professor of Law
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