

Quinnipiac

UNIVERSITY

Law

Dear Colleagues:

I do not frequently use the “dean’s pulpit” to comment on public matters or events that should be on our minds. So many social issues and problems are worthy of our attention, and I do not believe that I always have insights to share that could enlighten, comfort, or inspire my colleagues in our community that I care about and value so deeply. As we conclude this second week of terrible events, however, I found myself wanting/needing to reach out to you before the weekend with just a few brief reflections.

Whether the face and tragedy that comes to mind is that of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, or countless others; most reasonable people would agree that race relations in our country need sustained and vigorous attention, with a special focus on how police officers and our criminal justice system treat individuals of color (especially individuals who are Black). We have very much progress that we desperately need to make, and we have “miles to go before we sleep.”

I wish we could gather in person, as I would really like to have a town hall meeting and the ability for us to meet together – not just by Zoom – to share our shock and sadness over these tragedies and to consider together what can be done and, in particular, what we can do. What can we as lawyers do – and what can the law school do – to help society move toward greater racial harmony and justice? And what can we do in our own community to ensure that all of our colleagues feel welcome, listened to, respected, valued, and safe?

The coronavirus prevents us from having an in-person town meeting right now, but we are in the process of planning one that we will have after we are able to be back together live in North Haven. Kathy Kuhar and I will also be working with SBA President George Morgan and with the leadership of our other student organizations to determine what kinds of programming and/or activities – live and in-person or by Zoom – might be helpful for students and faculty. Please let any of us know if you have ideas about what we might do.

For any and all of you who are wrestling with sadness, anger, and possibly hopelessness over these recent awful events, please trust that we understand and appreciate your feelings. As we ready ourselves for this weekend, I hope that all of us will commit to spending some time over the next few days thinking about what we and the law school can do to help bring about positive

change in these challenging areas. And I hope that we can all find encouragement by reminding ourselves repeatedly that one of the great goals of legal education is to provide the knowledge, skills, and emotional intelligence that will allow us to help make our world more just, more fair, and more safe for everyone.

Have a good weekend, and please be safe and stay well.

Best wishes -- Brad Saxton

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