



Subject: Community Forum Next Monday [June 10, 2020]

Dear Student, Staff & Faculty Colleagues,

A little more than a week ago, I reached out to you to share my earliest thoughts on the inexplicable killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis – and my sense that it was “our calling” as lawyers and law students to help address the persistent and systemic racial prejudices in our society that that horrific act reflected. This Monday, as a memorial for George was held in Houston, our University closed its doors in commemoration.

In the intervening days, people of all backgrounds have taken to the streets to demand that our nation call itself to account. Not mostly for the history of racial discrimination in America, but rather for the fact that the stain of racism continues to permeate our social, economic, political, and legal life. Any frank self-appraisal must acknowledge that our nation is not yet living up to the promise of equality that stands at the heart of our national values. We somehow continue to struggle with what should be a banal adage: that Black Lives Matter.

Any effort to change those stubborn facts must include law and lawyers at its core. It is high time, as such, for our community of current and future lawyers to step up – and to step into – the conversation about how we can *do* better, and *be* better. I hope all of you will join in that conversation. Some of the topics may be difficult, but it is an essential discussion – if we wish to improve ourselves, our law school, and the legal profession.

Multiple discussions are already occurring among our students, staff, and faculty members about potentially productive lines of action that we might take – both as individuals and as an institution. Given the value of our coming together as a whole, however, I want to invite all of you to a **Community Forum on Race and Texas A&M Law**, to be hosted by our student, staff, and faculty Diversity Council. In the interest of maximizing participation, we will host that gathering **next Monday, at 5:30 p.m., via Zoom.**

I hope as many of you as possible will join us.

Until then, my continued best wishes for your health, safety, and well-being.

Yours,

Bobby

Robert B. Ahdieh

Dean & Anthony G. Buzbee Endowed Dean's Chair

Texas A&M University School of Law