



TOLEDO LAW

THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff:

The University of Toledo College of Law stands unified in support of those demanding justice for George Floyd and an end to racism. Recent events do not stand alone. They are part of a long history of racial injustice and unequal treatment. The past week's events have shown the realities of the work our nation must do to ensure that our justice system protects and serves all people.

We understand that current events have been stressful and want to make clear that our students, faculty, and staff of color have our support. We are committed to creating an inclusive Toledo Law community where all feel welcome, valued, and supported. We reaffirm our dedication to diversity and inclusion and encourage our students, faculty, and staff to engage in difficult conversations on these topics with empathy, genuinely listening to the lived experiences of our classmates and colleagues.

The legal profession is a service profession. We are bound as officers of the court to uphold the constitutional rights of all people. As educators, we are committed to training future generations of lawyers to fulfill this professional duty and serve all members of our community with compassion, respect, and dignity. Part of that training is engaging in dialogue about difficult legal and societal issues, including the role of race.

Our mission at the law school is intrinsically tied to the mission of equal access to justice. We are uniquely positioned to empower a new generation of lawyers to evaluate our country's legal systems, engage in thoughtful discourse, and address inequality.

While making a statement like this to the College of Law community is important, I believe that action is also essential. In the past year, we have engaged on some of these topics through trainings and discussions with faculty, staff, and students, but there is much more we can do. As initial steps, we plan to:

- Host educational discussions on topics of constitutional rights, criminal justice and race;
- Work with our student groups to engage speakers on these topics;
- Provide additional training to faculty and staff about facilitating discussions on these topics in the context of classroom learning and other programming; and
- Work with faculty and student representatives to update our College of Law Diversity and Inclusion strategic plan.

We also will continue to engage in conversations with our community to determine other appropriate action.

Join us as we participate in the UToledo "[Dialogues on Diversity Virtual Townhall](#)" tomorrow, Thursday, June 4 at 5:30 p.m. I also encourage you to contact me with ideas you might have for additional ways we can provide support on these critical issues. The change we need to see as a nation begins with each of us doing our part to create a supportive and inclusive community. Working together, we can make a difference.

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