



Washington
University in St. Louis

SCHOOL OF LAW

Dear WashULaw Community,

Like many of you, I am saddened and angered by the horrific death of George Floyd in Minneapolis last week. Mr. Floyd's death, following acts of racial violence in other states, makes clear that deep and disturbing disparities continue to plague our country.

These tragedies have a powerful and distressing impact on our community, especially the Black community, and we cannot remain silent. As a law school with a strong commitment to social justice, we have a special responsibility to raise our voices. And in painful times, such as these, it becomes even more important to reaffirm our core values. We must do better and be better.

The recent videos that have emerged are difficult to watch, but they are a vivid reminder of an unfortunate truth: We live in a world that all too frequently devalues the lives of brown and black people. Many scholars believe that airing truth is the only way to achieve accountability, trust, and justice. In fact, our university's motto is *per veritatem vis*, meaning "strength through truth."

The law school hopes to take a step in this direction by supporting the launch of *The Police Accountability and Community Engagement Project*—a project that will document the racial violence unfolding across our country. To advance this project, input will be solicited from faculty, staff, students, community members, police officers, policymakers, and others. If you would like to learn more, please join the conversation:

- **Panel Discussion: *The Police Accountability and Community Engagement Project***
- **Wednesday, June 17 at 3:00 p.m. CT**
- **Zoom details will be supplied in a follow-up email**

Finally, I want to acknowledge that many members of our community are currently experiencing heightened levels of stress and anxiety. If you need help, please contact me directly, or take advantage of our university's resources. Students can contact the [student wellness center](#), and faculty and staff can contact [employee wellness resources](#).

Sincerely and with hope,
Dean Nancy Staudt