



CONCORDIA
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW • BOISE, IDAHO

Dear Concordia Law Community,

I hope that this message finds you and your loved ones healthy and safe. I write at a difficult juncture in our shared life. Admittedly, I hesitated when writing, in large part due to my own need for reflection.

Our community has been shaken by the murders of George Floyd in Minnesota, Breonna Taylor in Kentucky, Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia and so many others. I mourn these senseless deaths and condemn police brutality and violence of any kind. I also recognize the pain and fear that people of color in our community are experiencing. This summer marks my sixth year as an Idahoan, and as a woman of color and a parent of children of color, this is the first time in quite a long time that I have feared for the safety of my family amidst the community that I call home.

The issues of bias, inequality and violence against people of color are not new. These recent events though place a renewed spotlight on the deep-rooted, systemic discrimination that plagues our country. I call on the Concordia Law community to stand as one to condemn racism and reaffirm our commitment to equality under the law for all. At Concordia Law, we are proud of our past leadership on social justice issues: fighting against the socio-economic disparities in housing law, advocating for reforms of the criminal justice and immigration systems and engaging in honest dialogue in our community regarding bias within the legal profession and our justice system in an effort to push for change. A fundamental part of our mission at Concordia Law is to work to achieve equality and justice for those who need it the most and to instill those values in the next generation of attorneys and servant leaders.

We have so much more work to do. Though I certainly do not have all the answers, I believe we must use our power as lawyers to speak up when others are silenced and must examine how we can better stand in solidarity with the oppressed and the disenfranchised. We must pledge to evaluate our own implicit biases and acknowledge the ways in which our silence perpetuates systems of discrimination, intolerance and exclusion. We must raise our voices in defense of those who are victimized by prejudice of any kind.

Especially at this very difficult time – in the face of COVID-19, record unemployment and rioting and violence in cities across the country – I hope we can draw strength from our community at Concordia Law and support each other in every way possible. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can assist you.

With great confidence we will be stronger from all of this,
Latonia

LATONIA HANEY KEITH

Interim Dean

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW