



HOWARD
UNIVERSITY

School of Law

Dear Howard Law Community,

I became Dean of Howard University School of Law on July 15, 2014. Michael Brown was killed in Ferguson, Missouri on August 9, 2015. According to the Washington Post, since 2016, police officers have killed almost 1,000 people per year in shootings. There is no database that even counts all of the occasions black people have been killed by law enforcement.

Unfortunately, we are all too familiar with these moments. Hands Up, Don't Shoot. I Can't Breathe. Black Lives Matter. I have seen our community protest and us cry out for justice countless times over the last six years. For almost two weeks, we have protested all over the country, demanding justice for Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd.

I am angry and I am so tired of seeing Black people murdered in our streets by police officers. We are peacefully driving our cars, and we are murdered. We are sitting in our backyards, and we are murdered. We are sleeping in our beds, and we are murdered.

My anger and frustration leads me to want a solution. I feel a deep sense of urgency that drives me to want to help organize and lead a comprehensive response to this seemingly intractable injustice. As a Howard Law community, we are deeply committed to solutions and a comprehensive agenda for police reform.

In the spirit of that sense of urgency, we at Howard Law are taking a different approach. Here are the ways that the Howard Law community has mobilized since George Floyd was murdered:

- (1) The Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center, under the leadership of Professor Justin Hansford, has held multiple legal observer trainings for over 200 people;
- (2) The Howard Law Black Law Students Association, Epsilon Sigma Iota, and Howard Business Law Society are organizing "Know Your Rights" trainings. We will continue these "Know Your Rights" trainings throughout the summer and fall;
- (3) We held a community meeting with more than 100 faculty, students, and staff from the law school, School of Education, School of Communications, and the College of Arts and Sciences to talk about our community and institutional agenda;
- (4) Howard Law faculty Adam Kurland, Lucius Outlaw, Josephine Ross, and Kelli Neptune will participate on a panel about the most pressing legal issues surrounding police killings and the protests;
- (5) I have been working with clinical law faculty, alumni, and other experts to set up a comprehensive Howard Law agenda on police reform; and

(6) Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Fellow, Tasnim Motala, filed for an injunction to have the Washington, D.C. curfew lifted.

I know our community is hurting. I know we are angry. I share your pain and devastation. Let's channel our anger into action, and not let up until we see systemic police reform and criminal justice reform.

Black Lives Matter.

In Truth and Service,
Dean Danielle Holley-Walker

Danielle Holley-Walker
Dean and Professor of Law
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