

Eric J. Mitnick
Dean & Professor of Law

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To the UMass Law Community:

Much has transpired in the short number of days since Chancellor Johnson sent his message to our community. Demonstrators peacefully protesting violence have been met with more violence. The pain we feel, the racial injustice that is manifest, the confusion (how could this be happening again?), the outrage, at times it feels overwhelming, there is so much work to be done.

Fortunately, that is precisely what we are training for. At the heart of many of the social and political issues currently tearing at our communities lie issues of law - issues of justice, equal access and opportunity, and fairness. Social change begets legal change, and legal change begets social change. It is an essential feedback loop, and we can serve as agents of that change.

We, as lawyers, as legal educators, as law students, are especially well positioned to do this. Indeed, this is precisely why so many of us went to law school. Representing those in need, giving voice to the voiceless, fighting discrimination, pursuing justice, these are the critical commitments of our institution and our profession.

Faculty colleagues are preparing initiatives. Our student organizations are energized and prepared to move forward. I look forward to working with you, to fostering dialogue, to seeking solutions, to dismantling the structural inequality and systemic racism that plagues our society, to finding justice.

Sincerely,



Eric Mitnick
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