

# CHARLESTON

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SCHOOL OF LAW

Dear Charleston School of Law Community:

Although the official change in leadership will not formally occur for several weeks, given the magnitude of the recent events and the impact that it has on all of us, we wanted to share with you our thoughts and initial actions.

First, the events of the last week—the death of George Floyd, the arrest of Derek Chauvin, the protests and calls for police reform, and the violence and property damage in cities, including Charleston—have once again brought to the forefront vitally important legal issues about policing, racial discrimination, the constitutional rights of protestors and the media, and public safety. As an educational institution with its mission and motto of “Pro Bono Populi,” the Charleston School of Law is particularly well-suited to address these issues head-on. Because of the gravity of this matter, we have directed Nick Sanders and Debra Gammons to work with the student leadership to immediately establish mechanisms for meaningful community dialogue on this issue, which is so critical to all of us. We have asked that these fora for dialogue and discourse begin now and continue on a more formal basis once we are all back together in the fall.

Additionally, we should never lose sight of the personal impact that this has on all members of our law school community. Please know that we offer our heartfelt support to each of you, most especially those for whom this is an especially difficult and painful time—particularly our African-American students, faculty, staff, and alumni. If you are upset, angry, anxious, saddened – you are not alone, and as a community we stand prepared to listen, support, and, act.

We look forward to being with you soon.

Sincerely,

Andy Abrams  
Dean, Provost, and Professor of Law  
Charleston School of Law

Larry Cunningham  
Dean and Professor of Law (effective June 30, 2020)  
Charleston School of Law