

**The Litigation Section of the Los Angeles County Bar Association Issues Statement
Supporting Greater Inclusivity and Diversity, and the Elimination of Institutional Bias
and Racism, in the Law**

Statement:

The Executive Committee of the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Litigation Section is troubled by the circumstances that led to the death of George Floyd and keenly aware of the protests across our country and around the world against discrimination and racism. Mr. Floyd's death is the latest event in a history of racially-motivated targeting, oppression, and killing of persons within the Black community. Systemic racism has existed throughout our society for far too long and the repeated discriminatory treatment of people of color and diverse backgrounds must end.

We are committed to protecting the rule of law, condemning violence in all forms, and the peaceful resolution of civil conflict. We heed the public outcry for equal treatment under the law and are committed to supporting and promoting equality and diversity both within and outside the legal profession, in furtherance of our Section's stated goals to provide a forum to address the problems and interests of trial practitioners and to generally promote and further the interests of the legal profession as a whole. We acknowledge the immense challenges that attorneys of diverse racial, ethnic, and gender backgrounds routinely face because of bias and racism in the legal profession. More than ever, we are committed to providing regular educational programming on the issues of institutional racism and the elimination of implicit and explicit bias, as well as to work for meaningful legal and policy changes in these areas.

We call on our members to consider ways we can bring about greater inclusiveness and equality in our law firms, the legal profession, and society as a whole, including through education and training, and ensuring hiring and leadership positions for attorneys of color and diverse backgrounds. We must all do the work that is necessary to eradicate racism, bias, and discrimination. While these measures cannot change the past, they will improve the administration of justice, better serve the public, and help to ensure justice for all in the future.

Disclaimer:

This statement was authorized by the private sector attorneys serving on the Executive Committee of the LACBA Litigation Section's Executive Committee. Judicial officers and employees of Local, State, or Federal Governments who serve on the Litigation Section Executive Committee did not participate in the decision to issue this statement. LACBA's Litigation Section issues this statement in its name only and not on behalf of LACBA as a whole, or any other LACBA Section or Committee thereof. This statement is not issued on behalf of any member of the Litigation Section for whom participation in the formulation of the position would conflict with that member's official or professional responsibilities.

**Chair & Officers
Litigation Section, Los Angeles County Bar Association
June 8, 2020**