

THE BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON SCHOOL OF LAW

To the Dayton Community,

In light of Juneteenth or “Freedom Day” becoming a national holiday, the Executive Board of UDSL’s Black Law Students Association (“BLSA”) stands in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and takes an open position against racism and the long-standing oppression of Black people in America. While we are glad that justice has finally been served and we are taking strides in the right direction, this is long overdue and there is still more work to be done.

On April 11, 2021 Daunte Wright, a former student of George Floyd’s girlfriend, was fatally shot by a police officer during a traffic stop in Minnesota. Not long after, on April 20, 2021, Ma’Khia Bryant was also fatally shot by a police officer in Columbus, Ohio. As instances of police brutality and death of Black Americans continue, this is a sign that the work is not finished. Our community, students, and students of color of the University of Dayton School of Law continue to live in fear. We do not want to become the next viral hashtag of yet another wrongful death by law enforcement. This is our reality and justice must continue to be served.

While we are satisfied that Derek Chauvin is paying for his heinous crime, it is not often that we are able to see this happen, and this is usually the exception not the norm. Time and time again, we are accustomed to seeing our brothers and sisters robbed of their lives by individuals who swore to protect and serve us. This conviction is an important milestone, and it is pivotal that we push forward together to ensure justice. We are stronger together.

BLSA is dedicated to ensuring that all of our fellow students leave law school and become an integral part of the solution to reform

our justice system. Only by working together, within and outside of our community, will we be able to change a system that does not serve all peoples equally. We all took an oath to preserve justice for all; we must abide by it.

We will continue to not stand for racism in our workplaces, public areas, classrooms, courtrooms, or police departments. It is not enough to just “not be racist” anymore; although justice has been served, we still need your support and solidarity in this life-long fight for justice, equality, and peace.

While it is momentous that Juneteenth has become a national holiday, it is important that we remember its significance of the day as well the individuals who are still feeling the aftershocks of slavery to this day.

If you would like to learn more please join us for our Get Real Sessions this Summer and Fall. We look forward to seeing you and paving a new path forward together.

Sincerely,

UDSL Black Law Students Association Executive Board