



May 29, 2020

Dear Students, Recent Graduates, Faculty, and Staff,

The heinous murders of George Floyd and Ahmaud Arbery have shaken our collective conscious. The impact on our students and other members of our community is undeniable, and I write today to condemn these murders and acts of racial violence.

Beyond condemnation, it is important to recognize that this horrendous pattern of violence may be especially traumatic for our Black students, friends, and co-workers who may feel threatened and unsafe. These events are a vivid reminder that racism is not an abstract concept; it is a reality with life and death consequences.

Dean Sklut and I have spoken to members of the Black Law Students Association to explore the role of the law school in response to these abhorrent acts. We also discussed how best to support students feeling the impact most acutely. I'm grateful for BLSA's initiative and leadership in these efforts.

As a first step, BLSA has asked us to provide a virtual safe space for students and recent grads to come together to share, listen, grieve, and process these murders and other recent displays of racism. This virtual gathering will be on Thursday, June 4 at 6 p.m. You may join the meeting [here](#). Although this first gathering will be limited to current students and members of the class of 2020, we hope that Thursday's meeting will lay a foundation for future gatherings for our broader community.

I encourage anyone who needs additional support to contact [Hilary Delman](#) from CAPS. Please do not hesitate to contact me and Dean Sklut with feedback on how we can best address these issues of justice together.

Sincerely,

Dean Perdue

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