FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 2, 2020

Statement on George Floyd and Recent Protests Against Anti-Black Racism

OAPABA is heartbroken and outraged by the recent attacks on the Black community that have dominated the news cycle. The killings of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd, and the racist act of invoking the police on Christian Cooper, are only recent examples of an appalling history of racist violence or threats of violence perpetrated against the Black community. As part of our mission to advocate on matters of concern to APA attorneys and our communities, OAPABA stands in solidarity and encourages our members to speak out against Anti-Black racism. In the midst of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, we called on our leaders to denounce race-based attacks directed at the APA community. Now the APA community must unite to denounce the systemic race-based attacks on our Black brothers and sisters.

OAPABA also stands in solidarity with the protestors who are exercising their constitutional rights. We do so in honor of Mitsuye Endo, Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu, and Min Yasui, who understood that protest and civil disobedience are necessary to create change.

We encourage our members to take steps in our Call to Action below. That said, OAPABA recognizes that our communities are not homogeneous, and not everyone will have the means, immigration status, job title, or physical capacity to take action. We celebrate the diversity of our members and thank you for your support.

This Call to Action is based on feedback from our sister bar associations and guidance from articles such as https://medium.com/awaken-blog/20-allyship-actions-for-asians-to-show-up-for-the-black-community-right-now-464e5689cf3e.

OAPABA Call to Action

1. Become an active member of the Oregon Chapter of the National Bar Association (https://ocnba.org/) and OGALLA (http://www.ogalla.org/). We can collaborate and have a greater impact when we stay apprised of issues facing our sister organizations.
2. Join OAPABA’s Advocacy Committee and help brainstorm ways to support these communities.
3. Reflect on your own biases and challenge the model minority myth whenever possible.
4. Educate yourself and your circle of influence on the injustices facing the Black and LGBTQ communities, but do not put the burden on those communities to educate you.
5. Validate the experiences and feelings of Black lives.
6. Recognize racist language and call it out when you see or hear it.
8. Volunteer for pro bono work within your firm or contact one of the affinity bars to find out where help is needed.

**OAPABA’s mission is:**

*Advancement: To promote the professional development and advancement of APA attorneys through education, research, and programs.*

*Advocacy: To act as a vehicle and forum for expressing opinion on matters of concern to APA attorneys in our communities.*

*Communication: To encourage and foster communicate among APA attorneys on issues affecting our work, communities, and government.*

*For more information, please contact communications@oapaba.org*