



*“The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them.”— [Ida B. Wells](#)*

The Black Women Lawyers’ Association of Greater Chicago, Inc. (“BWL A”) shares in the profound anger, frustration, and grief of so many African-Americans and allies across this nation, who are mourning the tragic murder of George Floyd by a white Minnesota police officer. The BWLA considers the officer’s termination and arrest as a first step in a long road to justice; however we demand charges also be filed against the other three officers who enabled the unjustified killing of George Floyd by their actions and inactions.

The BWLA stands with the peaceful protestors in our city and across this nation who are using their voices to condemn this nation’s ugly history of systemic racism, injustice, social and economic disparities, and police brutality. The BWLA advocates for peaceful, non-violent protest, and we expressly condemn acts of looting and violence. While we understand the immense hurt and anger being processed by many, such senseless acts obscure the righteousness of the message and mission to seek justice for George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Botham Jean, Laquan McDonald, Michael Brown, Atatiana Jefferson, Trayvon Martin, Tamir Rice, and so many other African-Americans who have died at the hands of white police officers or white citizens “standing their ground.” The list of activities that African-Americans cannot engage in for fear of being murdered. We cannot jog, relax in our homes, walk home with Skittles, go to church, bird watch, have car trouble—the list goes on and are tired of the mistreatment. Enough is enough.

The BWLA recognizes our duty as lawyers, judges, legal professors, law students and politicians to use our collective voice to bring light to injustices and effectuate change. The BWLA is committed to taking action to challenge the unjust system and racist institutions that continue to permit the senseless killings of African-American men and women by law enforcement and racist vigilantes. In this spirit, the BWLA 2020-2021 Board of Directors is committed to the following mission:

- (1) Organizing criminal defense attorneys to provide pro-bono representation for protestors in the Chicagoland area;

- (2) Organizing and training attorneys, including those without experience in criminal law, to provide immediate support to arrested protestors at police stations and ensure their civil rights are protected; and
- (3) Developing a Civil Rights Committee to address civil rights and civil liberty issues, including advocating for police reform focused on implicit bias and diversity training; and mobilizing a Voting Campaign in African-American communities for the 2020 U.S. Presidential race.

If you have experience in criminal law and would like to assist in the above mentioned efforts, please click [HERE](#).

We understand that families are scared and are still reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic. Please stay home if possible, and keep your families close during these unprecedented times.

Dated: June 1, 2020