

## **BWLA Statement on Tyre Nichols**

The Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc. mourns the tragic death of 29-year-old Tyre Nichols. The disturbing video footage of Tyre's brutal beating at the hands of police officers in Memphis, Tennessee has left us brokenhearted. We are devastated for Tyre and his family. A routine traffic stop should not result in a young man's death. Sadly, we know this is not a new or isolated incident.

Police violence and structural racism have and continue to plague our communities. Tragedies such as these are an all too frequent occurrence. Yet, notwithstanding how inundated we may be with images of violence against our own, each new incident is triggering. For many of us, such brutality reopens wounds of deep hurt and past trauma. It makes us fearful that our sons, daughters, and others we hold dear may suffer the same fate. Sometimes, in response to such hurt and fear, we lose hope. We feel paralyzed. And, we fall into inaction and silence.

Although feelings of anger and sadness are warranted, we will not be deterred. As a membership organization comprised of Black women lawyers and our allies, we are uniquely positioned to wield our power and purpose to effectuate change in how justice is administered and how laws are made. We are empowered to demand action and to hold our leaders and officials accountable. Although we may be hurt, our commitment to one another and our steadfast dedication to seeking the fair administration of justice does not waiver. We pray our community finds peace, while we continue to press forward, together.