

# Asian Law Students Association University of Houston Law Center



June 8, 2020

In recent news, we have seen the unforgivable deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, Sean Reed, and countless others. As we mourn, the Asian Law Students Association (ALSA) at the University of Houston Law Center stands in solidarity with Black Law Students Association at UHLC, the Black Lives Matter movement, and the nationwide Black community.

We recognize and condemn the broken criminal justice system, a product of deeply ingrained institutional racism against the Black community. Stories of violence perpetrated by law enforcement against Black people has become part of American literature. Even when peaceful protesters march to criticize police brutality, they are met with the very thing they are protesting— police brutality. To that end, we express our support for the millions of protesters across the country; we condemn law enforcement agencies’ systemic use of excessive violence against Black Americans; and we denounce our government’s refusal to take meaningful measures towards accountability.

While we are eager to condemn the injustices the Black community faces, we are under no illusion that the Asian American community is without blame. Asian Americans can be equally guilty of the silence and complicity that perpetuates glaring injustice. This is a fact made painfully evident when former officer Tou Thao, an Asian American, assured a growing crowd that George Floyd was “fine” while shoving back bystanders. We must also speak up against the weaponization of the “model minority” myth which continues to feed and fuel racism. As an organization that promotes diversity and inclusion, ALSA at UHLC affirms its pledge to combat anti-Black sentiment in our communities.

We offer our deepest condolences to victims of racial injustice and their families. We commit to speak up against racism, systemic oppression, police brutality, and complicity. We commit to listen to and amplify Black voices. We commit to fight the good fight, because Black lives matter.

“If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet depreciate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters. This struggle may be a moral one; or it may be a physical one; or it may be both moral and physical; but it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.”  
– Frederick Douglass, 1857

In solidarity,

Reika Nakayama, President  
Allan Jeanjaquet, External Vice President  
Gregory Lu, Internal Vice President