

# News

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## Dallas Bar Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 20, 2020

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### **DALLAS BAR & SISTER BAR ASSOCIATIONS PASS RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL & RACIAL JUSTICE AND CREATE THE DALLAS BARS' ALLIED EQUALITY TASK FORCE**

The **Dallas Bar Association, J.L. Turner Legal Association, Dallas Asian American Bar Association, Dallas Hispanic Bar Association, Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, and the Dallas Women Lawyers Association** have approved a joint resolution regarding the tragic death of George Floyd, reaffirming “their collective commitment to preserve the Constitutionally protected right of peaceable assembly, to promote equality and social justice, and to pursue tangible progress through words and deeds towards a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive society,” and announcing the creation of the Dallas Bars’ Allied Equality Task Force. The Task Force is charged with ensuring progressive action and accountability for the objectives included in the Joint Resolution.

In addition, and consistent with the Joint Resolution, the Dallas Bar Association supports the statements of both the leadership of the [State Bar of Texas](#) (linked to SBOT statement) and the State Bar’s African American Lawyer’s Section released earlier last week addressing statements made by State Bar President Larry McDougal regarding #BlackLivesMatter. (statement attached). Like State Bar leadership and the African American Lawyers Section, Mr. McDougal’s statements do not reflect the values of the Dallas Bar Association, J.L. Turner Legal Association, Dallas Asian American Bar Association, Dallas Hispanic Bar Association, Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, and the Dallas Women Lawyers Association.

The resolution reads:

#### **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, on May 25, 2020, George Floyd was killed in Minneapolis, Minnesota, by law-enforcement officers entrusted with the duty to protect and to serve the public; and,

**WHEREAS**, the entire tragic ordeal was morally unjust, offended our humanity, and was captured on video – permitting the world to witness George Floyd repeatedly stating “I can’t breathe” and enduring an excruciating final few minutes of his life; and,

**WHEREAS**, Black lives matter — yet, George Floyd’s death is the latest example in a centuries-long history of the lives of Black Americans being regarded by some as mattering less than those of others; and,

**WHEREAS**, while we recognize that the overwhelming majority of law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges perform their duties with honor, fairness, and integrity, the tragic record of Black lives lost to police violence and other instances of violence includes people whose names we know and feel compelled to say — such as Sandra Bland, Jordan Edwards, Botham Jean, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tamir Rice, Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, and Michael Brown — as well as others not named herein but for whom we must seek justice; and,

**WHEREAS**, in response to the killing of George Floyd and others, a global conscience has been awakened, and predominately peaceful civil demonstrations have ensued - demanding social and racial justice, including an end to police violence; and,

**WHEREAS**, police violence is but one of many manifestations of systemic racism - which many of our Nation's institutions have sustained from slavery through Jim Crow to the present - leading in part to our current educational segregation, mass incarceration, voter suppression, and economic disparities; and,

**WHEREAS**, lawyers have taken an oath to promote justice and to 'honestly demean' themselves by serving as guardians of the law and by embracing their obligation as agents of change — armed with knowledge, guided by commitment, and steadied by courage; and,

**WHEREAS**, several weeks have passed since George Floyd's tragic death, the quest for justice is a continuum, defined by the arc of the moral universe, and the scourge of racism is an impediment to this Nation's progress and promise; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Dallas legal community remains steadfast in its support of the timeless concepts of justice and the rule of law, and denounces acts contrary to the precepts of human dignity, the mandates of Constitutional rights, and the equitable imperatives of justice; and,

**WHEREAS**, although the Dallas legal community has responded to recent calls for social and racial justice through informational seminars, professional presentations, collaborative dialogue, and community actions, additional action is needed, and this same legal community must, through its words and deeds, continue to pursue and uphold its prior pronouncements supporting substantive progressive change, as well as affirm its commitment to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Dallas Bar Association, the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, the J.L. Turner Legal Association, the Dallas Hispanic Bar Association, the Dallas Asian American Bar Association, and the Dallas Women Lawyers Association do hereby reaffirm their collective commitment to preserve the Constitutionally protected right of peaceable assembly, to promote equality and social justice, and to pursue tangible progress through words and deeds towards a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive society.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that consistent with the joint commitment expressed in this Joint Resolution, the Dallas Bar Association, the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, the J.L. Turner Legal Association, the Dallas Hispanic Bar Association, the Dallas Asian American Bar Association, and the Dallas Women Lawyers Association, do on this day hereby officially form the **Allied Dallas Bars' Equality Task Force**, which through its call to action, strategic objectives, collaborative efforts, and suggested programming, will ensure progressive action and accountability accompanying this Joint Resolution's articulated commitment.

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