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THE WCBA's STATEMENT REGARDING THE ATTACK

ON THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

January 6th will be remembered as one of the darkest days in our nation's history. A group of American citizens laid siege to perhaps our greatest symbol of democracy, the Capitol building itself. In the violence that ensued, at least five people lost their lives and the American way of life was threatened. The Westchester County Bar Association deplores the lack of patriotism and respect for the rule of law that these people have demonstrated.

America has never had a homogeneous population. Our personal, religious and political beliefs have always been diverse, yet at no time have our core institutions been attacked from within. The Westchester County Bar Association encourages all of us to remember that before any party affiliation or political ideology, we are all citizens of these United States of America.

As citizens, we should hold dear the rule of law which is a vital cornerstone of the democratic principles that ensure the strength of our great republic. At times like these it is valuable to turn to the words of the past for guidance. President John F. Kennedy noted the importance of unity as Americans, "Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future."

It is irrefutable that 2020 has brought significant challenges to our nation - the COVID-19 pandemic, questions of social justice and political fragmentation. For all the negative aspects of the

human condition that dominate during a period of time, one thing is for certain – humanity always triumphs in the long run.

The WCBA's purposes *inter alia* are to promote the ends of justice, to elevate the standard of integrity, honor, competence and courtesy in the legal profession, and to participate with all members of society in seeking and perfecting the common good.

During the one hundred twenty-five years of existence of the Westchester County Bar Association, our nation has overcome many challenges - world wars, famine, the Great Depression, and several financial crises, to name a few. In each situation our nation triumphed due to the strength of our citizens and our democratic institutions.

Humanity and unity will lead us out of this season of turmoil. One only has to watch our state and national political scene to see what divisive rhetoric can yield, and we believe that Americans are better than that. Conservatives, liberals and moderates who can either be sworn enemies or our leaders can make a purposeful effort to unite people behind an inspiring vision of hope and prosperity that will lift all into a bright future.

The WCBA is confident that our nation will emerge from this period of disharmony stronger.

Wendy Marie Weathers, Esq.
President
Westchester County Bar Association