



For Immediate Release

PRESS RELEASE

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### **Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association and Foundation statement on racial inequality and injustice**

June 15, 2020—Today the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association and Foundation (KCMBA/KCMBF) released the following statement regarding racial inequality and injustice. KCMBA President Athena Dickson and KCMBF President Peter Goss stated, “As lawyers, we are defenders of the rule of law, and we believe that application of the rule of law must be fair to everyone.”

#### **JOINT STATEMENT OF KANSAS CITY METROPOLITAN BAR ASSOCIATION & KANSAS CITY METROPOLITAN BAR FOUNDATION**

Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association and Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Foundation unequivocally condemn racism and discrimination in all forms.

KCMBA/KCMBF’s purposes include promoting diversity and inclusion in the legal profession and promoting access to the judicial system for all persons. Consistent with our mission, we are committed to all efforts to eliminate racial disparity, injustice, and inequality for everyone.

As lawyers, we are defenders of the rule of law, and we believe that application of the rule of law must be fair to everyone. KCMBA supports and appreciates those members of law enforcement who work to protect everyone equally, but we are deeply troubled whenever basic human rights are blatantly violated. We also respect and praise protesters who choose to exercise their constitutional rights to be heard, and support nonviolent demonstrations to effect change.

KCMBA/KCMBF have worked within their missions to support racial equality and equal justice and to promote diversity in the legal profession in several ways, including KCMBA’s Diversity Section, created in 2003 to advance and support a more diverse legal community; the Diversity Initiative Action Plan, a seven-point plan agreed to by area law firms to increase the participation of under-represented racial and ethnic groups in the local practice of law; the Heartland Diversity Legal Job Fair to help firms actively recruit diverse law students and new lawyers from all over the country; KCMBA’s Unity Event, to celebrate and encourage diversity in the legal community; and KCMBF’s Student Law Academy, a paid internship program for student from area high schools to provide opportunity and a pathway to a career in the law.

KCMBA and KCMBF remain committed to efforts seeking to end injustice and inequality, as we draw upon our strengths as listeners, problem solvers, and defenders of the rule of law to continue the conversation necessary to affect systemic change, resulting in true liberty and justice for all.

**About KCMBA and KCMBF**

*Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association (KCMBA) is the largest and oldest bar association in the Kansas City area. Founded in 1884, KCMBA utilizes its rich tradition as a platform to provide current, innovative and relevant service to its 5,000 members in its nine-county service territory in Missouri and Kansas. The mission of this Association is to serve our members and our community by promoting justice, professional excellence and respect for the law. KCMBF is the charitable arm of the association. The mission of the foundation is to serve the community by creating and supporting public service or educational programs which promote the administration of justice, delivery of legal services, professional development or respect for the law.*

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