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Hispanic Issues Section Statement Regarding George Floyd's Death and Recent Protests:

We mourn the violent and horrific death of George Floyd, as well as all those who have lost their lives or suffered harm at the hands of abuse of power and racism in our nation. Like other people around the world, we reject the tolerance of all abuses of power and racism against all people. As Americans whose ancestors have died, have been abused and continue to suffer abuse simply because of the tone of our skin or national origin, we wholeheartedly renounce the racism that has existed in our nation for far too long. Change is long overdue.

The Hispanic Issues Section supports the Black Lives Matter movement and we stand with the Black community across the United States of America. As attorneys, we all took an oath to support the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Texas; accordingly, we strongly encourage all of our respective colleagues in our great state and across America to take a stand for equality and justice. Martin Luther King, Jr. captured the importance of justice when he stated: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

The death of George Floyd has precipitated a call to action that demands that our nation's deplorable acceptance of racism and abuse against all people of color must come to an end. We demand that Mr. Floyd's death not be in vain. We must come together as a country—all nationalities, races, genders, philosophies--to improve race relations, police training and standards, and review of policies, practices and laws which continue to shield officers and all others who injure or abuse the citizens they are duty-bound to protect.

We support the value and importance of our right in America to peacefully protest and demand change. Although we do not condone violent misconduct from either police or protestors, Martin Luther King, Jr. said it best when he stated, "The time is always right to do what is right."

Let us take this time to pause, reflect, pray and continue the fight together for equality and justice for all regardless of one's race, gender, ethnicity or sexual orientation.

The opinions expressed herein are those of the Hispanic Issues Section and are not meant to reflect the position of the State Bar of Texas.

Valerie A. Carrillo  
Chair, Hispanic Issues Section of the State Bar of Texas