



KC LEGAL
KANSAS CITY
LESBIAN, GAY AND
ALLIED LAWYERS

KC LEGAL stands in unwavering support of the Black community in the struggle for justice and equality. We recognize that we must be united in our efforts to root out the lethal systemic racism in our country that has taken the lives of countless humans. We are calling on our members and, on all lawyers, to remember our shared humanity and reflect on how we can help. The oath we took the day we were admitted says that we will practice law with consideration for the defenseless and oppressed. Silence is prejudicial to the administration of justice in this country. Silence is violence.

We cannot look at the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Donnie Sanders and countless other victims of police violence as isolated incidences. They represent the pervasive and insidious marginalization of Black life that is endemic in our country. The Black trans community is particularly vulnerable and fatal violence impacts Black trans people in disproportionate ways. The Human Rights Campaign has shown yearly increases in trans-murder for the last five years. Kansas City's own Brianna Hill was shot and killed last year in October. Tony McDade, a Black trans man, was shot and killed by the police on May 27 of this year in Florida.

How can we combat and dismantle a culture of violence? No one person will achieve this. But in no way does this mean that one is an insignificant or unimportant number because we have no idea of the positive and lasting effect our contribution to this struggle will have. Remember: one single particle of human immunodeficiency virus somewhere in the 1970s infected one person and today 32 million have died from HIV/AIDs. In the course of a year we have witnessed that a single case of SARS-CoV-2 has caused the death of nearly half a million people. Logically, we must accept that one single positive action can have a corollary, multiplier effect. One person can spark a shift in consciousness, a movement, and initiate positive and enduring change. This is the legacy of George Floyd, whose death has called the attention of millions to the cause.

Opportunities to take positive action to amend silence and overt acts of racism abound. Please take time during Pride month to recognize, support, and contribute.

- Honor the dead and victims of violence. Recount their stories. Say their names.
- Participate in a letter writing campaign. Write to Mayor Lucas and Jean Peters Baker (or leaders and prosecutors in your city) asking for full, open and transparent investigations into police brutality. The names of the officers responsible for the deaths of Donnie Sanders and Cameron Lambs are being withheld from public knowledge.
- Call and write and ask for the dismissal of charges against protestors.
- Support local initiatives with financial contributions. One Struggle KC @1strugglekc highlights the fact that nearly half of all incarcerated people have not been found guilty yet; they remain behind bars because they cannot afford cash bail. Showing Up for Racial Justice, Kansas City @SURJKansasCity is a great resource for information and education on anti-racism and supporting communities of color. You can follow these organizations on social media.
- Choose to support local, Black owned businesses
- Repost content from the Human Rights Campaign, which shows startling figures about violence toward the Black trans community.
- Remember, no one owns the narrative of racism more than the people who personally experience it. Be respectful of other people's stories and content. Use the hashtags #defendBlacklives #believeprotestors
- When you see, hear, or otherwise encounter racism, don't accept it, correct it.