



Dear Friends,

As I and other campus leaders stated in our [recent message](#), we grieve and stand with the families of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and so many others who have fallen victim to acts of lethal racism. We condemn police brutality, institutionalized racism, white supremacy, and the systemic social injustices that have led to the deaths and suffering of too many Black people in this country.

As legal professionals and future lawyers, we are instruments of justice, and we are called upon to right these wrongs. The law can and must be a tool for improving society, as is each person's empathy, compassion, and intolerance of the status quo. As dean of the University of San Francisco School of Law, I vow to do my part and call on all members of our community to reaffirm our commitment to diversity, justice, equity, and to combating racism in all of its forms.

As we have done several times over the past two weeks, and most recently in our [interactive discussion on racism and injustice](#), our community will continue to gather for important conversations about what can be done about systemic racism. We are fortunate to have Dr. Clarence B. Jones, Director of USF's [Institute for Nonviolence and Social Justice](#) as a campus leader and teacher. I hope you will join us next Wednesday June 17 at 11am for [a conversation with Dr. Jones](#), where we can address urgent questions we are struggling with and so that we may discuss actions to move forward together through this crisis. I also urge you to read [Dr. Jones' recent statement](#) where he reflects on the disgraceful lack of progress in the fight for racial justice.

Jointly with President Fitzgerald and other campus leaders, I commit to following up with specific plans and actions. And I look forward to collaborating with many of you on this important work in the weeks and months ahead.

All my best,

Susan Freiwald  
Dean and Professor of Law