

Statement by Edelson PC on the Murder of George Floyd

We would like to take a moment to share our thoughts about the murder of George Floyd, the resulting peaceful protests, and the violence and chaos that seems to be egged on by the President and others who want America to be less stable, less just, and less kind.

We want to extend and share our sincere condolences to George Floyd's family, as well as those in our Chicago and San Francisco communities, and our society at large, that have been, and continue to be, deeply traumatized by the systemic, institutional racism and violence that pervades our political and judicial structures. Our Black and Latino neighbors live in constant fear that their children, parents, spouses, and friends will be the next names that need to be remembered. We must do better.

We have spoken to many people both inside and outside of our firm with an eye towards better understanding how we have gotten to this point in history. What we have learned is that, although the current world we are living in has no doubt impacted people differently and disproportionately, there are common denominators. This is a scary time. It's scary that yet another Black man was killed in plain sight by the cops. It's scary that no one can have true confidence that the justice system will work and the police officers responsible will end up behind bars. It's scary that peaceful protestors are met with violence, and scarier still that our president is encouraging this violence.

Our firm stands firmly with the protestors, the Black Lives Matter movement, and for justice for the Floyd family and every family that has lost loved ones to police brutality. The rhetoric coming from the President and the violence he, other governmental officials, and some members of law enforcement are directing towards the peaceful protestors is inconsistent with our values as Americans.

Our firm has begun talks with some of the community leaders and groups who have been leading the efforts to secure institutional changes around the criminal justice system that the country sorely needs. We hope to follow their leadership and offer our resources to help ensure that this nationwide tragedy forces these changes that are long, long overdue.

We also believe it's important to further conversations about racial equality. We are honored to announce that community leaders, such as Illinois State Representative Chris Welch, will join us on our *Non-Compliant* podcast. And we are very excited that Tony Romanucci, one of the lawyers for the Floyd family, will be on the podcast as well.

Finally, we believe that this is a time to look inward. The legal profession needs to do more to support real diversity. And, speaking frankly, our firm does too. Over the last several years, we

have been making a concerted effort to become more representative of our clients and our country and, most importantly, find and train candidates who can become future leaders within our industry. A crucial path to having a more just legal system is to make sure that historically under-represented voices rise to the top so that more change can come from the inside. We are proud of our recent efforts and are cognizant that we have much further to go.

We look forward to listening, learning, and helping in any way we can in the days, weeks, months, and years to come. We will keep the community apprised of our efforts and call on other like-minded law firms, businesses, and individuals to join our community leaders who are able to achieve the reforms our country so badly needs.