



**For Immediate Release  
May 31, 2020**

## **MBBA Statement on Recent Police Killings of Black People**

**“The problem of the Twentieth Century is the problem of the color-line.”**

W.E.B Du Bois wrote that in 1903. It is 2020 and being Black means that we are constantly dealing with the legacy of America’s “peculiar institution.” The recent events ranging from the killings of Black people by the police; protesting nationally in our cities; and dealing with a global pandemic that is disproportionately affecting our communities, all serve as constant reminders that what it means to be Black in America has not changed. As James Baldwin said, “To be a Negro in this country and to be relatively conscious is to be in a rage almost all the time.”

**We are tired. We are angry.**



As an organization of Black lawyers and legal professionals, we are the social engineers who effect change and we are members of the communities that continue to be affected. To that end, we must act.

**We must demand change.** Community policing is not enough. Police and criminal justice reform is needed now. We must demand greater transparency by the police and we can start by advocating for the repeal of CPL 50a. This repeal would allow public access to personnel records of police officers, firefighters, and correction officers - a first step towards accountability.

**We can and must do more.** MBBA will be compiling a compendium of resources for the legal community and the community at large on the [MBBA Black Lives Matter Resources Page](#). We will also continue our virtual town halls and other efforts so that we can have a safe space to grieve together, strategize, and find options to hopefully move the needle against injustice in this country.

**We Must Say Their Names:**

George Floyd

Ahmaud Arbery

Breonna Taylor

Tony McDade

And countless others.

If you have resources to share, please send them to us at [info@mbbanyc.org](mailto:info@mbbanyc.org).

In Service and Solidarity,

The Metropolitan Black Bar Association ([www.mbbanyc.org](http://www.mbbanyc.org))

**Share your thoughts and suggestions using #MBBACallToAction**