Dear Members of the Penn State Law Community,

We are delighted to announce that the George Floyd Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established at Penn State Law. This fund will provide financial support to a rising 2L or 3L student participating in BLSA, which helps provide access to legal education and support for student success crucial to diversifying the legal profession. We will provide more information on the selection process as soon as we have worked out those details.

Dean Engle and I provided the initial gifts to create the scholarship, and we hope that those financially able to do so will join us in donating. We want to build this scholarship over time so that it can help more students.

Penn State Law is committed to ongoing work to advance concrete action on diversity, equity, and inclusion, and antiracism. I am grateful for the collaborative work on moving forward these commitments, which include:

- developing a new DEI website and new library resource page on Understanding and Dismantling Racism with gratitude to the students and faculty involved in creating them
- creating and disseminating an open letter signed by over 500 faculty, staff, students, and alumni
- establishing a new concentration in Race, Law, and Equity
- meeting with National Conference of Bar Examiners and several women of color deans on bar equity issues
- meeting with the ABA and law deans at approximately 40 law schools to develop a national collaboration on police accountability with opportunities for students to engage in pro bono work

We are working on all of our action steps and are committed to making progress on them.

I also want to express my appreciation to Dean Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia for taking on an important University leadership role as co-chair of the Student Code of Conduct Task Force. We have nominated students, faculty, and staff for both this Task Force and the Presidential Commission. I encourage our community to join Penn State President Eric Barron at the virtual Town Hall on Race and Bias on Monday, June 29 at 3 pm at LiveEvents where he and other leaders will highlight the elements outlined in his June 10 message and the University’s planned efforts to fight ignorance and intolerance, model inclusivity and embrace diversity.

Best,
Hari and Jill

Hari M. Osofsky
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