

Statement on the Killing of Tyre Nichols

We are writing today to express our grief over the murder of Tyre Nichols by the Memphis Police Department. Tyre was, among so many other things, a father, a skateboarder, and a member of the Memphis, Tennessee community. Tyre's murder is yet another instance of unspeakable violence that systemically pervades the institutions charged with maintaining public safety in the United States.

As this tragedy weighs on us, we extend our deepest sympathy to Tyre's family and friends who have shown remarkable courage in the face of a devastating tragedy. While the transparency enabled by the release of video and images of the police murder of Tyre is critical in the pursuit of justice, it is important to acknowledge the impact these videos add to an already traumatizing event, particularly for members of the Black community. In this moment of grief, fear, rage, and sadness, we encourage members of our staff to take the time needed for self and community care.

The police murders of Black people must stop. This violence continues when we allow institutional and interpersonal racist practices and conditions to persist. Staff at LawNY are deeply committed to transforming our organization into a law firm where race equity and racial justice are integral components of our work; this commitment must be ingrained in all aspects of our work — from client advocacy to our internal operations. We have much work to do, and in this moment of grief we must reaffirm our commitment and challenge ourselves to push our work forward, uncomfortable as it may be.

Our mission is to increase access to justice through excellent legal representation, advocacy, and service.