

## LAS VEGAS CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION



### LVNBA STATEMENT ON THE 2021 INSURRECTION AT THE CAPITOL FOLLOWING A HISTORIC ELECTION

The Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association (“LVNBA”) issues the following statement in response to recent events at the United States Capitol.

**Foremost, we honor a historic presidential election and inauguration. We congratulate Joseph R. Biden, Jr. on becoming the forty-sixth President of the United States at an inspiring and inclusive ceremony that swore in Kamala Harris, the first female, Black and South Asian Vice President, provoked the momentous words of Amanda Gorman, the youngest inauguration poet, and inspired us to be hopeful that our nation is capable of healing.**

Sadly, this year’s historic inauguration displaying the diversity that is America was preceded by an insurrection revealing the racism that is also, still, very much, a part of America. On January 6, 2021, hundreds stormed the U.S. Capitol building in Washington D.C., wielding Confederate flags and wearing anti-Semitic memorabilia. Armed with guns, zip-ties, and other weapons, they proudly proclaimed and recorded their failed attempt to stop the lawful certification of the 2020 presidential election results, striking at the heart of our democracy.

Like many of our fellow Americans, we are extraordinarily disheartened and disturbed by the violence that took place at the U.S. Capitol. The LVNBA’s membership is predominantly Black attorneys and professionals, who are Americans and patriots, and who have loved our country, even when our country did not love us back. We support peaceful assembly and the right to protest. Undoubtedly, these rights have been indispensable catalysts for changes that brought America closer to its promises. We reject any attempt to cloak the violence at the Capitol under the protections provided by these inalienable rights. The events of January 6, 2021 were an attempt to obstruct a peaceful transfer of power and overthrow our democracy.

The insurrection in the U.S. Capitol illuminates an all-too-familiar double standard. Black Lives Matter protesters peacefully assembled in Washington D.C. last summer only to be met with scores of armed law enforcement officers, military troops, tear gas, and rubber bullets. In stark contrast, despite law enforcement’s ample warning and notice of the insurrection planned for January 6, a violent mob of mostly white supremacists was met with minimal police presence. Members of the mob were politely greeted by police, permitted to pose for selfies with police, and often politely

asked by police to retreat from their breach of the U.S. Capitol. This disparity is glaring and inexcusable, as National Bar Association President C.K. Hoffler recognized:

*“I am dismayed by the fact that so many peaceful Black and Brown protesters were arrested this summer in the wake of George Floyd’s murder and other civil injustices, yet these terrorists have been able to breach the nation’s Capitol with ease appearing to have the support and protection of the current Presidential Administration. There is no question that if these individuals were people of color, they certainly would not have gotten this far and the narrative would be much different.” - NBA President CK Hoffler*

We challenge the President and Vice President to directly address the unique threats posed not only to communities of African and Black diaspora, but also to our fellow Latinx, Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, Jewish, LGBTQ+, and other non-majority communities.

Although the January 6 riots left us disturbed, we agree with President Biden that “unity is the path forward.” The power of change starts with the individual: each of us must recognize the issues we face and communicate the importance of transforming the problems into platforms for progress. We have a desperate need for dialogue, courage, and action to thwart the racism and inequalities that have for far too long existed in our nation. The LVNBA will use this pivotal moment to advocate for change. We will further address racism in our daily lives, educate regarding the biases that blind our ability to achieve equity and justice in our communities, and demand accountability from those in positions with the power and authority to bring the change we need.

We stand with the National Bar Association, the State Bar of Nevada, and our families, friends, and colleagues as we remain vigilant and committed to bringing about tangible reforms to achieve equal justice throughout the great State of Nevada and the United States of America.

***We, the LVNBA, stand for justice and democracy. Stand with us.***

*The Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association (LVNBA) was originally incorporated in 1981 and reincorporated in 2005. Over the years, the LVNBA has grown from a small group of 14 trailblazing attorneys and judges into a vibrant organization. Since its founding, the LVNBA has increased in size and influence. Today, our members own their own companies and firms, are partners and associates at small, medium, and large law firms, are industry professionals and General Counsels, are students and professors at community colleges and the University of Nevada, hold elected office in local jurisdictions across Southern Nevada, pursue justice for clients as prosecutors and public defenders, serve Nevadans as members of the state’s Legislature, Judiciary, Gaming Control Board, and Attorney General’s Office as well as serve on the federal level in the Department of Justice and as members of the Federal Judiciary.*