April 9, 2015

Re: Statement on Walter Scott’s Death

Dear Washington University School of Law Community:

On April 7, 2015, we learned of the brutal killing of Walter Scott. We are sickened and outraged by another police officer’s sheer disregard for human life. Firing eight shots to the back of an unarmed Black man, the officer proceeded to handcuff Scott as Scott lay facedown in the dirt. The officer’s brazen act of violence and gross abuse of power was captured on video.

The above narrative is too familiar.

We grieve for Walter Scott’s family.

We grieve for Michael Brown Jr.’s family. We grieve for Tamir Rice’s family. We grieve for Eric Garner’s family. We grieve for Tanisha Anderson’s family. We grieve for Ezell Ford’s family. We grieve for Omar Abrego’s family. We grieve for Akai Gurley’s family, and we grieve for the families of countless others.

In the wake of yet another racially charged killing, we hope to generate understanding and concrete changes. We hope that our community has not grown apathetic, and can band together to tackle the endemic racial inequities that plague St. Louis. We hope that ‘uncomfortable’ conversations continue in our classrooms and within our community open discourse is a critical starting point for the change we all hope to see.

Above all, we hope that universal indignation unites us and serves as an impetus for meaningful social action. We WILL progress towards genuine awareness, inclusion, and justice.

In Solidarity,

Washington University Black Law Students Association