

# CRAWFORD

George W. Crawford Black Bar Association



*The South Asian Bar Association  
of Connecticut*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 4, 2020

## **CONNECTICUT'S AFFINITY BAR ASSOCIATIONS STAND TOGETHER AGAINST RACISM**

America is in a state of turmoil. Our lives have been impacted significantly by COVID-19, racist rhetoric against people of color and immigrants and the recent killings of Black Americans at the hands of uniformed police.

Together, the Connecticut Affinity Bar Associations stand in solidarity to mourn and denounce the unjust killing of George Floyd by former Minneapolis Police Officers Derek Chauvin, Thomas Lane, J.A. Keung and Tou Thao. George Floyd's death, like that of Breonna Taylor and countless other Black Americans, is a tremendous and traumatizing loss to the community and a manifestation of the anti-Black racism that undermines American institutions and corrupts our society. We stand together against all forms of racism, police brutality, and anti-Black, Hispanic/Latinx, Asian, South Asian, Indigenous, and LGBTQIA+ rhetoric and treatment.

We believe in a deep commitment to serving and supporting our communities, but our history has shown that a pursuit of justice solely by oppressed communities of color will not secure the liberty and justice for all that America promises. The legal community is one of the least diverse professions in America. Yet, we as lawyers are in a unique position to lead the way for change. Lawyers and legal institutions, of all backgrounds and from all corners of the state and country, must be active in this fight against systemic racism. Pledge your support by offering pro bono legal services to individuals arrested for attempting to peacefully protest. Those capable should make contributions to organizations that directly impact those affected. Some of these include bail funds providing bail for individuals who could not otherwise afford to pay, such as the National Bail Out, Minnesota Freedom Fund and Connecticut Bail Fund. There are also other Connecticut based organizations such as the NAACP and the ACLU of Connecticut.

George Floyd's death represents another Black life lost to police brutality and that very act illustrates the unjust system that has been allowed to persist for too long. We will remain committed to eradicating racism, police brutality, systemic tyranny, and honoring the memory of each and every life lost. Now is not the time for hollow statements and half-measures. Now is the time to act.

### **About the George W. Crawford Black Bar Association**

Founded in 1977, the George W. Crawford Black Bar Association (“Crawford”) is a volunteer state-wide organization of attorneys, judges, and law students in the State of Connecticut. Crawford represents the collective body of Black attorneys in Connecticut, including both the criminal and civil bar, public and private sector employees, and spanning across law firm, corporate and non-profit affiliations.

### **About the Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association**

The Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association (CAPABA™) is the only association geared towards Asian Pacific American attorneys in Connecticut.

### **About the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association**

Founded in 1993, the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association (CHBA) works to enhance the visibility of Hispanic lawyers throughout the state; to facilitate communication and sharing of information and resources among our members; to serve as mentors to new attorneys and law students; and to assist the public and private sectors in achieving diversity in their law firms and legal departments. The CHBA also addresses issues impacting the Hispanic community, such as access to the courts, judicial diversity and other social challenges.

### **About the South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut**

The South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut (SABAC) was formed in 2004 to serve as a resource to South Asian lawyers and law students for growth, professional development, networking, and community outreach. SABAC has made significant strides in these areas over the past fifteen years. SABAC is a member organization of the South Asian Bar Association of North America.

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