

*Statement On Race and Equity*  
*by the Indiana Supreme Court's Disciplinary Commission*  
*July 2020*

The Indiana Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission joins the *Statement on Race and Equity* issued by Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Loretta H. Rush on June 5, 2020. As a body, the Commission holds a unique and significant responsibility to protect the interests of the public-at-large, to investigate and prosecute claims of misconduct against lawyers licensed to practice law in Indiana, and to protect lawyers against unwarranted claims of misconduct. To encourage justice for all, the regulatory authority of the Commission must remain committed to extinguishing the insidious effects of racism in the legal profession.

Outreach to the bar and to the public is an important function of the Commission. We commit to engaging and educating the legal community and the public to address and eschew racism and implicit and explicit biases. Because we must protect and promote a system of justice that is equitable and accessible for all people, we recommit to maintaining a discipline system that identifies and holds attorneys responsible for conduct that undermines the rule of law by manifesting racial bias, inequality, or intolerance.

As Martin Luther King Jr. eloquently stated: "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter. In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

The Commission shall not remain silent in the face of discrimination and inequality. We join in the call to eradicate discriminatory practices in the legal system, and we recommit ourselves to ensuring confidence in our disciplinary system. We will do this by examining our own policies and practices, learning to identify and always recognize bias and striving to be fairer. In service to the system of justice and the public, we accept without hesitation the charge from our Indiana Supreme Court to take action for all of us to live in a better, fair and equal world.