

A Message from the Chairman

The recent pattern of violent attacks on our people of Asian descent forces us once again to confront the cancer on the American Dream that systemic racism represents. These attacks, which have primarily targeted women and the vulnerable elderly, and which are a direct result of the racist rhetoric surrounding the COVID pandemic, appall us all.

As lawyers, we condemn this shredding of the Rule of Law. As citizens, we demand that the civil rights of our fellow Americans be protected -- and we recognize that no civil right is more basic than the right to be safe. As people we share the pain and outrage these attacks cause.

Those of us who are privileged not to suffer discrimination can never fully appreciate how it affects members of our community who do. But we can, and must, stand with them.

America has a long history of state sponsored discrimination against Asian Americans, from the first law barring entry to the country based on race, to widespread, and long-standing, laws restricting what work Asian Americans could do, and whom they could love and marry. Too often the racism that led to these laws, has led to violence -- from the mass lynchings of Asian Americans in Los Angeles in 1871, to the attacks this month.

Those among us who today openly advocate racial discrimination are a minority. But the rest of us cannot continue merely to express our opposition to racism while daily tolerating racism's many manifestations. We can, and must, do better. As a small concrete step, the Firm will match any contributions up to \$2,000 you make over the next two months to organizations committed to combatting discrimination and supporting its victims.

David Boies