July 31, 2020

GREETINGS FROM THE NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION 78th PRESIDENT
TRICIA “CK” HOFFLER

I am honored to serve as the 78th President of the National Bar Association (NBA) and follow my friend, President Dean Alfreda Robinson, after an amazingly successful year despite the many challenges. The NBA is a magnificent organization and continues to be determined to succeed during this extremely tumultuous time in our country. As the nation’s oldest and largest national network of predominantly African American attorneys and judges, the NBA represents the interest of approximately 65,000 lawyers, judges, law professors, and law students. I stand ready to lead this mighty organization as we continue to kneel for justice and fight while standing up for the rights of all people.

We are living in difficult times and we are all adjusting in order to continue our important legal work while addressing the many vicious pandemics, plaguing our communities including, COVID 19, Police Brutality and Election Suppression. I am mindful that we have reached dangerous unemployment levels, tragic levels of economic pain and far too many have died especially amongst minority communities which have been hit the hardest of all. Everyone has suffered but most of us have suffered more. Many experts are predicting more deaths, an economic freefall and an overwhelming amount of evictions and foreclosures, all why we forge ahead to make our votes count, November 3rd. I know the strength and power of the members of the NBA and I know that the lawyers of the NBA and our partners in the American Bar Association will continue the important work of helping those that need us. As lawyers we must continue our work, and uproot the inequities in our social, health and economic systems more than ever before. It appears clear, that these vicious pandemics, coupled with the tragic death of George Floyd, have exposed to the world, the systemic racism and threats to fundamental justice that still exists today. The legacy left by heroes like Congressman John Lewis, Dr. Martin Luther King, Justice Thurgood Marshall and many more, constitute the foundation upon which we stand.

The NBA has partnered during this year with other coalition groups to fight these pandemics including the National Medical Association, the Transformative Justice Coalition, the NAACP, the Lawyers’ Committee on Civil Rights and the Rainbow Push Coalition. Today, the NBA stands ready to work alongside of the ABA as we fight together in a struggle that is indeed vicious but together in the law, we shall be victorious, and we shall never stop. Thank you for the opportunity to bring these greetings and I look forward to working with you, the leaders of all the minority bars and ABA President Patricia “Trish” Refo during the 2020-2021 Bar Year.

Sincerely,

Tricia “CK” Hoffler

President, NBA
REPORT FROM THE 77TH PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
DEAN ALFREDA ROBINSON

Before we entered an era marked with COVID-19 precautions and streets across the world painted with the important words, “Black Lives Matter,” our bar year began in a gorgeous ballroom at the Chelsea Piers in New York City at our 94th Annual Awards Banquet, with everyone celebrating life and looking forward to continued normalcy.

Needless to say, the world changed but the National Bar Association (NBA) has had a very successful year. For example, the NBA held its first annual virtual meeting in the 95-year history of the organization. This year, I was honored to lead this amazing organization comprised of lawyers, judges, law professors, and law students.

Here is a sample of the NBA’s accomplishments during the 2019-20 bar year:

- On August 22, 2019, we held a commemorative event in Freedom Plaza in Washington, D.C. in honor of the NBA’s first Black Women Equity Day. The NBA received a proclamation from D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser, a letter from Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, and a resolution from the D.C. Council.

- We moved our offices to our current location in the historical Thurgood Marshall Trust Center in Washington, D.C.
• We held our 30th Annual Wiley A. Branton Awards Luncheon and Symposium in beautiful Miami, Florida.

NBA NETWORKS IN MIAMI

• Our 40th Annual Mid-Year Gertrude E. Rush Conference that was to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, the home of our 78th President Tricia “CK” Hoffler, was abruptly cancelled after months of planning due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

40th Annual NBA Mid-Year Conference and Gertrude E. Rush & Heman Sweatt Awards Gala

• We established the COVID-19 Task Force led by Past President Vanita Banks and Marlon Primes, along with several other Past Presidents and current leaders. The COVID-19 Task Force achieved several accomplishments, including creating an online content/resources page for our members and supported legislation for long-term success in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic. We have included the list of resources below.

Coronavirus Task Force
Established
• The NBA produced webinars on urgent topics with over 500,000 views through various media outlets and social media platforms in an effort to assist our members and our communities.

We launched a series of webinars that have received more than 600,000 views through various media outlets and social platforms.

• We establish the NBA Police Misconduct and Justice Task Force after the uprisings about the violent deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and too many more Black men and women – BLACK LIVES MATTER! This Task Force will investigate police misconduct cases; support victims, lawyers, communities, and our coalition partners; develop and advocate for public policy and law changes; and draft recommendations for lasting structural and institutional change. The Task Force issued a Call to Action to our members on these topics.

NBA Police Misconduct Task Force
• We held an extremely well-attended Juneteenth Virtual Townhall Discussion: Road to Reform, Equity, and Freedom.

• The NBA marched for justice from our new headquarters to the newly created Black Lives Matter Plaza, across from the White House, and received tremendous media coverage, including from WUSA 9 and the Washington Post.
• Live Now! The NBA unveiled a new website design that will promote the best communication methods for all our membership and the communities we serve.

• We conducted a successful first virtual annual convention where we held webinars, CLEs, business meeting, and receptions without missing any content normally experienced during our in-person convention. We also received remarks from the former Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and ABA President Judy Perry Martinez.

I have had the honor of serving as the 77th National Bar Association President and it has been a privilege to serve alongside the other minority bar association presidents. I thank, and congratulate, ABA President Judy Perry Martinez on a job well done!
COVID 19 Resources

Disclaimer: The National Bar Association is not endorsing any of the sites provided below nor the accuracy of the information contained therein and recommends individuals conduct their own independent research before relying on the sources.

Health & Human Services

- **U.S. Food & Drug Administration** [https://www.fda.gov/coronavirus](https://www.fda.gov/coronavirus) - The latest updates on drugs and medical devices, medical countermeasures, health fraud, and more.
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture** [https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus](https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus) – Information about Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, food safety, pet safety, agricultural research, economic research, and more.
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** [https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus](https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus) – Information on work for patients and health care providers, disaster declarations, FEMA financial reimbursement, economic support & recovery, and more.
- **Joint Website of White House, FEMA, & CDC** [https://www.coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov) - Information on checking for symptoms, what to do if you are sick, how to protect yourself (including social distancing) and additional resources.
- **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development** [https://www.hud.gov/coronavirus](https://www.hud.gov/coronavirus) - Specific resources for homeless service providers, public housing agencies, multifamily property owners, homeowners and renters, Native Americans, FHA Lenders and Office of Housing Program Participants, and HUD grantees.
- **U.S. Government Site for Medicare** [https://www.medicare.gov/medicare-coronavirus](https://www.medicare.gov/medicare-coronavirus) - Information on slowing the spread of coronavirus, hygiene precautions, preparing for healthcare needs, coping with stress, Medicare coverage, Telehealth, and more.
- **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs** [https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/?utm_source=Homepage&utm_campaign=Coronavirus](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/?utm_source=Homepage&utm_campaign=Coronavirus) – Information on Telehealth, how to clean your hands, preventative actions, what to do if you are sick, and distinguishing between isolation and quarantine.
including information about clinical trials, NIH grants and funding, substance abuse, stress, anxiety, and grief, treatment guidelines, and more.

- **State Health Departments** [https://www.usa.gov/state-health](https://www.usa.gov/state-health) - Link to search by state for information provided by individual states’ departments of health.


- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Disaster Distress Helpline** [https://www.samhsa.gov/coronavirus](https://www.samhsa.gov/coronavirus) Information on intimate partner violence and child abuse considerations, emergency grants to address mental health and substance use disorders, discretionary grant recipients, disaster planning, mental health concerns, alcohol and benzodiazepine withdrawal, considerations for psychiatric hospitals, tips for social distancing, quarantine, and isolation, and more. They also operate a Disaster Distress Helpline to provide counseling and support to people experiencing emotional distress:
  - Call 1-800-985-5990® (TTY 1-800-846-8517®)
  - Text TalkWithUs to 66746

- **National Domestic Violence Hotline** [https://www.thehotline.org/help/](https://www.thehotline.org/help/) 
  - Call 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

  - Call 1-800-273-8255

**Consumer Protection, Financial, & Employment**

- **U.S. Federal Trade Commission** [https://www.ftc.gov/coronavirus/scams-consumer-advice](https://www.ftc.gov/coronavirus/scams-consumer-advice) - Tips for avoiding coronavirus scams such as those relating to vaccinations, virus test kits, low-priced health insurance, work-at-home schemes, donations, and more.

- **U.S. Social Security Administration** [https://www.ssa.gov/coronavirus](https://www.ssa.gov/coronavirus) - Information on monthly benefits and other financial help, protecting yourself from scams, getting help from social security, hearings, office closures, online services, etc.


- **U.S. Government Site for Unemployment Help** [https://www.usa.gov/unemployment](https://www.usa.gov/unemployment) - Information on unemployment benefits, continuation of health coverage through Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA), short-term and long-term disability insurance, workers’ compensation, wrongful discharge/termination of employment, and welfare or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).


• U.S. Department of Labor [https://www.dol.gov/coronavirus](https://www.dol.gov/coronavirus) - Information on workplace safety, wages, hours and leave, unemployment insurance, support for dislocated workers and states, job corps students, injured federal workers, federal contractors, foreign labor certification, flexibilities for mine operations, support for workers in the agricultural sector, and additional news.

• U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) [https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/](https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/) - Guidance on preparing workplaces for coronavirus, worker exposure risk, guidance for specific industries, handling coronavirus-related complaints, referrals, and severe illness reports, reporting coronavirus cases, supply shortages of N95 respirator face masks, and use of respiratory protection equipment.

• National Domestic Worker Alliance’s Coronavirus Care Fund [https://domesticworkers.org/coronavirus-care-fund](https://domesticworkers.org/coronavirus-care-fund) - Charitable fund that provides immediate financial assistance to household workers suffering financial hardship as a result of COVID-19 as well as tips for employers.

**Court Operations & Criminal Justice**


• National Center for State Courts [https://www.ncsc.org/pandemic](https://www.ncsc.org/pandemic) – Tracking the current status of all state courts and their respective orders.


• **International Courts & Arbitral Bodies** – There are a lot of different international courts as well as entities that administer arbitrations. Each has their own website regarding the current status of operations. Here are just a few:
  - Court of Justice & General Court of the European Union - [https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/jcms/P_97552/en/](https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/jcms/P_97552/en/)
  - American Arbitration Association International Centre for Dispute Resolution - [https://go.adr.org/covid19.html](https://go.adr.org/covid19.html)

• **U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation** [https://www.fbi.gov/coronavirus](https://www.fbi.gov/coronavirus) - Providing news from the FBI including their work on investigating coronavirus fraud, hackers, and scammers, increased risk for child exploitation with the closing of schools, and protecting civil rights and investigating hate crimes.

• **U.S. Department of Justice** [https://www.justice.gov/coronavirus](https://www.justice.gov/coronavirus) - Information on DOJ initiatives relating to coronavirus fraud, keeping children safe online, prosecuting hoarding and price gouging, stopping predatory housing practices, and more. Also providing guidance on issues related to pre-trial detention, use of home confinement in sentencing, and the functioning of the bankruptcy system.

• **U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement** [https://www.ice.gov/coronavirus](https://www.ice.gov/coronavirus) - Information related to immigration enforcement and check-ins, bond, detention, visitation at detention facilities, immigration court, removals, employment verification, and nonimmigrant students and Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)-certified schools.

• **U.S. Bureau of Prisons** [https://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/](https://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/) - Information on BOP’s modified operations plan, current statistics of coronavirus positive tests from federal inmates and BOP staff, and home confinement information.


• **Defender Services Office Training Division** [https://www.fd.org/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19](https://www.fd.org/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19) Resources regarding tracking COVID-19 cases regarding pretrial release and conditions, access to counsel, right to speedy trial, etc.

• **National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers** [https://www.nacdl.org/content/coronavirusresources](https://www.nacdl.org/content/coronavirusresources) The NACDF, along with the Washington Lawyers’ Committee, and others have started a COVID-19 Compassionate Release Clearinghouse project where attorneys, social workers, and medical professionals can sign up to help with compassionate release cases for the elderly and chronically ill.

• **Children’s Defense Fund** [https://www.childrensdefense.org/useful-resource-covid-19/](https://www.childrensdefense.org/useful-resource-covid-19/) - Resources for families seeking assistance, families seeking health coverage, children and
families in the child welfare system, immigrant families, education resources, self-care and wellness resources, state specific resources, and more.

- **The Marshall Plan** [https://www.themarshallproject.org](https://www.themarshallproject.org) – A nonpartisan, nonprofit news organization that seeks to create and sustain a sense of urgency about the US criminal justice system. Communication through award-winning journalism, partnerships with other news outlets and public forums. Has updates on coronavirus and the justice system.

**Civil Rights**


**Other Resources**

- **Congress**
- **FactCheck.org** [https://www.factcheck.org/a-guide-to-our-coronavirus-coverage/](https://www.factcheck.org/a-guide-to-our-coronavirus-coverage/) Dispelling misinformation about COVID-19
• **The C19 Help Squad** [https://www.c19helpsquadr.com/](https://www.c19helpsquadr.com/) – Website that provides a mechanism to request and offer financial and other support for challenges arising from COVID-19

**Other – Articles, Reports, and Literature of Interest**

• Coronavirus Equity Considerations (NAACP) – Information relating to addressing health, economic, and other impacts, and remediating some of the issues that are disproportionately affecting communities of color. [https://naacp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Coronavirus-Equity-Considerations.pdf](https://naacp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Coronavirus-Equity-Considerations.pdf)


