



A Message from Judge Dan H. Michael

To: Our Juvenile Court Family

The tragedy of George Floyd's death has stimulated the urgency for us to confront systemic racism that for too long has undermined our nation's pledge of "liberty and justice for all." We all feel the pain and hear the cries from protestors across the nation for change. As Judge of the Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County and as President of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), I firmly believe that the time for real change is now.

I pledge to work diligently with each of you and my colleagues of the NCJFCJ to improve the problems before us, to help root out biases in the judicial system, and to put greater emphasis on diversity, equity and inclusion so that we not only better serve the children and families of Shelby County who are disproportionately affected by the juvenile justice system, but also children and families across our nation.

I worked closely with my NCJFCJ colleagues on the following statement, and I offer it to you as my official statement as Judge of the Juvenile Court.

Respectfully,
Judge Dan H. Michael

A Message from the NCJFCJ President of the Board of Directors and CEO

People around the world demand justice for George Floyd and the countless victims of violence and brutality. There can be no justice without compassion, and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) express our sincere condolences to the families who have suffered an unimaginable loss. We acknowledge and understand that the time for transformational and peaceful change is now. The NCJFCJ stands determined, committed, and able to play a central role in positive systematic reform efforts to accomplish these goals.

Our institutional values of compassion, leadership, education, and community are fundamental to who we are. These values imbue our efforts to provide all judges, courts, and agencies involved with juvenile, family, and domestic violence cases with the knowledge and skills to improve the lives of children and families who seek justice.

The NCJFCJ is committed to continuing to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion, as we understand the juvenile and family court system disproportionately impacts poor communities and racial and ethnic minorities. Diversity, equity, and inclusion in the judiciary are vital to upholding public trust and confidence in the legal system.

Our members, leaders, and everyone at the NCJFCJ must reflect the children, families, and individuals we serve who have been affected by trauma and violence. We will continue to provide judicial education and programs that remain relevant, culturally appropriate, and responsive to historical trauma; programs that ensure judges understand the necessity of diversity, inclusion,

and equity, including racial and ethnic identity. We will continue to listen, learn, and work diligently to serve our communities to improve the effectiveness and fairness of our nation's juvenile and family courts.

The NCJFCJ's vision is for a society in which every family and child has access to fair, equal, effective, and timely justice, which has always and will continue to include racial justice.