



November 24, 2014

Re: Grand Jury's Decision in the Killing of Michael Brown

Dear BLSA Community:

Earlier today a grand jury failed to indict Darren Wilson, the police officer who shot and killed unarmed Black teenager Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. St. Louis County Prosecutor Bob McCulloch articulated the reasoning of the grand jury, saying that while “there [was] no question, of course, that Darren Wilson caused the death of Michael Brown...no probable cause exist[ed]” necessary to file any indictment against Darren Wilson. Michael Brown's family has asked for 4.5 minutes of silence for the 4.5 hours Michael Brown's body was left in the street. Please take this time to remember this young man's life and honor his memory. Many in our St. Louis community have been and will continue to bring to the forefront the issues that directly or indirectly led to Brown's death. Know that we will continue to provide you with updates.

For us, the grand jury decision comes at a critical time before exams. This is a time already filled with stress and anxiety. BLSA will be providing a safe space tomorrow where we as a community can listen and support each other. Remington's has kindly offered his apartment tomorrow starting at 12 p.m. Members of the BLSA executive board and greater BLSA community will be there for you, likely feeling just as raw. Please know we are all available in person, by phone, or by e-mail to listen as executive board members, colleagues, and friends. We welcome and encourage all thoughts, feelings, and views.

There is no such thing as “small” or “less than” contribution; all involvement is welcomed and important. If you'd like to show support to the community, whether it be protesting, legal observing, assisting safe houses, or engaging in community discussions, please contact Gursharon, BLSA's social action chair (gshergill@wustl.edu). In addition, you can follow this link to find more chances for involvement compiled by the Law School: <http://law.wustl.edu/community/>. We will also disseminate more opportunities through e-mail.

For long term action, we will offer an electronic forum for you to help craft what we as BLSA can do to effectively change the systemic race, class, and policing issues present in the killings of Mike Brown, VonDerrit Myers, and Kajieme Powell here in St. Louis and those issues facing Black people across the country.

Keep in mind that we must all work hard to do well on exams so that we can shape future decisions that lead to concrete change in our communities. Please know that you should reach out to Carrie Burns (cjburns@wulaw.wustl.edu) or Dean Walsh (ewalsh@wulaw.wustl.edu) if

you have concerns about exams. Also, please know we each receive free counseling sessions with Student Health Services (the number depends on your insurance). To schedule your first session, please call (314) 935-6666, option 2.

Please continue to remain safe. Know that we are all here for each other.

In Solidarity,

Your 2014-2015 BLSA Executive Board