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**INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES STATEMENT ON THE DEATH OF GEORGE FLOYD AND PLEDGE TO ASSIST THE DEFENSE
COMMUNITY IN ITS EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY AND FIGHT RACISM IN NC COURTS**

On Memorial Day, the name George Floyd was added to the long list of senseless deaths of people of color by those who are entrusted to uphold the law rather than break it. IDS mourns the loss of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Sandra Bland, Eric Garner, and the numerous others who have been the victims of state violence. We are committed to assisting and supporting the North Carolina public defense system in its efforts to identify and fight racism in our courts.

Consistent with our mission to safeguard individual liberty by equipping the North Carolina public defense community with the resources it needs to achieve fair and just outcomes for clients, IDS pledges to:

1. Support public defenders and private assigned counsel in their ongoing efforts to dismantle structural and institutional racism in our justice system.
2. Address and advocate for justice system reform in areas that impact the clients we serve.
3. Continue to advocate for adequate funding for the public defense system in North Carolina, including hourly rates for private assigned counsel and staffing for public defenders sufficient to enable them in their fight for fair and just outcomes.

Further, IDS joins those Public Defenders and State Defenders who have committed to the ongoing fight for racial equity. We join Chief Justice Beasley in her pledge to make North Carolina courtrooms examples of equality. And we join the North Carolina State Bar in its dedication to work against the "insidious injustice of racism, both implicit and institutional."

This the 8th day of June 2020.

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