

March 18, 2021

“A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary, and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.” Code of Judicial Conduct 1.2.

Judge Zimmerman has failed.

Our mission is to provide and facilitate access to justice in Clark County for low-income individuals and marginalized communities through advocacy and civil legal services. All of our clients live in poverty, and nearly 40% identify as people of color. In the wake of recent comments by Judge Darvin Zimmerman caught on video, we find ourselves wondering how we can instill confidence in our clients and ourselves that equitable access to justice is achievable in Clark County.

The words of Judge Zimmerman were not just reflective of a flawed system, but wholly racist. Attorneys are in a position of power, and judges are yet more powerful. Their work can result in the removal of children from a family, the eviction of someone from their home, and most severely incarceration. People of color already experience each of these results disproportionately in Clark County.

When a white judge talks about a black slain man in the manner Judge Zimmerman did, this is at minimum a racist action and we need to call it as such. We cannot trust a judge, with their inherent power, to rule without prejudice when we know them to have these biases. With Judge Zimmerman on the bench, how can CCVLP reassure the BIPOC community they will get a fair shake in Clark County Courts? Why would they believe us?

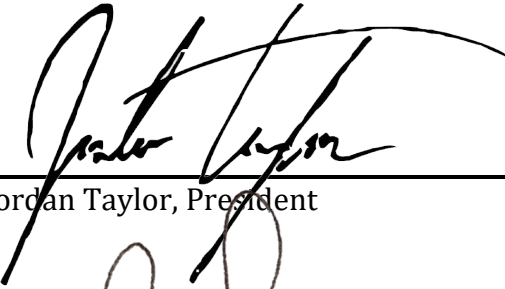
We believe our courts can do better. In furtherance of our mission, we, the board of directors of the Clark County Volunteer Lawyers Program, hereby call for the following:

1. The immediate resignation of Judge Darvin Zimmerman from Clark County District Court.
2. A commitment from Clark County District and Superior Court to continue to broadcast hearings via the Internet, even after the COVID-19 public emergency subsides.


It is in the spirit of progress and hope for continual improvement that we offer the above.

Sincerely,

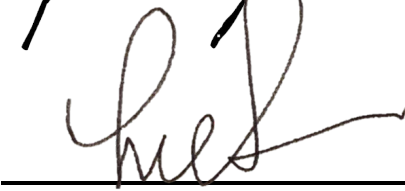
Board of Directors  
Clark County Volunteer Lawyers Program



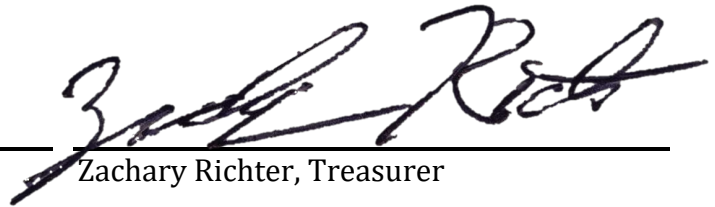
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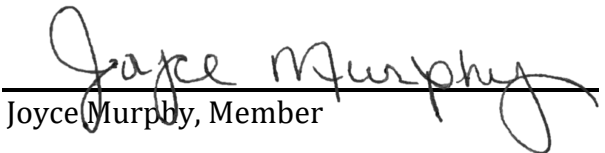
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