



Vol. 2020, No. 5 June 2020

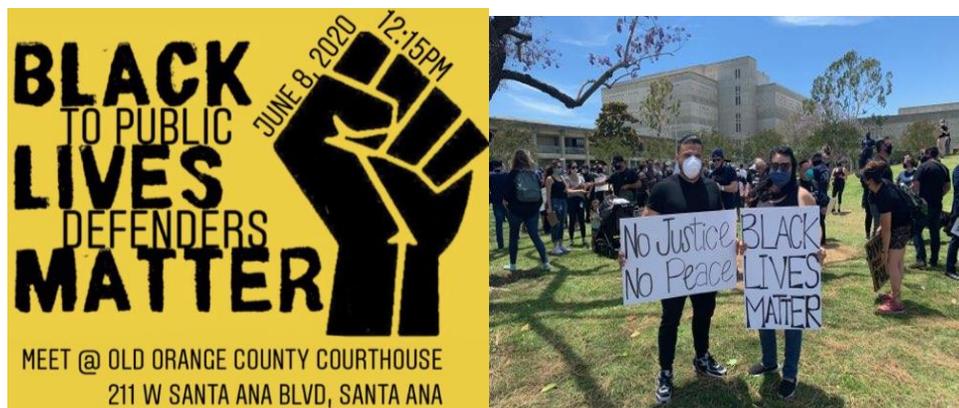
President's Message



Dear Members and Friends of the Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County,

As our country and the world is living through a most historic year, we at the OCHBA refuse to be bystanders in a time where our voices must be heard. We stand firmly and loudly against discrimination, police brutality and the systematic discrimination of people of color. That includes the current Administration's retaliatory procedures and orders against our immigrant community and especially that geared toward the separation of families. Our country is founded on the very idea of freedom, equality and justice for ALL. Words and actions from our leaders which alienate, harass and divide us is simply intolerable. We must do better! However, in order to do better, we must organize and make our voices heard.

Our directors and members joined the Orange County Public Defenders Office in a Black Lives Matter march against injustice and police brutality.



We also partnered with the [Orange County Asian American Bar Association \(OCAABA\)](#) for a free webinar: *Pandemic, Protest and Privilege*. It was a great forum to educate and bring awareness to the role that each of us play in progress particularly during these current times.

We must not only make our voices heard and educate others during these challenging times, but we must also remember to help our community which has been deeply impacted by the financial side effects of COVID-19.

Due to COVID-19 our community has many needs and we at the OCHBA have been working hard to aid our community with **Backpack/School Supply and Food Drives**.

Many families in our community depend on school provided supplies and during times in which parents may be out of work, on unemployment or simply without income, we are stepping up to provide our children backpacks and school supplies.



We are also gearing up to do a food drive following our Backpack/School Supply Drive. We would like to whole heartedly thank our members: Justice William Bedsworth, Allen Huang, Erin Rowe, Steven Montanez, Alan Freisleben, Peter Flanagan and Sean Yanez for their donations to our efforts. You are all visionaries for Equality & Opportunity!

Please join these visionaries and [donate to our Backpack/School Supply or Food Drives](#). At this time due to COVID-19 and social distancing concerns we will not be asking for volunteers to distribute supplies/food. If you have any questions please contact us at info@ochba.org.

Our directors have also been busy making a difference within our community. *Director Christopher J. Ayala* helped to distribute food to needy families alongside the Power of One Foundation.



Director Patricia Santamaria participated as a panelist for the 2020 Simon Scholars Rising Senior College Access Orientation. The zoom forum provided guidance for future generations by advising on law school and succeeding in their desired professional field.



I also have been busy gathering school supplies, donating to Project Youth food drives and I have been invited to participate in the ***OCBA Racial Justice Task Force*** which will meet weekly to discuss racial inequalities and how we with the assistance of the affiliate bars can assist in making a change to insure justice for all. I will keep you updated.

Thank you to all of our members for being part of our OCHBA family, we miss you all and we look forward to seeing you soon. Wishing you and your family health.

Warmest regards,

