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June 10, 2020

RE: FALA CHICAGO Response to COVID-19

Dear Friends and Family:

On behalf of the Filipino American Lawyers Association of Chicago ("FALA"), I am writing to introduce myself as your 2020 President. Thank you for the support. I have always considered FALA Chicago more than just a bar association. It is truly a family.

Due to the unprecedented circumstances associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, our organization has had to cancel several events, including our U.S. Census outreach event at Seafood City and our annual Installation Ceremony. In the interest of replicating the camaraderie fostered by in-person gatherings, we have adjusted to bring you programming online, such as the ongoing series of FALA After Dark virtual meetups, and the law student forum co-sponsored with the Asian American Bar Association. We are working diligently to develop further programming and content to keep us all connected during this pandemic. Please visit the FALA Chicago website to find a curated list of [COVID-19 resources](#).

An additional side effect of COVID-19 has been the uptick of anti-Asian violence and discrimination across the US. We have joined fellow Asian American bar orgs in demanding the [Illinois Attorney General](#) and [Cook County State's Attorney](#) take appropriate measures to protect the rights of our community. The death of George Floyd, whose killing is a recent example in the long line of injustices against African Americans, further compels us to recommit [our solidarity](#) with other communities of color in the struggle for equitable political and legal institutions.

We hope to begin building our membership directory by providing a page on our website for member firms open to taking cases during this time. Many people needing legal services may not be aware that while the courthouses may be closed, they can still have their matters heard. We invite you to complete our online form at <https://forms.gle/baTw4yi2HFEEn4bix7> so that we can direct prospective clients in need of your services to you and begin to build out our directory. If you are open and taking cases, please be sure to indicate your hours of operation.

In addition to our email list and website, you can also stay connected with us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn. We welcome your ideas for future online programming, such as CLE seminars, fundraisers, and other activities to keep members engaged. If you have yet to start or renew a FALA membership, we encourage you to join. Finally, stay tuned for details regarding our upcoming Summer Soiree, which will take place online.

If you are interested in getting more involved, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at janice@pinaylaw.com or phone at 312-546-5077. You can also reach out to any of our Officers or Board of Directors listed as well.

With warm regards,

Janice Dantes
President
Filipino American Lawyers Association of Chicago