



# THE SONIA & CELINA SOTOMAYOR JUDICIAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



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## Our Statement on Recent Events

“We must not pretend that the countless people who are routinely targeted by police are 'isolated.' They are the canaries in the coal mine whose deaths, civil and literal, warn us that no one can breathe in this atmosphere. They are the ones who recognize that unlawful police stops corrode all our civil liberties and threaten all our lives. Until their voices matter too, our justice system will continue to be anything but.”

- Justice Sonia Sotomayor, dissenting in *Utah v. Strieff*

The Board of the Sonia and Celina Sotomayor Judicial Internship Program is heartbroken and devastated over the events of the past few weeks. We mourn the loss of the countless Black men and women who have fallen victim to unjust acts of violence. And we continue to stand with the Black community, including our own Black Board members, students, and judicial partners. The promise of “justice and liberty for all” will not be achieved until we choose to address the issues of entrenched racism and systemic bias that continue to plague our society. We must actively work every day to eradicate racism, fight oppression, and stand up to the abuses of power.

The Sonia and Celina Sotomayor Judicial Internship Program was founded on the idea that our legal systems are better and stronger if they reflect the diversity of the country that they are designed to serve. As the events of the last weeks have demonstrated, there is significantly more work to do. We remain committed to our mission to increase the number of BIPOC voices in the law and to train conscientious and motivated advocates of color. And we pledge to continue this work until we have finally achieved the promise of equal justice under the law.

Sonia & Celina Sotomayor Judicial Internship Program, Inc.

[www.scsjip.org](http://www.scsjip.org)

