

L.A. County Bar, Family Law Section: Family Law Advocacy Training Panel on Appellate Briefs and Trial Court Memoranda

May 18, 2022

Allow me a few words, as the prerogative of the chair and as the oldest person on the panel—and, likely, the longest on this panel in the legal profession. This past weekend, our country saw two murderous attacks. Each was different in its motivation: one was motivated by racial hatred; the other by a political conflict an ocean away.

Many of us entered the legal profession out of a deep respect for our Constitution as a reflection of the aspirational values of our country. These values have been under assault as racial and ethnic hatreds are becoming normalized by public and political figures. There is a direct line from that normalization to Buffalo. The experts will chart this line; the shooter wrote of it.

Elie Wiesel said that the opposite of love is not hate. It is indifference.

We attorneys are thought-leaders. We especially must not be indifferent to the hatreds that are now part of our public discourse. We especially must not remain silent when hatred is glibly endorsed by pundits and political leaders and quoted around dinner tables and social gatherings.

As thought-leaders, we especially cannot be bystanders as hatred seeps from underground like a noxious weed and kills the plants around it.

One of the joys of being an attorney is having the skill-set to speak out—and write out—on critical issues. We know how to use information and language effectively. Use your advocacy skills—and your courage and your commitment to our Constitution—to help

- Honey Kessler Amado