



The MCDB Department at the University of California, Santa Barbara stands in solidarity with all those calling for racial justice reform. We realize that the verdict in the trial of Kyle Rittenhouse stands in stark contrast to that view. Understanding that there are people who will take this outcome as evidence that violence against protestors is legally permissible, we condemn this travesty of justice and affirm the urgency of protecting the right to political protest. It's important that all of us are aware that racist and derogatory comments, xenophobic behavior, and violence against protestors are unacceptable, and we must do what we can to stop it (and support our colleagues who have been affected).

The MCDB department aims to support and value students, faculty, and staff; we are all part of a larger educational community that values dignity and respect.

Individuals who may need resources to navigate the immediate future are encouraged to find resources through the UCSB Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at: <https://diversity.ucsb.edu/incident-services>. Counseling is available at UCSB Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) which can be reached at 805-893-4411 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The MCDB Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee will continue to work hard towards equity by engaging with students, staff, and faculty (<https://diversity.mcdb.ucsb.edu/>). If you want to reach out to the DEI committee or submit an anonymous response, please feel free to do so here: <https://diversity.mcdb.ucsb.edu/questions-comments>