



**Statement of the Bickel & Brewer Latino Institute for Human Rights
In Support of the Brown Family and the Community of Ferguson, MO
November 25, 2014**

The Bickel & Brewer Latino Institute for Human Rights issues this statement to express our deepest sympathy to the family of Michael Brown, who was killed by police officer Darren Wilson this summer. We also express our support for the residents of Ferguson, Missouri, along with communities across the country that have lost residents to police violence. In the wake of the grand jury's recent decision not to indict Darren Wilson, we join the Brown family and people across our nation in calling for systematic reforms to end police violence.

Too often, communities of color, particularly African American and Latino communities, experience racial profiling and excessive force at the hands of law enforcement officials. Yet when we experience such abuse and violence, we do not have meaningful access to justice. Instead, every stage of the criminal legal system—from stops and arrests to convictions and sentencing—disproportionately targets and impacts our communities. These problems are echoed in all forms of law enforcement, including local policing and federal immigration enforcement. From racially-motivated stops of youth by local police departments, to the recent shootings of Latinos by immigration agents in border communities, to abuses against adults and children in detention and prison, police violence has deeply harmed our communities and ultimately erodes community trust in law enforcement agencies.

We therefore stand in solidarity with the family of Michael Brown in seeking greater transparency and accountability among all of our nation's law enforcement agencies. We also strongly urge that local law enforcement and the National Guard peacefully engage with protesters across the country and not use further violence. We support all those who are engaged in peaceful protest to create lasting change in the wake of this terrible tragedy.