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NAACP Legal Defense Fund Statement on Attorney General Sessions' Disregard for Rule of Law

[Sherrilyn Ifill](#), President and Director-Counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF) issued the following statement in response to remarks delivered yesterday by Attorney General Sessions:

“Tackling the strained police-community relationship in cities and towns across the country requires strong leadership from Washington. Eschewing legal requirements and permitting systemic constitutional violations to go unaddressed is the opposite of what our communities need from the nation’s top cop. Congress must step in and step up its oversight efforts. The Justice Department has a unique responsibility to enforce the law enforcement misconduct statute, and our elected officials should stop the Department from shirking its obligations. If the Attorney General and Congress are serious about increasing officer safety, they should double down on policing reform efforts, not abandon them.”

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Founded in 1940, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF) is the nation’s first civil and human rights law organization and has been completely separate from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) since 1957—although LDF was originally founded by the NAACP and shares its commitment to equal rights. LDF’s Thurgood Marshall Institute is a multi-disciplinary and collaborative hub within LDF that launches targeted campaigns and undertakes innovative research to shape the civil rights narrative. In media attributions, please refer to us as the NAACP Legal Defense Fund or LDF.