



Dear Members,

We the directors of the ABA board are angry and horrified by two equally harmful actions of the organization over the past week.

On July 7, the ABA committed a racist act by posting the cover of a right-wing extremist's book instead of the cover for the bestselling book *Blackout* by Dhonielle Clayton, Tiffany D. Jackson, Nic Stone, Angie Thomas, Ashley Woodfolk, and Nicola Yoon.

On July 14, the ABA committed a dangerous anti-trans act by including a virulent anti-trans book in the July ABA box mailing.

There are no apologies and no amount of explanations that are sufficient or satisfactory.

These incidents harmed booksellers, ABA board members, and ABA staff who identify as LGBTQIA+ and/or BIPOC, as well as the wider community. They also added to a toxic culture overall.

We are not the ABA of two years ago. These actions are antithetical to the values we are working to promote in our organization under the strong leadership of our CEO, Allison Hill, and COO, Joy Dallanegra-Sanger. This is not acceptable behavior and goes against the bylaws changes instituted last year.

This is evidence of systemic problems, and we support the staff and will work to do what's necessary to root out institutional failures and biases.

We hold ourselves accountable, and we will be transparent as we move through this process. This cannot happen again.

Signed,
[The ABA Board](#)

Bradley Graham, ABA President
Politics and Prose Bookstore
Washington, DC

Kelly Estep, ABA Co-Vice
President/Secretary
Carmichael's Bookstore
Louisville, KY

Christine Onorati, ABA Co-Vice
President/Secretary
WORD Bookstores
Brooklyn, NY, and Jersey City, NJ

Kenny Brechner
Devaney, Doak and Garrett Booksellers
Farmington, ME

Danny Caine
Raven Book Store
Lawrence, KS

Jenny Cohen
Waucoma Bookstore
Hood River, OR

Cynthia Compton
4 Kids Books & Toys
Zionsville, IN

Jake Cumsky-Whitlock
Solid State Books
Washington, DC

Kris Kleindienst
Left Bank Books
St. Louis, MO

Melanie Knight
Books Inc.
San Francisco, CA

Michelle Malonzo
Changing Hands Bookstore
Tempe & Phoenix, AZ

Angela Maria Spring
Duende District Books
Washington, DC, and Albuquerque, NM

Tegan Tigani
Queen Anne Book Company
Seattle, WA