

OPEN LETTER FROM THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF THE STURM COLLEGE OF LAW

(For Distribution 1-18-16)

January, 2015

The undersigned members of the faculty and staff of the Sturm College of Law at the University of Denver stand in solidarity with students, staff, and faculties across the nation in opposition to racial, religious, and cultural discrimination on college campuses, including the University of Denver. We believe that racially hostile environments are counter-productive to the democratic aims of American higher education and to our specific mission, values, and goals at the Sturm College of Law. We believe that diversity not only in student bodies, faculty and staff, but in the *curriculum* are essential to American higher education as well as the future of the legal profession. In response to the student protests emerging here at DU as well as across the United States and in the face of intensifying acts of discrimination directed at communities of color, Muslims, and other non-favored groups here and elsewhere, we write this letter to say:

We see you.

We hear you.

We will do our best to do better by you.

We support a three-part agenda that will be facilitated by the Sturm College of Law's Rocky Mountain Collective for Race, Place, and Law for engaging in dialogue and action about campus racial climate in legal and higher education. This agenda includes: 1) posting and distributing this letter of support as an expression of our solidarity with efforts by students of color and by those of all faiths to address hostile university racial and religious climates; 2) collaborating with units across campus to support a university-wide conversation about the student uprisings across the country; and 3) sponsoring a monthly series of conversations with student and other groups about various dimensions to campus racial and religious climate over the Spring Semester of the current academic year, with further assessment planned for future action beyond 2015-2016.

In solidarity,

Rebecca Aviel

Diane Burkhardt

Laura Dean

Theresa Baker

Stefanie Carroll

Micah Desaire

Tanya Bartholomew

Federico Cheever

Nancy Ehrenreich

Stacey Bowers

Alan Chen

Clint Emmerich

Eric Bono

Roberto Corrada

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