

August 17, 2017

An Open Letter to Our Students and Our Community:

As members of the faculty at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, we are delighted to see those of you who are returning to us, and thrilled to welcome to the classroom those of you who are joining us for the first time. We are honored to be part of your education. One of our greatest privileges is to share our passion for the law with you.

Despite our excitement about the new academic year, we cannot ignore the shadow cast by the horrific events in Charlottesville, Virginia last weekend. We are outraged to learn of white supremacists wielding Confederate and Nazi flags; chanting blatantly racist, anti-Semitic, and homophobic slogans; and violently assaulting those protesting their actions. We are devastated by the killing of Heather Heyer, a woman peacefully exercising her right to free speech to protest white supremacy and racism.

As members of the faculty of the College of Law, we write to make absolutely clear our views on these events. We condemn white supremacy in all its names and forms. The white nationalist and Nazi ideologies promoted by the group in Charlottesville are abhorrent. Such views should have no place in our society, in our community, on our campus, and in our classrooms. We stand united against bigotry and racism wherever we find them. Frankly, many of us did not think we would ever find it necessary to say these things that should be obvious truths. But given recent events, we find it vitally important to say them now.

As should be the case at a world-class institution such as ours, we as faculty members hold a wide range of viewpoints. We often disagree with one another. This is as it should be; disagreement sharpens our understanding of the world around us and leads to the advancement of knowledge. But, on some fundamental issues we see no room for disagreement. Condemnation of white supremacy is one.

We know that the events of the past days have affected many of you deeply. At the College of Law, we pride ourselves on the accessibility of our faculty, both within and outside the classroom. We encourage you to reach out to us if we can be of help, and to take advantage of other resources and support on campus as well.

The Faculty of the Sturm College of Law  
University of Denver