



March 11, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The 53rd Administration of the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA) stands in solidarity with the Georgetown Black Law Students Association (GULC BLSA) expressing their condemnation of Georgetown University Law Professor, Sandra Sellers. Professor Sellers' abhorrent comments regarding the **only** Black student in her class were not only disparaging, but also a direct reflection of the entrenched racism within the legal profession.

While Professor Sellers has been terminated by Georgetown University Law Center, her removal is not enough. We also support GULC BLSA's demands for a public apology from Professor David Batson in his failure to adequately condemn Professor Sellers' statements; a critical assessment and improvement to Georgetown's current subjective grading system, including an audit of Professor Sellers' past grading and student evaluations to account for her admitted biases; and a commitment to hiring more Black professors who will be better situated to fairly assess Black students in a non-biased manner.

During a falsely presumed private meeting with another Georgetown University Law professor, David Batson, Professors Sellers and Batson discussed a Black student's performance in a jointly taught course. Professor Sellers stated: **"I end up having this angst every semester that a lot of my lower ones are Blacks. Happens almost every semester. And it's like, oh come on. It's some really good ones, but there are also usually some that are just plain at the bottom, it drives me crazy."**

Additionally, Professor Sellers also focused on the way in which this student spoke by stating, **"...when he did talk, they were a bit jumbled. It's the best way I can put it, it's like okay let me reason through that what you just said."**

Professor Sellers' racist comments were not only damaging and offensive, but also echoes the racially biased rhetoric interwoven throughout American legal education.

Across the United States, Black students comprise under **10%** of the national law student population, and only **5%** of practicing attorneys. Black law students fight every day to overcome structural barriers and hurdles. These pre-existing challenges being exacerbated by a professor who in one instance promotes advocacy and in the other tears down Black students, directly amplifies marginalization experienced in the law school classroom.

Racism and the resulting trauma should not be a pre-requisite for rising Black attorneys. NBLSA supports Black and minority students across the nation, and has a long standing commitment to advocacy and empowerment.

In NBLSA Service,

The 53rd National Board of Directors
National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA)

CC: Mid-Atlantic Region, Midwest Region, Northeast Region
Southern Region, Southwest Region, Western Region