



NATIONAL BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

80 M Street SE, Washington, D.C. 20003 | www.nblsa.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The 54th Administration of the National Black Law Students Association (“NBLSA”) stands in solidarity with the Georgetown Black Law Students Association (“GULC’s BLSA”). The GULC administration has blatantly ignored and disregarded the demands of GULC’s BLSA and their Black law students at large.

Mr. Ilya Shapiro's abhorrent tweets regarding Black women being “lesser” were not only denigrating, but also a direct reflection of the ingrained racism within the legal profession. Placing Mr. Shapiro on administrative leave is not only engaging in measures of palliation, but notably demonstrating GULC’s position on how they view and value their Black women students and professors.

This is now another instance throughout this academic year where Black law students have called on the GULC administration to terminate an individual that actively promotes racism, prejudice, and discrimination. GULC must do better by its Black students. Their legal experience—especially given the history of this profession—should not be encumbered by being viewed as lesser than or undeserving of opportunities.

Mr. Shapiro's tweets were damaging, offensive, and reflective of the racially biased rhetoric interwoven throughout American jurisprudence and legal education. Through his previously iterated words, it is evident that Mr. Shapiro’s interactions with Black students, especially Black women students, will be judgmental, marginalizing, and unequal compared to his interactions with non-Black people.

We affirmatively echo GULC’s BLSA’s demands for rescinding Mr. Shapiro's offer of employment at Georgetown Law, committing to a thorough hiring process that considers incoming faculty and staff's cultural competency, investing in preventative measures by properly staffing the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, reserving a seat for a BLSA representative on every Faculty Appointment Student-Faculty Committee, requiring the inclusion of Black students in the hiring of all faculty and staff, and funding an endowment to support Black student recruitment, retention, programming, and organizations.

Unfortunately, individuals like Mr. Shapiro are present in classrooms and institutions across the nation. GULC, and institutions alike, must listen to their students and hire individuals that will not be racist, antagonistic, or prejudicial to their Black law students. NBLSA is a non-profit organization that actively supports Black and minority students across the country, and has a long-standing commitment to advocacy and empowerment.

In NBLSA Service,

The 54th National Board of Directors
National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA)