



Jun 4 (3 days ago)

to

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From: **Bernadette Meyler**  
Date: Fri, Jun 4, 2021 at 1:02 PM  
Subject: Open Letter from Law School Faculty Members  
To:

### Open Letter from Stanford Law Faculty Members Regarding the Nicholas Wallace Case

We, the undersigned, are faculty at Stanford Law School who write to express our dismay over the university's Office of Community Standards investigation of one of our students, Nicholas Wallace. Wallace was named in a complaint filed against him under the Fundamental Standard after he posted a satirical e-mail lampooning the Federalist Society. Wallace's e-mail did not name any Stanford student: the only individuals named in the satire were public figures Senator Josh Hawley and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. The e-mail was clearly satirical in nature and addressed a matter of urgent public concern, namely the January 6 riot in Washington, D.C. Accordingly, any threat of punitive sanction should have been quickly rejected as inconsistent with the university's established policies and its legal obligations under California's Leonard Law. We are embarrassed and angered that, instead, the Office of Community Standards initiated an investigation and placed a hold on Wallace's graduation. These actions are antithetical to the values this law school holds.

Although the university reversed its decision after national media attention, we are concerned about the effects on Wallace and on student culture more generally. Incidents such as these have caused serious distrust among our students, who fear that our commitment to free speech is selective, and determined by power rather than principle. We seek an explanation for how the decision in this most recent case was made. Furthermore, we urge the university to work to eliminate perceptions of bias in its treatment of different kinds of speech and to collaborate with the faculty to develop clear and consistent principles that will govern its approach when similar issues arise.

Sincerely,

Greg Ablavsky  
Janet Alexander  
Michelle Anderson  
Joe Bankman  
Rabia Belt  
Paul Brest  
Juliet Brodie  
Rob Daines  
Michele Dauber  
John Donohue  
David Freeman Engstrom  
Nora Freeman Engstrom  
George Fisher  
Richard Ford  
Barbara Fried  
Lawrence Friedman

Jacob Goldin  
Paul Goldstein  
Robert W. Gordon  
William B. Gould IV  
Hank Greely  
Joe Grundfest  
Deborah Hensler  
Daniel E. Ho  
Colleen Honigsberg  
Erik Jensen  
Mark Kelman  
Amalia Kessler  
Michael Klausner  
Bill Koski  
Mark Lemley  
Robert MacCoun  
Phil Malone  
Larry Marshall  
Janet Martinez  
Michael McConnell  
Michelle Mello  
Bernie Meyler  
Curtis Milhaupt  
Alison Morantz  
Julian Nyarko  
Anne Joseph O'Connell  
Jamie O'Connell  
Robert Rabin  
Jane Schacter  
Shirin Sinnar  
Deborah Sivas  
David Sklansky  
James Sonne  
Jayashri Srikantiah  
David Studdert  
Buzz Thompson  
George Triantis  
Ron Tyler  
Barbara van Schewick  
Allen Weiner  
Robert Weisberg  
Beth Williams  
Diego Zambrano

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