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On Behalf Of Asher R Morse
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2023 1:07 PM
To: sls_nationallawyersguild@lists.stanford.edu
Subject: [SLS_NLG] NLG Board Statement on the Protest of the Federalist Society Event

To the Stanford Law School community,

The members of NLG's Board write to express our firm support and admiration for every single person involved in planning or enacting the protest of the Federalist Society's event on March 9th with Judge Kyle Duncan of the Fifth Circuit. This protest represented Stanford Law School at its best: as a place of care for vulnerable people, and a place to challenge oppression and bigotry in all their forms, including on the federal bench. NLG's strong moral commitment to providing support to political activists, protestors, and movements for social change is at the center of our wholehearted support for the protest.

Judge Duncan's behavior at the event amply justified the protests, if more justification than his career was needed. His conduct was abhorrent. He yelled at protestors and called students names. He refused to answer students' genuine questions about his legal decisions. He entered the room recording all the protestors in the stairwell, including by placing his phone inches away from several protestors' faces. He repeatedly referred to students as "idiots" and "absolute idiots." He responded to a student's question, which she framed in part by making reference to having been sexually assaulted in college, by saying "nice story . . . that's not a question." He belittled a university administrator who attempted to calm down the protestors to allow him to speak, repeating several of his statements mockingly.

Responding to Judge Duncan's speech with more speech is not the same thing as systematically denying civil rights, which Duncan has done over the course of his career.

It is ironic that Judge Duncan repeatedly criticized protestors for being "disrespectful." Judge Duncan's record, jurisprudence, views, and personal conduct are beyond "disrespectful": they are as antithetical to the social justice mission of NLG as it is possible to be. Moreover, they are also antithetical to Stanford Law School's representation of its own ostensible values. Stanford Law School's statement on diversity, equity and inclusion claims that the law school is "committed to enhancing its focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion to ensure that all members of our community achieve their fullest potential," and claims that Stanford Law strives to "create a culture where all members of the community share a sense of belonging, and respect."

However such language might be weaponized by conservative students who feel victimized by yesterday's events, its genuine import and applicability to those events

victimized by yesterday's events, its genuine import, and applicability to those events, ought to be patently obvious: the law school cannot have a culture where LGBTQ+ students, especially queer and trans POC, "share a sense of belonging and respect" if speakers like Judge Duncan are normalized on our campus. Stanford can accede to the Federalist Society's interest in the outcome of this event (namely, that such generative protests not be allowed to happen again), or it can further its supposed commitment to belongingness. It cannot do both.

Finally, we write not just to express our support for the protests, but to express our deep disappointment in the law school's response to them. In veiled language, the law school threw its capable and compassionate administrators who were present at the event, and who interceded productively, under the bus, and expressed an intent to ensure that such disruptions do not occur again. The statement from the Dean of the law school stated, "Other than someone who hoped to create a meltdown for the cameras to capture, no one can be happy about what happened yesterday." Respectfully, we disagree. NLG stands in support of those who speak truth to power and exercise their rights to peaceful protest, in support of confronting judicial architects of systems of oppression with social consequences for their actions, and in support of all people who have been marginalized and harmed by Judge Duncan's life's work.

In solidarity, The NLG Board,
Nathan Tauger
David Cremins
Lily Bou
Mohit Mookim
Marin Callaway
Oona Cahill
Bella Cooper
Esau Ruiz
Kiran Chawla
Jacob Maddox
Asher Morse

For those seeking to materially contribute to organizations supporting those most vulnerable to actors like Judge Duncan (in particular queer and trans POC), consider donating to these organizations:

*Please consider signing up for a **monthly donation option***

[Black and Pink:](#)

- Black & Pink is an abolitionist organization dedicated to abolishing the criminal punishment system and liberating LGBTQIA2S+ people and people living with HIV/AIDS who are affected by that system through advocacy, support, and organizing.

[Black and Pink Opportunity Campus Capital Campaign:](#)

- Donating to a housing and community space in Omaha, Nebraska for LGBTQIA2S+ youth and young adults who are system-impacted.

[TGI Justice Project:](#)

- The *TGI Justice Project* is a group of transgender, gender variant and intersex people, inside and outside of prisons, jails and detention centers—creating a united family in the struggle for survival and freedom. The organization empowers members through political education, leadership development, and access to housing and employment resources.

[Okra Project](#)

- *The Okra Project* is a collective that seeks to address the global crisis faced by Black Trans people by bringing home cooked, healthy, and culturally specific meals and resources to Black Trans People.

[House of GG](#)

- Focused in the U.S. south, House of GG creates safe and transformative spaces where trans women of color can heal physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually from the trauma arising from generations of transphobia, racism, sexism, poverty, ableism and violence.

[Afiya Center](#)

- Afiya Center is a Black womxn founded Reproductive Justice organization in North Texas. Afiya Center's mission is to transform the lives, health, and overall wellbeing of Black womxn and girls.

[Brave Space Alliance:](#)

- *Brave Space Alliance* provides educational and access-based programming, services, and resources for BIPOC trans and gender-nonconforming individuals.

[Black Trans Femmes In The Arts:](#)

- *BTFA* is a community-based arts organization that centers and highlights Black trans femme artists and provides direct support to Black trans artists.

[Mississippi Abortion Fund](#)

[New Orleans Abortion Fund](#)

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