



Temple University Beasley School of Law | Student Bar Association
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We, the student members of the Temple University Beasley School of Law community, express our deepest condolences for the loss of the lives of counter protester, Heather Heyer, and Virginia State Troopers: Lieutenant H. Jay Cullen and Berke M. M. Bates. We also express our unwavering support and allyship for all communities impacted by the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual effects of the terrorism and violence propagated by the white nationalists who descended upon Charlottesville, Virginia last weekend for the so-called “Unite the Right” rally.

We unequivocally condemn, by name, all neo-Nazi, Ku Klux Klan, white nationalist, and any other white supremacist groups. These groups overtly espouse racist, anti-Semitic, xenophobic and other harmful ideologies that represent an unfortunate past and present of this country. Together we demand better for our future. To that end, we unequivocally reject any moral equivalency between these groups and the counter protesters.

These groups also allege that their ideology represents Republican political conservatism. We do not accept this, and we know that these few do not represent the whole. Over the past days, many conservatives, including leaders, have stood up to denounce what happened in Charlottesville. Many have even proclaimed that the supposed “alt-right” is a “cancer” whose offensive ideologies—fueled by racism, bigotry, and hate—do not represent the conservative movement. This issue transcends politics. These events offer an opportunity for a moment of clarity—an opportunity for all of us to recognize that we must fully condemn and reject these antiquated ideologies, and work together to guarantee a better future.

As law students, we recognize that neo-Nazis, Ku Klux Klan members, white supremacists, and white nationalists all have a First Amendment right to assemble and to speak about their repugnant ideologies. We recognize that our First Amendment rights sometimes come at a cost to our neighbors’ humanity. However, the public gathering permit that they lawfully obtained did not grant them a right to commit acts of terror or violence, and it does not protect them from the consequences some now face in the private sphere, such as lost employment or severed family ties. Accordingly, we must all take a similar stand to repudiate implicit and explicit forms of bigotry whenever the opportunity arises.

These events are sad reminders that we do not live a post-racial, post-anti-Semitic, post-xenophobic, or post-misogynistic society. But to many of us, they are unsurprising; they are symptoms of a disease that literally kills, and continues to prevent America from truly becoming the country we were intended to be. As the events in Charlottesville illustrate, there are many who still long for a past in which power is concentrated in a few with power over the many. As law students in the city where our nation was debated and crafted, we instead march toward a future of true and equal justice under the law.

The cross burnings and torches carried by Klan members riding atop horses in the middle of the night have been replaced by tiki-torch-carrying men and women wearing khakis and polo shirts. However, their goals remain the same—to create a society in which cisgender, straight, white men reign supreme, and ideals of equality, inclusion, and diversity are blasphemy. These individuals do not live in a vacuum; they live and work among us as next-door neighbors, teachers, lawyers, judges, politicians, guidance counselors, employers, police officers, and coaches. Equipped with their hateful ideology, they are the gatekeepers to the pursuit of life, liberty, property, and



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happiness. Many stayed home from Charlottesville, not out of rejection of those repugnant ideologies, but out of fear of losing their positions of power.

As members of the Temple Law, legal, and broader communities, we will lead by example and do our part to promote thoughtful, robust discussion and debate. Debate may be polarizing at times, but that is a critical element of our legal system and our democracy. However, we will always come together to swiftly and unequivocally denounce hate. Beyond condemning the racist violence from last weekend, we must condemn racism in all of its forms—especially in our own communities. Let us draw motivation from this tragedy to strengthen our bonds as Temple Law students.

As the Temple University motto says, *Perseverantia Vincit* – “Perseverance Conquers.”

Signed, with 100% Solidarity from Temple Law Student Organizations and Associations in Solidarity,

Temple Law Student Bar Association
Temple Law Republicans
Temple Law Federalist Society
Temple Jewish Law Students Association

Temple Black Law Students Association
Temple Law Democrats
American Constitution Society
Temple National Lawyers Guild

Temple Business Law Society
OUTLaw
Student Wellness Association
Sports and Entertainment Law Society
Committee of 51
Temple Family Law Society
Student Public Interest Network
School Discipline Advocacy Service
Intellectual Property Society
Temple Brehon Law Society
Temple Environmental Law Society
Justinian Society
Temple South Asian Law Students Association

Temple Health Law Society
Philadelphia Legal Network
Voices for the Vulnerable
Temple Latin American Law Students Association
Temple Asian Pacific American Law Students Association
The International Law Society
If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice
Temple Law Political and Civil Rights Society
Temple International & Comparative Law Journal
Temple Tax and Bankruptcy Law Society
Temple Women’s Law Caucus
Christian Legal Society
Middle Eastern & North African Law Students Association