

JOINT STATEMENT OF LAW PROFESSORS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

The College's students, staff, and faculty value a mutually respectful, intellectually challenging, and safe community for all its members, and Professor Jay Kesan's actions betrayed those values. The facts outlined in the report authored by the university's Office of Diversity, Equity and Access (ODEA) demonstrated the corrosive nature of the environment created by Professor Kesan and the significant harm resulting from his actions. The actions of Professor Kesan -- including both offensive statements and unwanted physical contact-- constituted behavior deserving of meaningful punishment under any reasonable policy covering sexual misconduct. Given the facts as found in the report, the sanctions administered do not comport with our sense of justice. Any policies, procedures or practices that improperly limit the scope of sanctions available for dealing with such serious misconduct should be immediately revised.

Our students, through their elected representatives in the Student Bar Association, have called for us to gather as a community to further investigate the circumstances that led us to this point and to seek a path for the future. We, the undersigned law faculty and senior administrators, proudly stand in support of our students. We look forward to working together and with the University administration to address the important concerns being raised. We all could have done—and must do—better.

Rummana Alam
Vikram Amar
Sean Anderson
Amitai Aviram
Kenworthy Bilz
Matthew Braun
Ralph Brubaker
Yulanda Curtis
Stephanie Davidson
Randall Elkins
Margareth Etienne
Melissa Frydman
Paul Heald
Pia Hunter
Heidi Hurd
Eric Johnson
Faye Jones
Richard Kaplan
Robin Kar
Patrick Keenan
Robert Lawless
Michelle Layser
Andrew Leipold
Greg Miarecki
Jeremy McClane
Michael Moore
Shannon Moritz

Colleen Murphy
Jennifer Pahre
Rebecca Ray
Jennifer Robbennolt
Jacqueline Ross
Richard Ross
Arden Rowell
Kari Sanderson
Aylon Schulte
Jamelle Sharpe
Nicola Sharpe
Catherine Stahl
Rebecca Szajna
Charles Tabb
Suja Thomas
Carolyn Turner
William Turner
Virginia Vermillion
Lesley Wexler
Robin Wilson
Verity Winship