



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 17, 2025

**The Midwest Region of the National Black Law Students Association Responds to
Discriminatory Attacks at University of Michigan Law School**

The Midwestern Black Law Students Association (MWBLSA) condemns the recent attack on students at the University of Michigan Law School by an anonymous group operating under the name “Faculty, Alumni, and Students Opposed to Racial Preferences (FASORP).” The email, sent on March 31st, claims that women, LGBTQ+ students, and students of color have been given “diversity bonuses” to get jobs on the Michigan Law Review. FASORP claims that they will sue the Michigan Law Review, unless they “immediately terminate its use of race and sex preferences in membership and article selection.”¹ If FASORP follows through with their threat to expose those who indicated their demographic characteristics on their personal statements as “DEI hires” on social media, and to “notify their future employers that their Law Review credentials are tainted,”² the consequences could be deeply damaging.

We abhor FASORP’s claim and view it as a direct attack on the identities, accomplishments, and humanity of the students of color who rightfully earned their place on the Law Review. The threat to expose us as “DEI hires” and “out” as frauds to our employers is just another attempt to silence and remove us from advancing within the legal profession disguised in pseudo-intellectual rhetoric.

This stunt is part of a wider, coordinated campaign to erase the presence of Black students in institutions that have long sought to keep us from entering the legal profession. Since the Court’s ruling in *Harvard v. SFFA*, countless efforts have been taken to deny Black students access to meaningful opportunities to advance their academic potential. Thus, while institutions are quick to highlight the achievement of Black students to boost their image, rankings, or financial gains, they often fail to support, affirm, or protect those same students when it truly counts. They celebrate Black and Brown bodies when they’re winning championships, filling stadiums, or generating revenue. They proudly feature diverse faces in brochures and marketing campaigns. Yet, when those students speak out—demanding safety, equity, and recognition in academia, they’re met with gaslighting, dismissal, or outright hostility. This performative diversity is not inclusion, it’s simply exploitation at its finest!

¹ Chris Williams, “Totally Serious And Not Made-Up Group Hijacks Michigan Law Listserv To ‘Preserve Evidence’ And Expose ‘Unworthy’ Students,” *Above the Law*, April 1, 2025, <https://abovethelaw.com/2025/04/totally-serious-and-not-made-up-group-hijacks-michigan-law-listserv-to-preserve-evidence-and-expose-unworthy-students/2/>.

² *Id.*



The Michigan Law students who were the target of this vile email have the support of MWBLSA. We celebrate their intelligence, tenacity, and freedom to be themselves in many areas of campus, particularly in leadership and academic roles such as the Michigan Law Review. MWBLSA also supports students facing comparable threats to their education and dignity across the Midwest and around the country. These actions strike at the heart of the “Magnetic Midwest,” a region that has long served as a beacon of Black brilliance, community strength, and academic excellence. From Chicago to Detroit, from Minneapolis to Columbus, we are the pulse and the future of this region. The term *Magnetic* is not just part of a slogan, it is an indefinite promise to draw together, protect, and uplift our own in the face of erasure and injustice. To every student of color, every LGBTQ+ student, every woman who is questioning their place in legal academia because of this climate: You ALL belong. You’ve earned your seat. You are more than qualified. And most importantly you are not alone.

Sincerely,

s/Kyleah Wilkins

Kyleah Wilkins
Attorney General

s/Jasmine Felder

Jasmine Felder
Regional Chair

Midwest Region of the National Black Law Students Association