

November 11, 2023

An Open Letter to Dean Marc Miller from UA Law Grads and Members of the Arizona Legal Community

This letter is in response to Dean Marc Miller's November 7, 2023 email to the Arizona Law Community regarding the statement released by the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) and its subsequent demonstration.

Each year on November 9-10, the global Jewish community mourns the horrors of *Kristallnacht*. The Nazi-led pogrom devastated Jewish synagogues, businesses, and homes, and set the stage for the extermination of six million European Jews.

Just shy of *Kristallnacht*'s 85th anniversary, NLG and other UA student organizations circulated a statement which seemingly justified Hamas's barbaric acts of murder and abduction of Israeli Jews and others on October 7, 2023. To date, 240 civilian hostages, including infants and elderly Holocaust survivors, remain in captivity in Gaza.

The NLG statement calls to eradicate the State of Israel, whose population is more than 70% Jewish. This is a direct threat to Jewish people everywhere and is blatantly antisemitic. The NLG statement also calls for the release of federally convicted criminals who worked to fund an organization that transferred millions of dollars to Hamas (which the United States government has officially designated as a foreign terrorist organization). The NLG statement, perhaps purposefully, fails to delineate between support for the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people and support for the unconscionable atrocities committed by Hamas.

The students' hateful rhetoric, worn as a badge of moral superiority, is not unique. Alarming, antisemitism is trending across colleges and universities. Over the past several weeks, campus protests have emerged as a forum to attack and threaten Jewish students – forcing Jewish students to lock themselves in libraries, fear eating in kosher cafeterias, and hide their Jewish identities. In the post-October 7th world, antisemitic events have risen globally over 300%. We cannot afford to be silent.

Dean Miller, your response to the NLG statement failed to condemn its calls for violence even though you have an ethical and moral obligation as Dean of the law school to condemn hate speech in your halls. You stated “[a]ll members of our community should feel free and supported to explore their views on all issues, no matter how difficult.” But not all views – specifically views that glorify or justify terrorist attacks – should be supported. Expressing one's views is a privilege that comes with a cost. In this case, failing to teach students that they bear responsibility for their expressed opinions comes at the steep cost of threatening the physical and mental safety of other students, faculty, and staff.

In law school, students learn to carefully read and analyze every word and punctuation mark. Words matter. Unchecked words like those in the NLG statement directly threaten the Jewish community.

By hiding behind the names of student organizations rather than naming themselves specifically as signers of the NLG statement, many of these students show that they understand the consequences of their words. They are just not willing to face the consequences of disclosing their identities. Antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism, and bigotry have no place in our communities, and law firm employers of UA Law's students are making clear that they will not hire students who express such views.

Dean Miller, we urge you to be a voice of moral clarity – following the lead of President Robbins – and to speak out against antisemitism in a world increasingly filled with misinformation.

With deep concern,

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Hon. Audrey Y. Brooks, State Bar of WI (emeritus member)
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***This letter remains open for additional supporting signatures**