

Dear Members of the Penn State Law and SIA Community,

It is important to condemn hate and assaults on the rule of law, but statements are not enough. As current and future lawyers and public policymakers, and as human beings, we need to play a constructive role in needed change. We are organizing a roundtable discussion and community dialogue on **Advancing Rule of Law and Racial Equality** this **Thursday, January 14, at 7:30 pm**, to provide an opportunity to talk about these events and next steps for concrete action that build upon our diversity, equity, inclusion, and antiracism efforts. More details on the event will be forthcoming next week.

This week has reinforced the urgency of action. As the [Centre Daily Times](#) reported this morning, the State College Borough has condemned and is currently investigating stickers promoting a white supremacist group found in at least 10 locations. The stickers included the name and website of Patriot Front, which the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#) has classified as a hate group. This act of racism occurred on the heels of an attack on our Capitol in which those violently interrupting our democratic process expressed symbols of hate, the most visible being Confederate flags that were carried through the Capitol. The disparity between how rioters on Capitol Hill were initially treated by police as compared to a peaceful Black Lives Matter protest in the same location cannot be ignored.

I look forward to our dialogue this coming Thursday and to our working together as a community to stand up to hate and assaults on the rule of law, and advance racial justice. As President Barron expressed in his [response](#) to the violence in Washington D.C., “America is built upon a tradition of finding our common good within our many differences, and in the days ahead we must work to ensure that our democratic traditions prevail.”

Best,
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