

# HARVARD LAW SCHOOL STUDENT BODY FALL TERM TWO THOUSAND SIXTEEN

**RESOLUTION NO.** Res-200-003

**AUTHORED BY:** Nino Monea  
**SUPPORTED BY:**

**A RESOLUTION TO:** CALL UPON HARVARD UNIVERSITY TO RECOGNIZE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY AS THE OFFICIAL HOLIDAY FOR FALL BREAK.

**THE STUDENT BODY OF HARVARD LAW SCHOOL ENACTS:**

WHEREAS, Harvard University current recognizes Columbus Day as the official university holiday in the fall semester on the second Monday in October;

WHEREAS, Columbus Day has been viewed by many as a celebration of our country's rich immigrant and, in particular, Italian and Catholic heritage;

WHEREAS, recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day instead as the official school holiday is in no way meant to diminish the contributions of these groups, but rather to recognize the experiences of the indigenous people of the American continent;

WHEREAS, the cities of Cambridge, Massachusetts, Ypsilanti, Michigan, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Lawrence, Kansas, Traverse City, Michigan, Portland, Oregon, St. Paul, Minnesota, Anadarko, Oklahoma, Carrboro, North Carolina, Olympia, Washington, Alpena, Michigan, Seattle, Washington, Berkeley, California, and Ann Arbor, Michigan; the counties of Washtenaw, Michigan, Bexar County, Texas; the states of Hawaii, Alaska, Oregon, and South Dakota; fellow schools Brown University, University of Oklahoma, University of Alaska Southeast, and Tufts University, among others, have recognized Indigenous Peoples' Day;

WHEREAS, in order to help close the equity gap, institutions should change their policies and practices to better reflect experiences, culture, history, and contributions of the people they serve;

WHEREAS, in 2016, a group of Harvard Students created and circulated a letter to Harvard University President Drew Faust demanding that the University recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Harvard Law School Student Government calls upon the Harvard University administration to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day as the official school holiday on the second Monday in October.

**PASSED IN COMMITTEE:**

**PASSED IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL:**

**VOTE TOTALS:**

\_\_\_ YES

\_\_\_ NO

\_\_\_ ABSTAIN