

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL STUDENT BODY FALL TERM TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN

RESOLUTION NO. Res-203-004

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A RESOLUTION TO: PREVENT THE RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES CLINIC AT HARVARD LAW SCHOOL FROM TAKING CASES THAT IMPINGE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY AT HLS AND THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

THE STUDENT BODY OF HARVARD LAW SCHOOL ENACTS:

WHEREAS, Harvard Law School is moving forward with a religious liberties clinic per Dean Manning's comments during the October HLS Curricular Committee open meeting; AND

WHEREAS, The rights of members of the LGBTQIA+ community are often curtailed under the guise of religious liberties; AND

WHEREAS, Dean Manning remarked that LGBTQIA+ rights and religious liberties can exist in harmony; AND

WHEREAS, Dean Manning failed to commit that the new Religious Liberties Clinic would refrain from taking cases that would impinge on the rights of LGBTQIA+ identifying individuals; AND

WHEREAS, The Stanford Law School Religious Liberties Clinic, the first clinic of its kind at a top law school and one that Dean Manning said would provide a model for Harvard's, does incredible work in support of religious minorities in the US; AND

WHEREAS, We believe that the scope of the forthcoming Harvard religious liberties clinic leaves room for important and meaningful work to (likewise to Stanford's) support vulnerable religious minorities that would otherwise be left without viable legal recourse; AND

WHEREAS, We believe that if, on the other hand, this clinic takes on cases that impinge on the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community, it would significantly alienate such identifying students of our student body, deter talented individuals from considering Harvard Law, and be a smear on the Harvard Law name nationwide.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Harvard Law School Student Government strongly encourages Dean Manning and the Harvard Law School administration to publicly commit to not permitting any clinic including this forthcoming religious liberties clinic to take cases that would impinge on the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community or any other community in our student body and in the US and further affirmatively abiding by the nondiscrimination policy for all HLS clinics;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Harvard Law School Student Government commends the idea of a forthcoming religious liberties clinic that respects Harvard's nondiscrimination policy and that will use its resources and the work of talented students to support religious minorities in our community and throughout the nation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Harvard Law School Student Government encourages the Harvard Law School administration to provide more clarity as to the process of creating new clinical opportunities, the funding of such opportunities, and how the funding limits or does not limit the available cases and legal work the clinic can pursue.

PASSED IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL: 11/20/2019

VOTE TOTALS:

15 YES

0 NO

0 ABSTAIN

