

January 17, 2021

Dear UI College of Law Students,

In the wake of the recent violent attack on the U.S. Capitol, we, the undersigned members of the faculty, write this letter as law teachers, legal scholars, and Idahoans who have committed our lives and careers to the rule of law. Although we have differing political views and backgrounds, we are all deeply troubled by this unprecedented event and united in our support of the following principles.

First, we condemn this violent attack as an assault on our democracy and the rule of law. Every attorney swears an oath to support the U.S. Constitution. Our Constitution prescribes a means for the selection of leadership in this country. The stability of our democracy demands a peaceful transfer of power, where we resolve electoral disputes through the legal system and respect the ultimate results of that process, even when we disagree with them.

Second, we reject the use of misinformation to manufacture doubt about the integrity of our constitutional processes. In fact, the Idaho Rules of Professional Conduct recognize that lawyers have a duty to further confidence in the rule of law and strengthen the justice system because “legal institutions in a constitutional democracy depend on popular participation and support to maintain their authority.”

Third, we are committed to protecting First Amendment rights, even when we disagree, and we encourage vigorous civil discourse and peaceful demonstration. Indeed, we make this statement on the weekend honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his legacy of nonviolent protest in furtherance of democracy, equality, and inclusion. Violence, incitements to violence, and mob intimidation have no place in our democracy. We grieve the injuries and mourn the loss of life at our Capitol.

Fourth, we condemn bias, bigotry, and racism, including white nationalism and antisemitism. Some members of the violent mob who attacked the Capitol did so while displaying symbols of white nationalism and neo-Nazism—the Confederate battle flag, a noose and gallows, and glorifications of the Holocaust. This hatred is a blight on our country.

Fifth, we cannot distance ourselves from this violence and hatred or from the obligation to combat it. There are recent examples of hate acts here in Idaho, including the desecration of the Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial in Boise. However, we were inspired by the community’s galvanized response in support of restoring, securing, and celebrating the memorial. We must continue to promote nonviolence, inclusion, and healing both nationally and closer to home.

Sixth, we recognize that emotions and tensions are heightened during this divisive time. Our emotions range from shock to fear to sadness—we understand if you are feeling these emotions too. We are here to support you, and we encourage you to reach out to us and to

support each other. We are all part of a community that values respect, integrity, and kindness.

Finally, we have hope for the future. Ultimately, the rule of law held, and Congress fulfilled its constitutional role. There has been widespread condemnation of the violence and hatred at the Capitol, and we anticipate a peaceful transfer of power. And we are inspired by you, the next generation of lawyers. We are confident that you, alongside us, will strive to preserve the rule of law, to support the Constitution, to condemn violence, and to reject racism and hateful discrimination—both here in Idaho and throughout this nation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mark L. Adams	Katie Ball	Brenda Bauges
Anna Blaine	Eric Boos	Michael Carney
Wendy Gerwick Couture	Aliza Plener Cover	Benjamin Plener Cover
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Stephen R. Miller	Jodi Nafzger	Samuel P. Newton
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