

January 15, 2007

Statement of Law Deans*

We, the undersigned law deans, are appalled by the January 11, 2007 statement of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Charles “Cully” Stimson, criticizing law firms for their pro bono representation of suspected terrorist detainees and encouraging corporate executives to force these law firms to choose between their pro bono and paying clients.

As law deans and professors, we find Secretary Stimson’s statement to be contrary to basic tenets of American law. We teach our students that lawyers have a professional obligation to ensure that even the most despised and unpopular individuals and groups receive zealous and effective legal representation. Our American legal tradition has honored lawyers who, despite their personal beliefs, have zealously represented mass murderers, suspected terrorists, and Nazi marchers. At this moment in time, when our courts have endorsed the right of the Guantanamo detainees to be heard in courts of law, it is critical that qualified lawyers provide effective representation to these individuals. By doing so, these lawyers protect not only the rights of the detainees, but also our shared constitutional principles. In a free and democratic society, government officials should not encourage intimidation of or retaliation against lawyers who are fulfilling their pro bono obligations.

We urge the Administration promptly and unequivocally to repudiate Secretary Stimson’s remarks.

Sincerely,

Gail B. Agrawal
Dean and Professor of Law, University of Kansas School of Law

T. Alexander Aleinikoff
Dean, Georgetown University Law Center

Peter C. Alexander
Dean and Professor of Law
Southern Illinois University School of Law

James J. Alfani
President and Dean
South Texas College of Law

Michelle J. Anderson
Dean and Professor of Law
CUNY School of Law

Hannah R. Arterian

Dean and Professor of Law
Syracuse University

Richard L. Aynes
Dean & Professor of Law
University of Akron School of Law

Katharine T. Bartlett
Dean, Duke University School of Law

Louis D. Bilonis
Dean, University of Cincinnati College of Law

Terence L. Blackburn
Dean and Professor of Law
Michigan State University College of Law

John Charles Boger
Dean, University of North Carolina School of Law

Patrick J. Borchers
Dean and Professor of Law
Creighton University

Jeffrey S. Brand
Dean, University of San Francisco School of Law

Katherine S. Broderick
Dean, University of the District of Columbia

Brian Bromberger
Dean and Professor of Law
Loyola University, New Orleans, College of Law

David W. Burcham
Fritz B. Burns Dean & Professor of Law
Loyola Law School Los Angeles

Don Burnett
Dean, University of Idaho College of Law

Robert Butkin
Dean and Professor of Law
The University of Tulsa College of Law

Evan H. Caminker

Dean, University of Michigan Law School

Judge John L. Carroll
Dean and Ethel P. Malugen Professor of Law
Cumberland School of Law, Samford University

Guy-Uriel Charles & Fred Morrison
Co-Deans, University of Minnesota Law School

Jim Chen
Dean and Professor of Law
Louis D. Brandeis School of Law
University of Louisville

Hiram E. Chodosh
Dean and Professor of Law
University of Utah
S.J. Quinney College of Law

Neil H. Cogan
Vice President and Dean
Whittier Law School

Kevin Cole
Dean and Professor of Law, University of San Diego

Jay Conison
Dean, Valparaiso University School of Law

John Costonis
Chancellor, LSU Law Center

Mary Crossley
Dean, University of Pittsburgh School of Law

Mary C. Daly
Dean, St. John's University School of Law

Kenneth B. Davis, Jr.
Dean, University of Wisconsin Law School

Samuel M. Davis
Dean and Holder of the Jamie L. Whitten Chair in Law and Government
University of Mississippi School of Law

R. Lawrence Dessem

Dean and Professor of Law
University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law

Stuart L. Deutsch
Dean and Professor of Law
Rutgers School of Law-Newark

Darby Dickerson
Vice President and Dean, Stetson University College of Law

Allen K. Easley
President & Dean
William Mitchell College of Law

E. Edwin Eck
Dean, University of Montana School of Law

Christopher Edley
Dean and Professor of Law
University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law

John W. Fisher, II
Dean and Professor of Law
West Virginia University College of Law

Michael Fitts
Dean, University of Pennsylvania School of Law

Daisy Hurst Floyd
Dean and Professor of Law
Mercer University School of Law

Cynthia L. Fountaine
Interim Dean and Professor of Law,
Texas Wesleyan University School of Law

Stephen J. Friedman
Dean and Professor of Law
Pace University School of Law

Bryant G. Garth
Dean, Southwestern Law School

John Garvey
Dean, Boston College Law School

Arthur R. Gaudio
Dean and Professor of Law
Western New England College School of Law

Jon M. Garon
Dean, Hamline University School of Law

David H. Getches
Dean, Raphael J. Moses Professor of Natural Resources Law
University of Colorado Law School

Charles W. Goldner, Jr.
Dean and Professor of Law
William H. Bowen School of Law
University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Peter Goplerud
Dean, Florida Coastal School of Law

Mark Gordon
Dean, University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

Claudio Grossman
Dean and Raymond Geraldson Scholar for International and Humanitarian Law
American University, Washington College of Law

Thomas F. Guernsey
President and Dean
Albany Law School

Don Guter
Dean, Duquesne University School of Law

Jack A. Guttenberg
Dean & Professor of Law
Capital University Law School

Joseph D. Harbaugh
Dean and Professor
Shepard Broad Law Center
Nova Southeastern University

Lawrence K. Hellman
Dean and Professor of Law
Oklahoma City University School of Law

Patrick E. Hobbs
Dean, Seton Hall University School of Law

Gilbert A. Holmes
Dean and Professor of Law
University of Baltimore School of Law

Dennis R. Honabach
Dean, Chase College of Law
Northern Kentucky University

Walter B. Huffman
Dean and Professor of Law
Texas Tech University School of Law

Heidi M. Hurd
Dean, David C. Baum Professor of Law and Professor of Philosophy
University of Illinois College of Law

John D. Hutson
RADM JAGC USN (ret.)
Dean and President
Franklin Pierce Law Center

José Roberto Juárez, Jr.
Dean and Professor of Law
University of Denver Sturm College of Law

John C. Jeffries, Jr.
Dean, University of Virginia School of Law

Robert H. Jerry, II
Dean and Levin, Mabie and Levin Professor
Levin College of Law, University of Florida

Carolyn Jones
Dean, University of Iowa College of Law

Elena Kagan
Dean, Harvard Law School

Steven Kaminshine
Dean and Professor of Law
Georgia State University College of Law

W. H. (Joe) Knight, Jr.

Dean, University of Washington School of Law

Harold Hongju Koh
Dean, Yale Law School

Larry Kramer
Richard E. Lang Professor and Dean
Stanford Law School

Harold J. Krent
Dean & Professor
Chicago-Kent College of Law

Frederick M. Lawrence
Dean and Robert Kramer Research Professor of Law
The George Washington University Law School

Paul LeBel
Dean & Professor of Law
University of North Dakota School of Law

Jeffrey E. Lewis
Dean, Saint Louis University School of Law

David A. Logan
Dean and Professor of Law
Ralph R. Papitto School of Law
Roger Williams University

Lydia Pallas Loren
Interim Dean and Professor of Law
Lewis & Clark Law School

Dennis O. Lynch
Dean and Professor of Law
University of Miami School of Law

Richardson R. Lynn
Dean and Professor of Law
John Marshall Law School

Earl F. Martin
Dean & Professor of Law
Gonzaga University School of Law

Toni M. Massaro

Dean, The University of Arizona College of Law

Richard A. Matasar
President and Dean
New York Law School

Edward J. McCaffery
Dean and Carl Mason Franklin Chair in Law, Economics and Political Science
Gould School of Law
University of Southern California

Philip J. McConnaughay
Penn State University
The Dickinson School of Law

Susanah M. Mead
Interim Dean and Professor of Law
Indiana University School of Law - Indianapolis

Geoffrey S. Mearns
Dean and Professor of Law
Cleveland-Marshall College of Law
Cleveland State University

Thomas M. Mengler
Dean and Ryan Chair in Law
University of St. Thomas School of Law

Veryl Miles
Dean and Professor of Law
The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law

Richard J. Morgan
Dean, William S. Boyd School of Law
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Fred Morrison & Guy-Uriel Charles
Co-Deans, University of Minnesota Law School

Brian C. Murchison, Acting Dean
Washington and Lee University School of Law

Cynthia Nance
Dean and Professor of Law
University of Arkansas School of Law--Fayetteville

Charles I. Nelson
Dean and Professor of Law
Faulkner University

Nell Jessup Newton
Dean, UC Hastings College of Law

R. Nils Olsen, Jr.
Dean and Professor of Law
University at Buffalo Law School
State University of New York

Maureen A. O'Rourke
Dean and Professor of Law
Boston University School of Law

Margie Paris
Dean, University of Oregon School of Law

Elizabeth Rindskopf Parker
Dean, University of the Pacific
McGeorge School of Law

Jerry Parkinson
Dean and Professor of Law
University of Wyoming College of Law

David F. Partlett
Dean and Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Law
Emory University School of Law

LeRoy Pernell
Dean and Professor
Northern Illinois University College of Law

Rex R. Perschbacher
Dean and Professor of Law
University of California at Davis School of Law

Bill Piatt
Dean & Ryan Professor of Law
St. Mary's University School of Law

Raymond C. Pierce
Dean and Professor of Law
North Carolina Central University School of Law

Peter Pitegoff
Dean, University of Maine School of Law

Donald J. Polden
Dean, Santa Clara University School of Law

Daniel D. Polsby
Dean and Professor of Law
George Mason University School of Law

Lawrence Ponoroff
Dean and Mitchell Franklin Professor of Private & Commercial Law
Tulane University Law School

Lawrence Raful
Dean and Professor of Legal Ethics
Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center

Douglas E. Ray
Dean and Professor of Law
The University of Toledo College of Law

Robert Reinstein
Dean, Temple University Beasley School of Law

W. Taylor Reveley, III
Dean and John Stewart Bryan Professor of Jurisprudence
William & Mary Law School

Richard Revesz
Dean, New York University School of Law

William J. Rich
Interim Dean, Washburn University School of Law

Lauren Robel
Dean, Indiana University School of Law--Bloomington

Nancy H. Rogers,
Dean, The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law

Jim Rosenblatt
Dean, Mississippi College School of Law

Karen H. Rothenberg

Dean & Marjorie Cook Professor of Law
University of Maryland School of Law

Edward Rubin
Dean and Professor of Law
Vanderbilt University Law School

David Rudenstine
Dean, Cardozo School of Law

Lawrence G. Sager
Dean, School of Law. University of Texas at Austin

Mark Sargent
Dean, Villanova University School of Law

Brad Saxton
Dean and Professor of Law, Quinnipiac University School of Law

Suellyn Scarnecchia
Dean, School of Law
University of New Mexico

Michael Schill
Dean, UCLA School of Law

David M. Schizer
Dean and the Lucy G. Moses Professor of Law
Columbia Law School

Kurt Schmoke
Dean, Howard University School of Law

Geoffrey B. Shields
President and Dean and Professor of Law
Vermont Law School

Gary J. Simson
Dean, Case Western Reserve University School of Law

Robert H. Smith
Dean and Professor of Law
Suffolk University Law School

Rodney A. Smolla
Dean, University of Richmond School of Law

Aviam Soifer
Dean, William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai'i

Rayman L. Solomon
Dean, Rutgers University School of Law - Camden

Emily A. Spieler
Dean, Northeastern University School of Law

Kenneth W. Starr
Duane and Kelly Roberts Dean and Professor of Law
Pepperdine University School of Law

Kurt A. Strasser
Interim Dean, University of Connecticut School of Law

Leonard P. Strickman
Dean, Florida International University
College of Law

Ellen Y. Suni
Dean and Marvin Lewis Rich Faculty Scholar and Professor of Law
University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) School of Law

Symeon C. Symeonides
Dean, Willamette University College of Law

Kent Syverud
Dean and Ethan A.H. Shepley University Professor
Washington University School of Law

Kellye Y. Testy
Dean and Professor of Law
Seattle University School of Law

William Treanor
Dean, Fordham Law School

Aaron D. Twerski
Hofstra University School of Law

Allan W. Vestal
Dean and Professor of Law
University of Kentucky College of Law

Barry R. Vickrey
Dean & Professor of Law
University of South Dakota School of Law

David S. Walker
Dean and Dwight D. Opperman Professor of Law
Drake Law School

Robert K. Walsh, Dean
Wake Forest University School of Law

Frederic White
Dean, Golden Gate University School of Law

Patricia D. White
Dean and Professor of Law
Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law
Arizona State University

Rebecca Hanner White
Dean and J. Alton Hosch Professor of Law
University of Georgia

Steven L. Willborn
Dean & Schmoker Professor of Law
University of Nebraska College of Law

Parham Williams
Dean, Chapman University School of Law

Frank H. Wu
Dean, Wayne State University Law School

David Yellen
Dean and Professor
Loyola University Chicago School of Law

*Law School affiliations are provided for identification purposes only.