



---

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN

Dear members of the Columbia Law School community,

Early yesterday near Butler Library, an undergraduate student confronted several students of color in a tirade, captured on video, expressing his views of white racial superiority. This display of racism and hostility is particularly alarming, given that it took place right here on our campus, and the Law School forcefully rejects the premises on which it was based.

Columbia is a place where the ability to engage in robust intellectual debate is core to our educational mission. But, the aspirations of this mission are deeply compromised when individuals draw upon false and hateful rhetoric designed to divide our community. Whether in the classroom or elsewhere on campus, white supremacy, racism, and other forms of bigoted expression and hostility are starkly antithetical to our values and have no place within our learning environment.

At a time when incidents like these may be affecting your ability to feel safe or to focus on your exams and assignments, please know that the Law School, and the University, are here to assist. A range of resources is cited in the message from the Office of University Life, which was issued this morning. Alternatively, please do not hesitate to reach out to a member of our Student Services team if you'd like to speak further.

Gillian Lester