

Coalition on Law & Representation (CoLR)

CoLR stands in solidarity with BALSAs regarding the tragic non-indictment of Darren Wilson.

The Ferguson grand jury's failure to indict is another glaring example of how our legal system continues to fail people of color. We cannot continue to ignore the history of racial oppression in our country, or the continuing effects of racial discrimination. We cannot continue to ignore the normalization of violence towards people of color.

People trained in our nation's law schools were central to many of the unjust responses to the shooting of Michael Brown, and many have consistently shown a lack of understanding and respect for the concerns of communities of color. This is perhaps unsurprising: law school faculties are strikingly homogeneous, overwhelmingly comprised of straight, white, rich men. Law schools simply do not contain enough voices of color. We must work to change the demography of the spaces where we ingrain in students how to apply the law. It can no longer be the case that those graduates who may go on to prosecute people of color have never heard their voices in the halls of academia. It can no longer be the case that only in the casebooks do we read the (one-sided) stories of communities of color. It can no longer be the case that our professors do not accurately represent the diversity of views and people that exist in our nation. We cannot rely on our legal system to provide real justice to people of color and other disenfranchised groups until real diversity is present at every level of the legal process.

We urge the law school community to join the forum on the grand jury decision tonight at 6:00 p.m. (now!) in Kushner Lounge, and the citywide protest in Union Square tonight at 7:00 p.m. CoLR remains open for further discussions, emotional sharing, and support. We hope you will join us as we do our part to activate change in our own law school.

—The CoLR Family

<http://www.law.nyu.edu/studentorganizations/coalitiononlawandrepresentation>