



# The Supreme Court of Texas

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Chambers of  
THE CHIEF JUSTICE

April 7, 2023

Hon. Ted Cruz  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC

*by email*

Dear Senator Cruz:

Thank you for your letter of March 16, 2023. I am, of course, very familiar with the disruption of Judge Kyle Duncan's invited presentation at Stanford Law School, as well as—I am sorry to have to say—similar occurrences at Yale Law School.

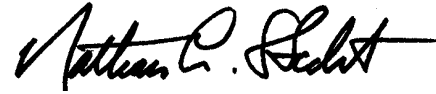
The Texas lawyer licensing process includes a thorough, detailed investigation by the Board of Law Examiners of an applicant's history, including the applicant's criminal, employment, and academic record. Its purpose is to determine whether there are any character concerns that "would likely result in injury to future clients, in the obstruction of the administration of justice, or in a violation of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct." Supreme Court of Texas, Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Texas, Rule 4(b).

The Board has historically relied on law schools to report disciplinary matters that should be considered in determining an applicant's character and fitness for admission to the Texas bar. School reactions to recent violations of free-speech policies suggest that reliance is not justified. The Board is planning to add questions to the bar application to inquire of applicants directly concerning incivility and violations of school policies.

Texas lawyers are expected to adhere to the Texas Lawyer's Creed, promising to "treat counsel, opposing parties, the Court, and members of the Court staff with courtesy and civility." The admission process should examine whether applicants can be expected fulfill this promise.

I appreciate your interest and concern.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan L. Hecht". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nathan L. Hecht  
Chief Justice

c: Mr. Augustin Rivera, Jr.  
Chair, Texas Board of Law Examiners  
Hon. Brett Busby  
Justice, Supreme Court of Texas