

[lawschool-2024] Update from Dean Martinez

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Dear SLS Community:

I write to share that Tirien Steinbach has decided that she will be leaving her role as Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Stanford Law School to pursue another opportunity.

Associate Dean Steinbach and I both hope that SLS can move forward as a community from the divisions caused by the March 9 event. The event presented significant challenges for the administration, the students, and the entire law school community. As I previously noted, tempers flared along multiple dimensions. Although Associate Dean Steinbach intended to de-escalate the tense situation when she spoke at the March 9 event, she recognizes that the impact of her statements was not as she hoped or intended. Both Dean Steinbach and Stanford recognize ways they could have done better in addressing the very challenging situation, including preparing for protests, ensuring university protocols are understood, and helping administrators navigate tensions when they arise. There are opportunities for growth and learning all around.

The Law School wishes to express appreciation for Associate Dean Steinbach's many contributions to the Law School during her time here. In the nearly two years she served in the role, she did valuable work enhancing the sense of community and belonging at the Law School and supporting students, staff, faculty and alums. Her office broadened outreach to include older students, veterans, religious groups, conservative groups, as well as students of color, LGBTQ+ students, low income and first-generation college and professional school students, and others. The Law School and I wish Dean Steinbach well in her future endeavors. We will be sharing information soon about future staffing plans.

Sincerely,

Jenny Martinez

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