



Outlook

A Message to the Penn State Dickinson Law and School of International Affairs Communities

From Conway, Danielle M [REDACTED]

Date Mon 1/26/2026 8:28 AM

To PSDL Students [REDACTED]; PSDL Staff [REDACTED]; PSDL Faculty [REDACTED]; PSDL Emeritus Faculty [REDACTED]; PSDL Adjunct Faculty [REDACTED]; SIA Students [REDACTED]; SIA Faculty & Admin Staff [REDACTED]

Dear Community Members,

Many of you know that I served in the U.S. Army for 27 years. I am very proud of that service and my status as a veteran. I served because I love this country, and I am a patriot. My time in service taught me to believe in the role of the U.S. Armed Forces as an arm of diplomacy and in its mission to defend the United State Constitution. Part of this mission is to protect the enumerated and unenumerated fundamental freedoms in the U.S. Constitution. That is why it is difficult for me to watch what is currently happening in Minnesota and around the nation. That is the reason I am writing to you today.

This weekend's blanket of snow with its clean, white veneer starkly contrasts with the conflagration enveloping the rule of law, specifically in Minnesota and Maine and generally across the nation in states and cities including Oregon, New York, Chicago, Charlotte, and Los Angeles. I will say it plainly: Renee Nicole Good and Alex Jeffrey Pretti were shot and killed by United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS), United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, not State police and not U.S. military. ICE agents, armed and masked, continue to descend on cities in the United States under the auspices of federally sanctioned deportation operations. These are killings that are disturbing to me as a U.S. citizen, as a veteran, and as a lawyer. These killings, at the very least, deserve transparent investigation.

The apparent interferences with the rule of law, due process, and civil liberties are likewise disturbing affronts to constitutional order. Peaceful protest and assembly are cornerstones of freedom of expression. Peaceful protest, assembly, and petitions to the government are acts that "We the People" must uplift. "We the People" should not let these rights be weaponized against members of an organized, civilized society.

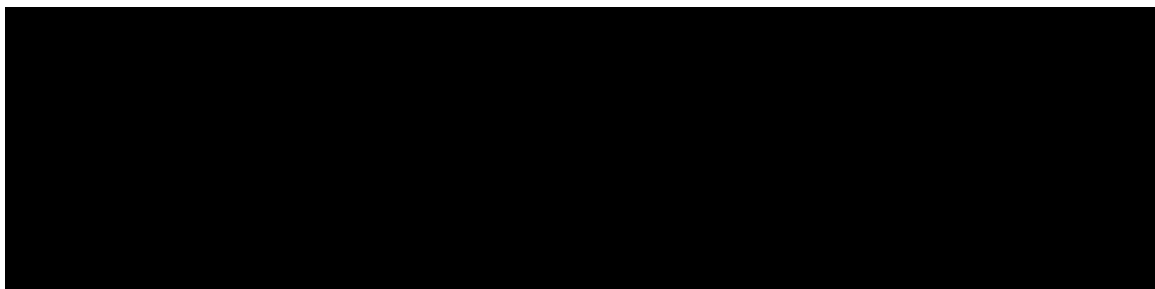
I have been thinking about each of you during this time. I can only imagine that each of you must be asking: what are my duties and responsibilities as a graduate student, law student, public servant, or future lawyer or diplomat at this moment? Yes, you have duties and responsibilities to know that the First Amendment protects, among other rights, the right to protest, assemble, and petition; that the Fourth Amendment prevents stops, searches, arrests without due process; and that the Fifth Amendment and Fourteenth Amendment guarantee equal treatment under law and due process. Moreover, the U.S. Constitution holistically balances power with accountability as agreed to by the governed, "We the People," in this representative democracy. But these provisions are performative if we wane in meeting our duties and responsibilities to defend the U.S. Constitution through words and action. Our power lies in activating critical pedagogy to teach and learn about the importance of our nation's constitutional order in real time and to voice the need for accountability and transparency to our representatives.

I reaffirm the above foundational values and principles within the U.S. Constitution to let you know: (1) I think, write, and act every day to bring meaning to the pledge of constitutional order in the United States, and I invite

you to join me in this daily endeavor; (2) I do what is in my power to protect and honor people who exhibit courage in exercising fundamental rights, not for themselves but for the people around them and those that follow in their footsteps; and (3) I stand in solidarity as one of "We the People" in pursuit of our shared democratic ideals of liberty, justice, equality, fairness, and human dignity and respect.

If you need to discuss what is occurring across the nation, if you want to be together with your colleagues at the Law School and SIA, if you want to access more information about these current events, the Law School stands ready to offer outlets for engagement. Please join a group of us on zoom on January 28, 2026 at 3:30 PM:

Topic: Law School and SIA Discussion



As well, the Law School will provide resources to assist you in processing these events, which include:

- [CAPS Resources for Sociopolitical Stress](#)
- [CAPS Resources for Racially Marginalized Students](#)
- [Penn State Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#). The CAPS Office in UP is open Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm. CAPS in UP is located at 501 Student Health Center, 542 Eisenhower Rd, University Park, PA 16802. Students can call 814-863-0395 to schedule an appointment.
- [Franco Psychological Associates, PC](#) (based in Carlisle). Call 717-243-1896 to schedule an appointment.
- Penn State Crisis Line (24/7 phone support): 1-877-229-6400

Crisis Text Line (24/7 text support): Text "LIONS" to 741741

Warmest,
Dean Conway

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