

Dear Dean Manning,

Currently, Harvard Law School has a ban on using HLS funds for speakers' fees or honoraria, a policy that we think should be ended. We learned about this unfair DOS practice as we organized the 2nd Annual Critical Race Theory Conference. With 24 HLS student organizations co-sponsoring our grant application, we won a generous DOS conference grant. But when we went to use that money to compensate three formerly-incarcerated panelists for their planning, speaking time, and valuable lessons, DOS told us "no."

We are asking DOS to end its ban on speakers' fees and honoraria, and allow student orgs to use their funding from DOS to platform more speakers from Black, Latinx, Indigenous, AAPI, immigrant, poor and working class, formerly-incarcerated, LGBTQ, and disability communities, community organizers, and other people who know what the law is from living under the boot of its application, rather than solely from the point of view of theory and doctrine and academia. In tandem, we call on student orgs to take advantage of this policy change to invite and pay more marginalized speakers.

"Isn't speaking at Harvard Law a reward enough in itself?" If you are already privileged and will benefit from putting it on your resume, maybe. But working class people can't pay the bills with a line on a resume. As a result, our options are limited to campus speakers that are privileged, tenured, from wealthy backgrounds, or can readily monetize their appearance at HLS (e.g. selling their books). We don't believe in exploiting regular people doing important work in their communities by inviting them and not compensating them for their time--and few would accept if we did. As we seek to build a more just world, we need the insight and inspiration from people whom the law was not designed to protect, and it is only fair to compensate those people for their valuable time, knowledge, and experiences.

"If we allow payment of honoraria, then student groups with more money will benefit to the exclusion of student groups with less money." This doesn't even make sense. DOS could devise any number of policies to make sure that student groups are able to bring speakers to campus. The DOS conference grant itself, which is designed to provide more funds to student orgs when they have sufficient co-sponsor support from across campus, is one way of democratizing funds. Additionally, disparities across student groups already exist, as organizations with national chapters, such as the National Lawyers Guild or the Federalist Society, host speakers paid directly through the national chapter, and other organizations receive funding from firms. If you dig around enough, you will find there are funds lying around at this institution to pay speakers. However, the extra hurdles and restrictions to access these funds create the very two-tiered system that DOS says it is trying to prevent.

DOS' "neutral" policy against honoraria claims to create equal opportunity across student organizations to invite speakers those organizations wish to hear from. Not only does the policy not address that problem, but it in fact restricts who organizations can invite and limits the opportunity to hear from invaluable voices. By not allowing DOS funding to be used to compensate speakers for their time, it all but excludes Black, Latinx, Indigenous, AAPI,

immigrant, poor and working class, formerly-incarcerated, LGBTQ, and disability communities, community organizers, and other folks it is necessary to learn from. We therefore call on HLS to remove its ban on speakers' fees and honoraria.

Sincerely,
the undersigned student orgs and Harvard affiliates
([sign here](#))

Org or Name & Affiliation

1. [The Bell Collective for Critical Race Theory](#)
2. [La Alianza](#)
3. [HLS Queer Trans People of Color](#)
4. [Middle Eastern Law Students Association](#)
5. [Asian Pacific American Law Students Association](#)
6. [HLS Lambda](#)
7. [First Class](#)
8. [HLS Alliance for Reproductive Justice](#)
9. [Harvard Defenders](#)
10. [HLS Immigration Project](#)
11. [Harvard BlackLetter Law Journal](#)
12. [Harvard National Lawyers Guild](#)
13. [Labor and Employment Action Project](#)
14. [Harvard Legal Aid Bureau](#)
15. [Advocates for Education](#)
16. [HLS FiLM Society](#)
17. [HLS Effective Altruism](#)

1. Lydia Ghuman, JD '23
2. David McKenna, JD '21
3. Abbie Starker, JD '22
4. Molly Prothero, JD '21
5. Zoe Ginsberg, JD '22
6. Courtney Dougherty, JD '22
7. Brent Mobbs, JD '23
8. Suzanna Bobadilla, JD '23
9. David Kilbridge, JD '23
10. Elizabeth Ross, JD '21
11. Ben Mansour, JD '23
12. Adam Phillips, JD '21
13. Daniel Polonsky JD '21
14. Sean McDonough, JD '23

15. Grace Weatherall, JD '21
16. Matt Shields, JD '21
17. Caya Simonsen, JD '21
18. Antonia Diener, JD '21
19. Lexi Gray, JD '23
20. Austin Nielsen-Reagan, JD '22
21. Jonathan Levitan, JD '22
22. Krupa K Patel, JD '22
23. Bernice Kwan, JD '22
24. Nicole Rubin, JD '22
25. Sebastian Spitz, JD '21
26. Nora McDonnell, JD '21
27. David Pina, JD '21
28. Ethan Lowens, JD '21
29. Alex Ropes, JD '23
30. Zachary Boulden, JD '22
31. Samantha Nagler, JD '23
32. Laura Garcia, JD '22
33. Tascha Shahriari-Parsa, JD '23
34. Jesse Schwab, JD '21
35. Shania Bunbury, JD '22
36. Anita Alem, JD '23
37. Joan Steffen, JD '22
38. Fjora Arapi, JD '23
39. Mackenzie Arnold, JD '21
40. Mackenzie Bouverat, JD '22
41. Patrick Cremin, JD '22
42. Elizabeth Butterworth, JD '22
43. Haley Kulakowski, JD '22
44. Isaiah Feldman-Schwartz, JD '22
45. Eric Lee, JD '22
46. Sarah Margulies, JD '21
47. Xavier du Maine, GSAS PhD Candidate

48. Ava Cilia, JD '22
49. Iman Mohamed, JD '21
50. Anna Vande Velde, JD '21
51. Jocelyn Hassel, JD '21
52. Carly Margolis, JD '22
53. Zarka Shabir, JD '22
54. Felipe Hernandez, JD '20
55. Yixian Sun, JD '22
56. Nicole Yapp, JD '23
57. Emilie Montgomery, JD '23
58. Priya Kamath, JD '22
59. Tayo Awoyinka, JD '22
60. Kiese Hansen, JD '23
61. Marty Strauss, JD '23
62. David Dapaah-Afriyie, JD '22
63. Liz Walsh, JD '23
64. Olivia Blom, JD '23
65. Cathy Zhang, JD '23
66. Nicole Laurencia Franklin, JD '22
67. Victoria Li, JD '23
68. Gabe Crofford, JD '23
69. Ryen Bani-Hashemi, JD '22
70. Emily Chazen, JD '22
71. Delaney King, JD '23
72. Alyssa Milstead, JD '23
73. Erica Taicz-Blandón, JD '21
74. Jack Lubin, JD '22
75. Ali Gentry, JD '23
76. Madeleine Cavanagh, JD '23
77. Emma Sherry, JD '23
78. Minnie Che, JD '21
79. Joy Sun, JD '21
80. Noopur Sen, JD '22
81. Julia Deng, JD '23
82. Nidhi Suresh, JD '23
83. David Walsh, JD '23
84. Delaney Herndon, JD '23
85. Dinis Cheian, JD '21
86. Emma Svoboda, JD '23
87. Isaac Green, JD '22
88. Victoria Kalumbi, JD '22
89. Sarah Blatt-Herold, JD '23
90. Vandana Apte, JD '23
91. Vincent Montoya-Armanios, JD '22
92. Christine Nelson, JD '21
93. Ytran Hoang, JD '22
94. Ayodele Aruleba, JD '23
95. Hillary Aarons, JD '23
96. Mattie Haag, JD '23
97. Hunter Mason, JD '23
98. Natassia Velez, JD '22
99. Travis Lavenski, JD '23
100. Robert Denniston, JD '23
101. Sibbo Wang, JD '23
102. Carina McMillin, JD '23
103. Patrick Byxbee, JD '23
104. Hannah Wallach, JD '23
105. Zachary Sorenson, JD '23
106. Ennely Medina, JD '23
107. Corey Stewart, JD '23
108. Erika Brigantti Abraham, JD '23
109. Annalise Wagner, JD '23
110. Hannah Finnie, JD '23
111. Carlos Martinez, JD '23
112. Avisha Sabaghian, social chair of
MELSA, JD '22
113. Caitlin Rooney, JD '22
114. Samantha Perri, JD '23
115. Amber Feng, JD '23
116. Judy Lin, JD '23
117. Grace Bennett, JD '22
118. Adam Aguirre, JD '22
119. Zachary Zahner, JD '23
120. Diana Haigney, J.D. '22
121. Ryan Gunderman, JD '23
122. Lindsey Wright, JD '22
123. Sam Gilman, JD '21
124. Jessica Sawadogo, JD '21
125. Tamara Chin Loy, JD '21
126. Liz Turner, JD '23
127. Jennie Carr, JD '23
128. Juan Espinoza Munoz, JD '21
129. Isa Badia Bellinger, JD '23
130. Olivia Murray, JD '23
131. Alexandra Cunningham, JD '23
132. Amanda Madigan, JD '23
133. Mina Ezikpe, JD '23
134. Apoorva Krishnan, JD '23

135. *Fredrica George, JD '23*
136. *Isabel Patkowski, JD '21*
137. *Amanda Epstein, JD '21*
138. *Chinyere Amanze, JD '22*
139. *Kearney Coghlan, JD '22*
140. *Shilpa Sadhasivam, JD '23*
141. *Amber Aspinall, JD '22*
142. *Christina Breitbeil, JD '23*
143. *Mia Gettenberg, JD '21*
144. *Katharine Bohrs, JD '21*
145. *Samantha Wintner, JD '22*
146. *Zoe Russell, JD '22*
147. *Olivia Castor, JD '22*
148. *Katie Super, JD '23*
149. *Liz Carbone, JD '22*
150. *Hannah Lee Hubbard, JD '22*
151. *Marcus Miller, JD '22*
152. *Annie Whitney, JD '23*
153. *Sherin Nassar, JD '22*
154. *Stephanie Powers, JD '22*
155. *Sarah Armstrong, JD '23*
156. *Dennis Ojogho, JD '21*
157. *James Ramsey, JD '21*
158. *Rowan Hong, JD '23*
159. *Isaac Sommers, JD '21*
160. *Amelia Ricketts, JD '22*
161. *Shaza Loutfi, JD '22*
162. *Drake Reed, JD '22*
163. *Lenny Giarrano, JD '23*
164. *Madeleine Matsui, JD '23*
165. *Stephany Bai, JD '21*