

March 12, 2021

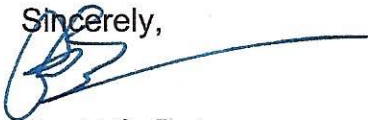
Mr. William Treanor
Dean and Executive Vice President
Georgetown University Law Center

I am deeply saddened by the disturbing situation caused by the recorded Zoom conversation between Ms. Sellers and myself in which insensitive remarks were made regarding the performance of Black students at the Georgetown University Law Center. The sentiments and opinions expressed during the conversation are not mine, and do not characterize my experience with Georgetown students. During my eight years at Georgetown, I have always evaluated my students as individuals, based on their merit and performance, without regard to race, ethnicity, gender or other factors.

When suddenly and unexpectedly faced with such remarks, it is challenging to know how to appropriately respond. In the moment, my heartfelt response was to point the discussion toward what I believe is our personal responsibility—to be aware of and respond to potential unconscious bias in all our undertakings. I understand, however, that I missed the chance to respond in a more direct manner to address the inappropriate content of those remarks. For this I sincerely apologize. This experience has provided me, and I hope others, an invaluable opportunity to reconsider what actions should be taken when we encounter insensitive remarks.

I respect the integrity of the Georgetown Law Center, the professionalism of its faculty, and most importantly, its diverse and passionate student body. In order to facilitate the exploration of issues raised by this incident, encourage improvements to the policies and practices of Georgetown Law, and promote healing and meaningful dialog, I believe that it is in the best interest of my students and myself to immediately resign my position as an adjunct professor. I am hopeful that the entire community can learn and grow stronger, moving forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David C. Batson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David C. Batson

Cc: Paul Ohm, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Olabisi Ladeji Okubadejo, Associate Vice President for Equal Opportunity,
Affirmative Action, and Compliance, Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity,
and Affirmative Action