



UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

1331 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE , NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20425

www.usccr.gov

President Martha Pollack
Office of the President
300 Day Hall
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853

Dean Eduardo Peñalaer
Cornell Law School
263 Myron Taylor Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853

June 11, 2020

Dear President Pollack and Dean Peñalaer:

I write as one member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and not on behalf of the Commission as a whole, in regard to the treatment of Professor William Jacobson. I read on Professor Jacobson's Legal Insurrection website about an alarming effort by Cornell students and faculty to have him disciplined or fired because of comments he made about the Black Lives Matter movement. I ask that you keep me apprised of developments in this important matter, which I will be monitoring very closely.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Kirsanow".

Peter Kirsanow
Commissioner

cc: Kenneth L. Marcus, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education
Eric S. Dreiband, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice
Gail L. Heriot, Commissioner, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
Stephen Gilchrist, Commissioner, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights