

William M. Treanor  
Georgetown University Law Center  
McDonough Hall 508  
600 New Jersey Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20001

January 28, 2022

Dear Dean Treanor:

My name is Peter Kirsanow. I am an attorney, a former member of the National Labor Relations Board, and a longtime member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. I am also black, a fact that I would not otherwise note, but this is a rare instance in which it is pertinent to the issue at hand. I write as one member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and not on behalf of the Commission as a whole.

I am writing in strong support of Ilya Shapiro. I have known Ilya for a number of years and contributed to an issue of the *Cato Supreme Court Review* which he edited.

The opprobrium that is being heaped on Ilya is unwarranted. The worst he can be accused of is, perhaps, inartfully phrasing a tweet. His broader point is one with which I and most Americans agree – individuals should not be excluded from consideration for the upcoming Supreme Court vacancy (or any position) because of their race or sex. To do so is wrong and discriminatory. It is also unfair to the eventual nominee, as to exclude others from consideration suggests that the eventual nominee is not *necessarily* the best-qualified person out of all possible candidates, but only the best-qualified black woman.

Some may disagree with me and with Ilya. But when given the opportunity, millions of Americans have repeatedly voted to prohibit consideration of race in university admissions and government contracting. This is a mainstream opinion, and one that deserves to be heard at a law school, which is supposed to be a place of free expression and intellectual inquiry.

In short, I strongly urge you to support Ilya. He brings an exceptional intellect, a cheerful and open disposition, and a free mind to your law school. Georgetown, and its students, will be far richer by having him on the faculty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Kirsanow', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Kirsanow  
Commissioner