



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Thurgood Marshall School of Law  
Alumni Association

July 23, 2020

*Via Electronic Mail:*

[boardofdirectors@texasbar.com](mailto:boardofdirectors@texasbar.com)

cc: [amy.starnes@texasbar.com](mailto:amy.starnes@texasbar.com)

State Bar of Texas  
Attn: Board of Directors  
Texas Law Center  
1414 Colorado Street  
Austin, TX 78701

**Re:** President Larry McDougal's "Black Lives Matter" comments and other offensive social media posts.

Dear Directors of the State Bar of Texas:

On behalf of the Board of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Alumni Association and over 6,000 alumni, I write this letter calling for the resignation of State Bar of Texas President Larry McDougal for his recent and past reprehensible statements on social media referencing the "Black Lives Matter" moniker. Indeed, "Black Lives Matter" is neither a political reference nor a terrorist organization. "Black Lives Matter" represents a call to action and advocacy against racism and police brutality.

President McDougal's comments and conduct is unbecoming of the office he was elected to hold and is not aligned with the Bar's mission. Indeed, our mission is "...to support the administration of the legal system, assure all citizens equal access to justice, foster high standards of ethical conduct for lawyers, enable its members to better serve their clients and the public, educate the public about the rule of law, and promote diversity in the administration of justice and the practice of law." Members of the Bar and of our communities across Texas have lost confidence in his ability to serve as leader of one of the largest state bar associations in the nation. Certainly, it would be incongruent for the Bar to promote equality, inclusion, and diversity while at same time fail to hold our leaders accountable for actions that contradict our own mission and efforts as it relates to promoting inclusion.

As alumni representatives of one of the most diverse law schools in the country with minorities making up 80 percent of our enrollment and the #1 law school in Texas for producing African-American attorneys, we are deeply concerned by President McDougal's comments and would be even more concerned if the Directors of the State Bar of Texas failed to take decisive and severe steps to condemn his actions. We also support the "Call to Action" as set forth by the African American and other minority bar associations and Bar sections including, but not limited to the Houston Lawyers Association, Asian Pacific Section, African American Lawyers Section, Hispanic Issues Section, and LGBT Law Section in their press release dated July 20, 2020.

Accordingly, in the interest of the Bar, its members, and the great State of Texas in which it serves, we are requesting that the Board of Directors take immediate action against President McDougal to reassure the community that the Bar has zero tolerance for such divisive statements and that inclusiveness and adhering to our mission remains a priority.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thurgood Marshall School of Law Alumni Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert N. Collier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and "C".

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Robert N. Collier  
President