



Northeastern University Law Review
416 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02115
www.nulawreview.org

October 15, 2021

The *Northeastern University Law Review* supports the call to action demanding **substantive** and **visible** changes to the Legal Skills in Social Context program and the overall educational experience of students who are Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) at the Northeastern University School of Law (NUSL). For more than five years, the NUSL Administration (Administration) has failed our BIPOC students. There have been multiple calls to action, reports provided to the Administration detailing the horrendous experience of BIPOC students, and requests for assistance from both individuals and organizations to improve that experience. Students have repeatedly presented their concerns, but the Administration has consistently failed to adequately respond to and address these legitimate grievances. Instead, the Administration engages in performative attempts of appeasement that comprise of surface level responses that do not address or remedy any of the issues continuously brought to their attention.

Students are tired of task forces, focus groups, and the overall measures of pacification that the Administration unremittingly engages in. These administrative choices are merely stalling tactics to escape implementing prompt systemic change and critically addressing the trauma that BIPOC students face at this institution. The structural and institutional racism that BIPOC students face has been long chronicled in the 2016 BLSA Proposal, the 2020 Report on the State of BIPOC at Northeastern University School of Law (also known as the CAIR report), and the decades of student activism that predate these documents. Both reports were authored and distributed by BIPOC students whose uncompensated labor continues this work today while bearing the emotional burden.

BIPOC *students* should not have to dually, and involuntarily, serve in the role of both student and educator. They should **not** have their trauma cherry picked and exploited as the “lived experience of the day” for the sake of the white educational experience. As NUSL’s only student-led publication on legal scholarship, we call on the Administration to do the following:

1. Recognize the harms that the institution imposes on BIPOC students;
2. Publicly acknowledge the issues stated in the October 15th Open Call to Action; and
3. Formally adopt and implement the remedies stated in the Open Call to Action.

As a scholarly publication embedded within this institution, we recognize that the *Law Review* has also contributed to the structural inequities faced by BIPOC students as a result of our past policies and failures to respond to the concerns raised by BIPOC students. As such, while we call on the institution to make the outlined changes, at the same time, we are also actively calling on all our editors to ensure that we continue to take meaningful steps to provide a safe, conducive, and equitable environment. We value and strive to amplify BIPOC experiences and voices, and earnestly offer our various publications as platforms to accomplish that goal. The legal educational experience must be equitable and accessible to all, and not the historically inclined few.

In Solidarity,

Northeastern University Law Review