



Sturm College of Law
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

March 8, 2023

Sabrina Conza
Program Officer
Campus Rights Advocacy
Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression
510 Walnut Street
Suite 1250
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Dear Ms. Conza:

Thank you for your letter expressing concerns about the University of Denver's handling of a recently concluded speaker event hosted by the student chapter of the Federalist Society at the Sturm College of Law, which occurred yesterday from 11:45 am – 1:00 pm in a classroom at the Ricketson Law Building.

Consistent with the University's commitment to free expression, the speaker spoke for 75 minutes without interruption or disruption, fielding questions from both supporters and skeptics. Counter-speech was supported by the University and the law school in multiple venues: in a second classroom event in the Ricketson Law Building sponsored by faculty members; in the forum of the law building; on the main campus green; and in the hallways of the law school at a table sponsored by the National Lawyers Guild – with no protesters “corralled” or “forced” anywhere or at any time. Throughout, the safety of our community was expertly and professionally attended to by a team drawn from the University's Office of Student Affairs, the University's Department of Campus Safety, and the Sturm College of Law.

In sum, by applying its robust principles and policies governing freedom of expression, the University of Denver successfully advanced every objective that you have sought: facilitating the speaker's expression; providing ample opportunities for counter-speech to occur; and protecting the safety of our community.

Sincerely,

Bruce P. Smith
Dean and Professor of Law