

March 11, 2008

The Honorable Michael Mukasey  
Attorney General of the United States  
Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Boston College Law School Commencement Address

Dear Attorney General Mukasey,

We the under-signed faculty of Boston College Law School respectfully request that you reconsider your decision to deliver the graduating class's Commencement address in May of this year.

We realize that you face complex professional difficulties in your position as Attorney General. We are very concerned, however, that your role in the current controversy regarding the legality of waterboarding has made you a symbol of Administration policies that conflict with basic principles of international and domestic law, the ideals of Boston College Law School, and the Jesuit principles that underlie Boston College's educational mission.

We are committed to having our law school serve as a forum for a robust exchange of ideas and would welcome you as a speaker in circumstances other than the Commencement. We would particularly appreciate the opportunity to discuss your views on the appropriate role of the Justice Department in relation to the practice of waterboarding and other extreme interrogation methods.

We believe, however, that your role as the Commencement speaker will suggest to our student body and to the profession that our school's actions are not consistent with its expressed professional and educational ideals. We note that neither the faculty nor students were consulted in making the choice of a commencement speaker.

Respectfully,

Alexis Anderson  
Associate Clinical Professor of Law

Hugh J. Ault  
Professor of Law

Daniel Barnett  
Associate Professor of Legal Reasoning, Research & Writing

Charles H. Baron  
Professor of Law

Linda M. Beale  
Visiting Professor of Law

Mary S. Bilder  
Professor of Law

Robert M. Bloom  
Professor of Law

Mark S. Brodin  
Professor of Law

Daniel R. Coquillette  
J. Donald Monan, S.J., University Professor  
Lester Kissel Visiting Professor, Harvard Law School

H. Kent Greenfield  
Professor of Law

Frank R. Herrmann, S.J.  
Associate Professor of Law

Ruth-Arlene W. Howe  
Professor of Law

Gregory A. Kalscheur, S.J.  
Associate Professor of Law

Daniel Kanstroom  
Clinical Professor of Law  
Director of Human Rights Programs

Sanford N. Katz  
Libby Professor of Law

Alan D. Minuskin  
Associate Clinical Professor of Law

Zygmunt Plater  
Professor of Law

James R. Repetti  
Professor of Law

Diane M. Ring  
Professor of Law

James S. Rogers  
Professor of Law

Mark Spiegel  
Professor of Law

Paul Tremblay  
Clinical Professor of Law

CC:  
John Garvey, Dean, Boston College Law School  
William Leahy, S.J., President, Boston College