

ALUMNI LETTER

IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY JUSTICE AND CIVIL RIGHTS CLINIC & PROFESSOR SHEILA A. BEDI AT THE NORTHWESTERN PRITZKER SCHOOL OF LAW

April 9, 2025

Mr. Michael Schill
President
Northwestern University
633 Clark Street
Evanston, IL 60208

Mr. Peter J. Barris
Chair, Board of Trustees
Northwestern University
633 Clark Street
Evanston, IL 60208

Dear Mr. Schill and Mr. Barris:

On March 27, the House Committee on Education and the Workforce (“Committee”) [sent you a letter](#)¹ targeting our Community Justice and Civil Rights Clinic (“the Clinic”) and its esteemed director, Professor Sheila A. Bedi. We write to remind you that you can choose to deny its unprecedented and unreasonable demands. You can choose to protect and defend the Clinic and Professor Bedi. We, alumni of Northwestern Law with backing from other Northwestern alumni, insist that you do so.

Professor Bedi is a champion of Constitutional rights and freedoms. Her tiring and often-thankless work through the Clinic has long protected the people of Chicago and everyday Americans from federal and state overreach. Many of us have proudly worked with Professor Bedi. She taught us how to—and *why we must*—oppose government overreach: not only because it is right, but because it is profoundly American. We know what it means to fight for liberty and justice. Professor Bedi shows us. She is a leader in the long march to freedom which is the American project. Therefore, it is not surprising that she and the Clinic have come under federal attack.

The Committee finds it “troubling” that clinical students work with “collectives and community organizers” on “creating a more just Chicago.” We do not. What we find troubling is that the federal government would target legal scholars who have dedicated their careers to upholding Constitutional liberties. The First Amendment does not narrow its protections to those who parrot popular opinions, and the very existence of the Sixth Amendment demonstrates that the Constitution protects even those accused of running afoul of the law. All people are entitled to legal representation. Many of us have taken oaths to defend the Constitution, and we must oppose these undemocratic attacks on the First Amendment rights of Northwestern faculty and students who protect the Constitutional rights and liberties of others.

The Committee’s attempts to vilify her are inconsistent with American values, principles, and traditions. The Committee’s letter is unAmerican. Any capitulation by you, Mr. Schill and Mr. Barris, to current and future demands of this administration to punish the Clinic or Professor Bedi would be similarly unAmerican. We will not support a school that fails to defend its faculty members and students against government persecution. We will actively oppose such a school.

The people of Chicago need the Clinic and Professor Bedi even more during times like these, and we need you to stand beside them with loyalty and integrity. Our ask is simple: protect and defend your faculty, staff, and students, as is your job. And when these temporary political pressures subside, when that march to freedom shifts the tide yet again towards affirming justice and decency, our hope is that Northwestern University may find itself proudly on the right side of history.

¹ Committee on Education and Workforce, “ltr_to_northwestern_3.27.25,” HOUSE.GOV, https://edworkforce.house.gov/uploadedfiles/ltr_to_northwestern_3.27.25.pdf.

Support, defend, and protect the Clinic and Professor Bedi. Do not follow in the footsteps of your colleagues at Harvard and Columbia who betrayed their communities and blemished their university's historical record. Do not fold without a fight. Do not abandon the people whose city supplies you or the faculty whose work furnishes you. Do not abandon the Clinic or Professor Bedi. We would find such a betrayal unforgivable.

Sincerely,

A [Growing Group of Over 220 Named and Unnamed Northwestern Alumni](#)² including:

Class of pre-2000s:

- John F Jennings - J.D. Class of 1967
- G. Flint Taylor - J.D. Class of 1972 & Distinguished Alumni Award 2020
- Roland Goss - J.D. Class of 1978
- Cathryn Crawford - J.D. Class of 1996 and former NULS clinic faculty member

Class of 2000s:

- Amy Halbrook - J.D. Class of 2005
- Erin Millender - J.D. Class of 2005
- Lizzie Rosenthal - J.D. Class of 2005
- Emily Newhouse Dillingham - J.D. Class of 2006
- Elisa Westapher - J.D. Class of 2007
- David Greenfield - J.D. Class of 2008
- Rachel Steinback - J.D. Class of 2008
- Amy Weiss - B.S.J. Class of 2009
- Lindsay Hagy - J.D. Class of 2009
- Roxanne Mintz - J.D. Class of 2009
- Steve Art - J.D. Class of 2009

Class of 2010s:

- Claire Winnard - J.D. Class of 2010
- Elizabeth Lukehart (McCarthy) - J.D. Class of 2010
- Heather Renwick - J.D. Class of 2010
- Lee Hasselbacher - J.D. Class of 2010
- M. Emery Goss - B.A. Class of 2010
- Andrea Lewis Hartung - J.D. Class of 2011
- Nathalie Rayter - B.S. Class of 2011
- Rosalie Sangenitto - School of Communication Class of 2011
- Ed Paget - Class of 2012
- Hillary Bachelder - Class of 2012
- Irene Romulo - Class of 2012
- Sarah Grady - J.D. Class of 2012
- Ursula Ellis - R.T.V.F. Class of 2012
- Zachary Warren - B.S. Class of 2012

² Alumni Letter in Support of Community Justice and Sheila A. Bedi,
<https://cryptpad.fr/doc/#/2/doc/view/fPIEuZFHH5IaCgi4HJxsOQ5QVPvVO0Hd6OsumU10+o/>.

- Clare Diegel – J.D./L.L.M.-I.H.R. Class of 2013
- Dan Sloan – W.C.A.S. Class of 2013
- Katie Garvey - J.D. Class of 2013
- Lauren Carbajal – W.C.A.S. Class of 2013
- Michael Reddick - B.S. McCormick Class of 2013
- Tom Kayes - J.D. Class of 2013
- Abigail Parr - J.D. Class of 2014
- Allison M. Freedman - J.D. Class of 2014
- Andy McNulty – J.D. Class of 2014, Civil Rights Clinic Alumni
- Caitlin Martini Mika - J.D. Class of 2014
- Hallie Ritzu - J.D. Class of 2014
- Jerry McIntyre - J.D. Class of 2014
- John Mack - J.D. Class of 2014
- Keith M. Liguori - J.D. Class of 2014
- Kevin Jakopchek — J.D. Class of 2014
- Jamie Darch (Liebert) - J.D. Class of 2014
- Lauren Myerscough-Mueller - J.D. Class of 2014
- Mario Cacciola – J.D. Class of 2014
- Tara (Burns) Price - J.D. Class of 2014
- Tyler Myers - J.D. Class of 2014
- Abimbola Oladokun - J.D. Class of 2015
- Cristina Law Merriman - J.D. Class of 2015
- Christine Bass - J.D. Class of 2015
- Kate Swisher – J.D. Class of 2015
- Marie Salter Emrie - J.D. Class of 2015
- Reena Sikdar - J.D. Class of 2015
- Justin W. Clune - J.D./LL.M. Class of 2016
- Kelly Mennemeier - J.D. Class of 2016
- Anthony Salzetta - B.A. Class of 2017, J.D. Class of 2022
- Arnav Dutt - J.D. Class of 2017
- Christopher White - J.D. Class of 2017
- Jared Calvert - J.D. Class of 2017
- Martha Clarke - J.D. Class of 2017
- Stephanie Ciupka - J.D. Class of 2017
- Brooke Troutman - J.D. Class of 2018
- Charlie Hogle - J.D. Class of 2018
- Lydette Assefa - J.D. Class of 2018
- Marsheda Ewulomi - J.D. Class of 2018
- Andrew Page - J.D. Class of 2019
- Emily Kath Schlidt - J.D. Class of 2019
- Emily Roznowski - J.D. Class of 2019
- Emelia Carroll - J.D. Class of 2019
- Germaine Habell - J.D. Class of 2019
- Madisen Hursey - B.A. Class of 2019, J.D. Class of 2024

Class of 2020s:

- Annie Prossnitz - J.D. Class of 2020

- Charles J. Isaacs - J.D. Class of 2020
- Daniel McCord - J.D. Class of 2020
- Danielle Berkowsky - J.D. Class of 2020
- Kristin Hendriksen - J.D. Class of 2020
- Nora Snyder - J.D. Class of 2020
- Tina Jensen - J.D. Class of 2020
- Aimee Quenneville - J.D. Class of 2021
- Amelia Piazza – J.D. Class of 2021
- Andrea Dantus - J.D. Class of 2021
- Arielle Tolman - J.D. Class of 2021
- Emily Grant – J.D. Class of 2021
- Jacob Ferruzzi - J.D. Class of 2021
- Keith Armstrong - J.D./LL.M. – I.H.R. Class of 2021
- Leksa V. Pravdic - J.D. Class of 2021
- Lenore Rose Hipsher – J.D. Class of 2021
- Luke Sandor (Fernbach) - J.D. Class of 2021
- Meredith Bennett – J.D. Class of 2021
- Nellie Mitchell - J.D. Class of 2021
- Terah Tollner - J.D. Class of 2021
- Yasmine Ramachandra – M.S.L. Class of 2021
- Alexandria Ray - J.D. Class of 2022
- Alexis Jones - J.D. Class of 2022
- Anna Busch - J.D. Class of 2022
- Anouk Edelstein - JD Class of 2022
- Brigid Carmichael - J.D. Class of 2022
- Chris McLean - J.D. Class of 2022
- Eliza Quander - J.D. Class of 2022
- Elizabeth Ames - J.D. Class of 2022
- Gloria C. Cangé - J.D. Class of 2022
- Henry Zhu - J.D. Class of 2022
- Jessica Fong – J.D. Class of 2022
- Jill Doherty - J.D. Class of 2022
- Julia Zasso - J.D. Class of 2022
- Kara Kurland - J.D. Class of 2022
- Kristi Richardson – J.D. Class of 2022
- Lorelee Kampschnieder - J.D. Class of 2022
- Matthew Shepard – J.D. Class of 2022
- Mariah Levy - J.D. Class of 2022
- Megan Grenville - J.D. Class of 2022
- Nick Guenther - J.D. Class of 2022
- Rodrigo Anzures - J.D. Class of 2022
- Sofia Orelo - J.D. Class of 2022
- Syeda Ayesha – L.L.M. Class of 2022
- Taylor Hoffman - J.D. Class of 2022
- Taylor Marcusson - J.D. Class of 2022
- Wafa Junaid - J.D. Class of 2022
- Allie Lee - J.D. Class of 2023
- Andrew D. Segal – J.D. Class of 2023

- Andrew Schutts - J.D. Class of 2023
- Benjamin J. Segal - M.S. Class of 2023
- Caleb Linton - J.D. Class of 2023
- Catherine Demaret - J.D. Class of 2023
- Chad Cracraft - J.D. Class of 2023
- Dana DeVlieger - J.D. Class of 2023
- Katharine Boraz - J.D. Class of 2023
- Lauren Stapleton - J.D. Class of 2023
- Leslie Cortez - 2023 Fellow of the Boyd Barnett Fellowship
- Nicole Eatmon - J.D. Class of 2023
- Sarah Chanski - J.D. Class of 2023
- Varun Bhatnagar - J.D. Class of 2023
- Zakiyah Dillard - J.D. Class of 2023
- Abigail Kuchnir - J.D. Class of 2024
- Addison Eisley - J.D. Class of 2024
- Alea Chatman - J.D. Class of 2024
- Anjanique Barber - J.D. Class of 2024
- Isabella Spinelli - J.D. Class of 2024
- Jesse Rubini - J.D. Class of 2024
- Maggie Franz - J.D. Class of 2024
- Mattison Johnston - J.D. Class of 2024
- Melissa West - J.D. Class of 2024
- Sam Richter - J.D. Class of 2024
- Sammy Silberberg - J.D. Class of 2024
- Tara Sohns - J.D. Class of 2024
- Yasmeen Elagha - J.D. Class of 2024
- Yehna Bendul - J.D. Class of 2024
- Yeju Hwang - J.D. Class of 2024