

May 29, 2019

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## **Statement from The University of Alabama System**

As part of an ongoing dispute, last week Hugh Culverhouse, Jr. asked for the return of \$10 million, repeating numerous demands about the operations of the University of Alabama School of Law.

Consequently, yesterday Chancellor Finis St. John recommended to the Board of Trustees that it return **all** of Mr. Culverhouse's \$21.5 million donation to the Law School, which will be acted on at the Board's meeting next week.

None of the issues between the Law School and Mr. Culverhouse had anything to do with the passage of legislation in which the University had no role.

**Donors may not dictate University administration.**

## Memorandum

**To:** Board of Trustees  
**From:** FES and Sid Trant  
**Date:** May 28, 2019  
**Re:** Hugh F. Culverhouse School of Law

### **Attorney Client Privileged Highly Confidential**

You recall that Hugh F. Culverhouse Jr. last year made a pledge of \$25 million for which we named the law school in September, 2018 “The Hugh F. Culverhouse Jr. School of Law.” Mr. Culverhouse had previously given \$1.5 million to the law school for an endowed professorship. To date, he has given a total of \$21.5 million to the law school (in installments of \$1.5 million, \$10 million, & \$10 million) none of which has been spent, leaving \$5 million yet to be paid to complete the pledge.

In the last few months, Mr. Culverhouse has complained about the law school’s administration of these gifts. These complaints have intensified recently to the point that Mr. Culverhouse has requested the return of the most-recently paid \$10 million. After numerous conversations and communications involving President Bell and Dean Brandon, it is apparent that University and law school leadership will not be able to meet the donor’s expectations and do not share the same vision for the future. It is my recommendation that we comply with the request to return the recent gift, as well as the prior gifts, and restore the name “The University of Alabama School of Law.” Returning the gifts and renaming the law school are Board decisions and can only happen by Board action.

Obviously, this is a sensitive topic. Please give it your consideration and call Sid for a privileged discussion if you would like more information or have questions.