

June 7, 2019

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**Statement by Kellee Reinhart, Vice Chancellor for Communication**

The action taken by the Board today was a direct result of Mr. Culverhouse's ongoing attempts to interfere in the operations of the Law School. That was the only reason the Board voted to remove his name and return his money. Any attempt by Mr. Culverhouse to tie this action to any other issue is misleading and untrue.

Below is Chancellor St. John's full statement made earlier today to the Board of Trustees prior to its vote.

**Statement by Chancellor Finis E. St. John**

As you are aware, the School of Law here at the University of Alabama has had an incredible record of success in recent years and is now considered among the finest public and private law schools in the country. Dean Mark Brandon has shown strong and steady leadership and wise guidance of this important asset of our State.

As you also know, the law school received a significant pledge last year. Since that time, it has become clear that the donor's expectations for the use and application of that gift have been inconsistent with the essential values of academic integrity and independent administration of the Law School and the University. Despite the diligent efforts and good faith of our Dean and President, there is no path forward consistent with those values. While we are grateful to all of our donors and supporters, and very grateful to this donor and his family, donors do not dictate our administration of the University.

For these reasons, and these reasons alone, it is my recommendation that we return this donor's gift in its entirety, plus earnings, and restore the name of the law school as "The University of Alabama School of Law."

One last point: we will learn from this – and always remember that we cannot and will not compromise the values of academic integrity and independent administration at any price. That concludes my comments.

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