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Press Contact:

Bridgette Stumpf
Co-Founder & Executive Director
Network for Victim Recovery of DC
Email: press@nvrdc.org
Phone: 202.742.1727



NVRDC SUPPORTS ITS CLIENT IN FILING CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT AGAINST THE UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, DAVID A. CLARKE SCHOOL OF LAW

WASHINGTON, DC—February 1, 2023— Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC) filed [a civil rights complaint](#) with the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights Discrimination (“OCR”) on January 9, 2023, on behalf of its client, Mx. Loreal Hawk. This complaint was filed against the University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law (“UDC”) for its violations under Title IX and the Clery Act.

Mx. Loreal Hawk (they/them) is a current student at UDC and a survivor of cyberstalking and dating violence. Since 2020, Mx. Hawk has reported these incidents of abuse multiple times to UDC hoping to obtain supportive measures and accommodations on campus to stay safe and complete their legal education. Before the attainment of counsel at NVRDC, these reports failed to trigger any communication with the Title IX Office, as required by UDC’s own Title IX policy.

In May 2022, UDC published Mx. Hawk’s status as a survivor of domestic violence on social media compromising Mx. Hawk’s safety and using Mx. Hawk as a vehicle for fundraising for the university without Mx. Hawk’s permission. Even after this incident and the involvement of NVRDC counsel in the fall of 2022, UDC’s Title IX Office refused to meet with Mx. Hawk for nearly three months to discuss their safety concerns. UDC’s Title IX Office maintains that they are not obligated to assist Mx. Hawk other than by supporting them in filing for a police report. Throughout their entire experience at UDC Mx. Hawk, who is nonbinary and uses they/them pronouns, has been misgendered, including by the General Counsel and Title IX Coordinator.

Mx. Hawk’s Counsel at NVRDC, Megan Challender, said the following, “UDC promotes its focus on public interest practice, social justice, and its mission is to support underrepresented members of the bar. Yet UDC has failed to live its values and support its students. The utter disregard shown to Mx. Hawk is deeply disappointing and a violation of Mx. Hawk’s rights as a survivor of dating violence and stalking.”

The complaint to OCR makes several requests, including the immediate intervention in UDC’s inadequate and deliberately indifferent response to Mx. Hawk’s reports of sexual harassment and stalking, an update to UDC’s inadequate procedures for addressing gender-based harassment and also requests that OCR require UDC’s employees to participate in additional training in gender-based harassment, relationship violence, and working with gender non-conforming students.

About NVRDC

Network for Victim Recovery of DC empowers victims of all crimes to achieve survivor-defined justice through a collaborative continuum of advocacy, case management, and legal services. To learn more about NVRDC, please visit www.nvrdc.org