



University of Colorado at Boulder

Department of Ethnic Studies
Center for Studies of Ethnicity and Race in America
Afroamerican • American Indian • Asian American • Chicano/a • Comparative

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April 25, 2009

Chief Judge Larry Naves
Denver District Court
1437 Bannock St.
Denver, CO 80202

cc: David Lane, Esq.

Re: *Churchill v. University of Colorado*

Dear Judge Naves:

As members of the Department of Ethnic Studies, University of Colorado, Boulder, we the undersigned tenured professors urge you to reinstate our colleague, Professor Ward Churchill. During the trial, the University attempted to discredit our colleague's scholarship and now discredits the jury's findings. We were both pleased and relieved that on April 2nd, the jury found that Ward Churchill did not commit research misconduct or fraud. Moreover, the jury understood the political implications of Churchill's firing. His academic freedom was on trial.

We would also like to address the manner in which Professor Churchill has been a valuable colleague in our department. Professor Churchill has been a member of our department committees and as a senior scholar he brings expertise and knowledge to help our department function smoothly and efficiently. He has spearheaded a number of important curriculum improvements, making sure that the department met its commitments to comparative studies of different ethnicities in the U.S.; he has supported the hiring and promotion of faculty across these different area studies of race; and he has helped to give the department recognition on-campus with his numerous awards as well as nationally with his prolific scholarship.

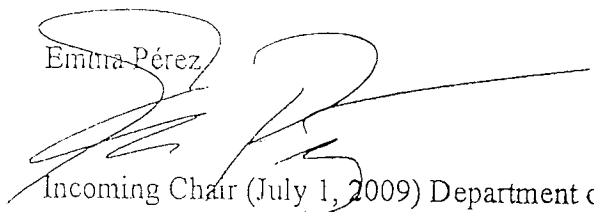
We look forward to his contributions once again. In the next couple of years, we will be launching a Ph.D. program that would benefit immensely from his expertise in American Indian Studies as well as his experience in working with the bureaucratic channels at the university. Indeed, the department has suffered in the last two years without his presence. Students, past and present, continue to search for him particularly because he is an

excellent teacher and mentor. His expertise on American Indian Studies is unrivaled. Students from around the nation come to CU Boulder to work under his tutelage. His classes are almost always filled to capacity with waiting lists and he remains popular, not only among Ethnic Studies majors but across a broad range of students at the University.

Finally, we want to stress that Professor Churchill has never created unrest or unsafe circumstances on campus or in our department. Instead, he has brought a special wit and sense of humor that assists his colleagues as we meet the challenges of being a small department at a large institution. Without Ethnic Studies, students at CU would not learn much at all about race, racism and ethnocentrism. For those reasons, we embody a truly vital dimension of their learning. We urge you to help us by reinstating a valued colleague: Professor Ward Churchill.

Signed:

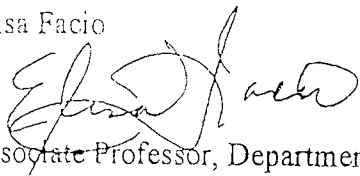
Emilia Pérez



Incoming Chair (July 1, 2009) Department of Ethnic Studies

CU Boulder

Elisa Facio



Associate Professor, Department of Ethnic Studies

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Arturo Aldama



Associate Professor, Department of Ethnic Studies

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