



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
**LESLIE RUTLEDGE**

September 16, 2025

Dean Colin Crawford  
Bowen School of Law  
1202 McMath Avenue  
Little Rock, AR, 72202

**Re: Demand for Investigation of Professor Felicia Branch**

Dean Crawford,

I am writing to express my deep concern over the public statements made by Assistant Professor of Clinical Education Felicia Branch regarding the assassination of Charlie Kirk. On her Facebook account, Professor Branch characterized his death as something to “celebrate,” invoked Scripture to justify retribution, compared everyone who has mourned Mr. Kirk’s assassination to members of the Ku Klux Klan burning a cross, and claimed that Mr. Kirk’s assassination has made the world “a little more balanced.”

A law professor who publicly glorifies the assassination of a fellow American based on that person’s political beliefs cannot serve as a publicly-funded educator or representative of the University of Arkansas. Such statements are inconsistent with the responsibilities of a faculty member who is entrusted to prepare future lawyers for a profession based on the rule of law. Law professors are expected to model professionalism and respect differing viewpoints.

Professor Branch’s statements openly celebrate violence, including murder, against political opponents and demean those who grieve. This will almost certainly serve to stifle participation of students and create a hostile educational environment. While faculty members have the right to express opinions, openly celebrating the assassination of a fellow American crosses a line.

I respectfully urge you as the Dean of the Bowen School of Law to conduct a thorough review of Professor Branch’s public statements and impose the appropriate disciplinary action. The State of Arkansas and the Bowen School of Law must send a clear message that the celebration or endorsement of violence has no place in our State, much less in an institution charged with educating the next generation of legal professionals.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Leslie Rutledge".

Leslie Rutledge  
Lieutenant Governor

Attachments: see screenshots from Felicia Branch’s Facebook.  
cc: University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees



1. “So no. I will not pull back from CELEBRATING that an evil man died by the method he chose to embrace.”
2. “Don’t tell people... how not to celebrate that he can no longer inflict his brand of evil.”
3. “Psalm 109 is an imprecatory prayer. If you like the Bible read it ALL. This prayer calls for divine retribution and curses upon enemies.”
4. “Stop telling people not to celebrate the fact that an evil person is no longer on this earth causing immense suffering.”
5. “When a good person dies, a despicable evil person should also die. The world is a little more balanced. I hope Charlie Kirk is restless in hell.”