

October 4, 2006

Dear JAG Candidate,

First and foremost, good luck in your interview with the Army Judge Advocate General.

Second, we feel compelled to make clear why the Coalition for Equality strongly opposes military recruiting on BC Law's campus and our purpose for engaging in various forms of protest when military recruiters visit our school. Our objections are not aimed at the military generally or at students who wish to become a part of it. Indeed, all members of the Coalition for Equality (CFE) deeply appreciate and greatly admire those who wish to pursue a career in the armed services. BC Law graduates are uniquely fit for JAG. Our school forges a special kind of social consciousness that, we believe, is particularly imperative for a military lawyer. JAG's outspoken concern that continued denial of due process protections to terror detainees will provoke the same treatment of our soldiers captured abroad is a timely example. We hope that you will succeed in your interview and be able to contribute to this and other important endeavors – including the one to reverse "Don't Ask, Don't Tell".

Our objections stem from the appalling fact that fully-qualified gay and lesbian candidates are forbidden from serving their country and receiving the honor and benefits that military service affords. Military recruiting takes place on our campus despite the military's flagrant discrimination against gay and lesbian job applicants and service members and in direct violation of our nondiscrimination policy. Boston College Law School, through its nondiscrimination policy, has promised to mobilize its influence, credibility, and resources to protect its students – including its gay and lesbian students – from invidious discrimination in the job market. Any other discriminatory employer would be excluded from our campus. In 1982, BC Law was a pioneer when it was one of the first law schools to add sexual orientation to its nondiscrimination policy. We merely advocate for the ability to continue this legacy and to fully honor the commitment our school has made to nondiscrimination. When Congress abandons its discriminatory military policies, we will wholeheartedly welcome the military to our campus. But not until then.

So, again, we ask that you accept our best wishes for today. We are proud to have our classmates and friends serving in the JAG corps, and we sincerely hope for your every success. Please feel free to contact us anytime with questions or concerns at cfe_board@listserv.bc.edu. We also would be delighted to have your support in our efforts to secure equal treatment for gays and lesbians in the military and, in the process, strengthen the military itself.

Yours,

The Board of the Coalition for Equality