

June 1, 1952

Very Reverend Wm. Patrick Donnelly, S. J.
President
Loyola University
New Orleans 18, Louisiana

Reverend and dear Father President, P. C.

Dean Antonio Papale will shortly notify you that he has received an application for admission into the School of Law from Norman Francis.

Norman Francis is an honor graduate of the Class of 1952 of Xavier University in New Orleans. During his four years of undergraduate study he was an outstanding leader in student activity. He is an exemplary Catholic and the brother of a priest. In every way he represents the type of law-school applicant whom we rejoice to welcome into our student body.

Ordinarily we would not hesitate to accord him unqualified acceptance, nor would we normally burden you with his case. However, despite Francis' excellent record as a student, a leader and a gentleman, we cannot act affirmatively on his application without prior clearance from higher authority. For it happens that Norman Francis is a Negro.

My purpose in writing this letter is to plead that you authorize Dean Papale to accept Norman Francis into Loyola's School of Law.

Such an authorization would indeed be breaking with the past. But I can confidently assure you that it is the kind of break for which the Faculty and Student Body of the School of Law have been carefully prepared. Moreover, I can say with conviction that such an amendment to our present admission policies would be hailed wholeheartedly by all those who are anxious to see Loyola's School of Law assume a dominant position in the Christian education of men for the Legal Profession, irrespective of race or national origin.

I should like to call your attention to the fact that according to my latest information there are now sixteen Southern universities, public and private, which admit Negroes to their law schools. In each instance, this radical departure from traditional procedure has been accomplished with great good will from all the parties concerned. "The experience of the Southern law schools which have recently admitted Negroes has been uniformly free of the difficulties forecast," as the report of the Special Committee on Racial Discrimination of the Association of American Law Schools states. In these circumstances when our own students and others ask me "Why doesn't Loyola admit Negroes?" I fumble around and try to "save face" for Loyola as best I can.

Another item in the aforementioned report seems to me of more than ordinary importance. In summing up its findings, the Committee reviews three phases of the

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struggle to eliminate racial discrimination in legal education. These phases principally concern tax-supported institutions. The Committee then observes:

"A fourth contemplated stage, so the committee is informed, may involve an attack on discrimination in the privately supported institutions, on the ground that tax exemption and other privileged they enjoy make these institutions subject to the same obligations as state universities as far as equality of treatment goes."

I have no way of knowing how proximate this stage may be; but it would be nothing short of a calamity -- such a strong word is in order, I believe -- were Loyola to open its doors to Negroes only after court action or even the threat thereof.

There is no need for me to develop further the compelling reasons, which I sincerely believe should urge us to modify our admission policies at least to the extent of permitting Negroes to be accepted in our School of Law. You well know my thinking in this matter.

In closing allow me to urge that you strive to give Dean Papale the instructions you see fit regarding the Norman Francis case as soon as possible. There is a note of haste associated with this case. Francis is subject to Selective Service. The matter, then, of his knowing how his application to the School of Law will be dealt with has important bearing on his status with the Draft Board.

Respectfully in Christ,

L. J. Twomey, S. J.
Regent

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