

**From:** Tommy Wilde tomwilde@mac.com  
**Subject:** Re: "We The People"  
**Date:** February 4, 2020 at 10:18 PM  
**To:** Erwin Chemerinsky echemerinsky@law.berkeley.edu



On Jan 6, 2019, at 11:40 PM, Tommy Wilde <[tomwilde@mac.com](mailto:tomwilde@mac.com)> wrote:

Dear Erwin Chemerinsky,

Accepting that cases of this sort can be quite complicated, the choice I presented has nothing to do with a dean at one UC school criticizing the administration of another UC school. Rather, the choice I'm presenting you is whether to examine offered evidence of the UC's abuse of power—in this case, the UC's abuse of UC students—as the first step towards stopping this abuse, or to merely wave this evidence away as you have, by saying you're too busy to look at it. And as you're doubtless aware, the commissar simply disregards evidence that his employer is abusing its power; surely he, too, can see this evidence, but the commissar won't do anything about it, by the definition of his moniker.

However, if UC professors are in fact committed to free speech and academic freedom, they'll carefully examine evidence offered that the UC is abusing its power—simply because they know that their not doing so will then quickly erode their own free speech and their own academic freedom (to say nothing of faculty codes of conduct and ethical standards).

Certainly, if your child had [come] home permanently from the UC with the two UC documents I've offered you here, along with these UC faculty statements I received following my termination, and nobody said anything further about this case, you'd have known immediately that you were then dealing with something at least as powerful as other longstanding institutional taboos that have wracked our society.

I hope I've clarified here the choice I presented to you: examine this case following out of your responsibilities to a great public university, or wave it away as a UC commissar must do. And of course, any criticism of which you speak could only come *after* your careful examination of this case.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.  
Sincerely,  
Tom Wilde

On Jan 6, 2019, at 9:50 PM, Erwin Chemerinsky <[echemerinsky@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:echemerinsky@law.berkeley.edu)> wrote:

As for the choice you present, it is very, very difficult for a dean at one UC school to criticize the administration of another UC school. It is far more complicated than the choice you present.

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**From:** Tommy Wilde <[tomwilde@mac.com](mailto:tomwilde@mac.com)>  
**Date:** Sunday, January 6, 2019 at 6:23 PM  
**To:** Erwin Chemerinsky <[echemerinsky@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:echemerinsky@law.berkeley.edu)>  
**Subject:** Re: "We The People"

Dear Erwin Chemerinsky,

Thank you for letting me know that you received my message.

I put the choice to you that you are either a reputable scholar committed to academic freedom or an academic commissar, and then I betrayed your trust (and violated the law) in publishing our email exchange without your permission.

Therefore, I guess there is at least some sort of Orwellian humor in your thanking me for my message here. So I owe you a thank you for that, too.

Sincerely,  
Tom Wilde

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On Jan 6, 2019, at 3:52 PM, Erwin Chemerinsky <[echemerinsky@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:echemerinsky@law.berkeley.edu)> wrote:

Dear Mr. Wilde,

Thanks for your message.

Erwin

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**From:** Tommy Wilde <[tomwilde@mac.com](mailto:tomwilde@mac.com)>  
**Date:** Sunday, January 6, 2019 at 2:38 PM  
**To:** <[echemerinsky@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:echemerinsky@law.berkeley.edu)>  
**Subject:** "We The People"

Dear Erwin Chemerinsky,

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend your upcoming talk, 'Recognizing the Power of "We the People"' at The Commonwealth Club in San Francisco on January 14, 2019. However, I'll thank you in advance for giving the talk, and I really look forward to listening to it after it is posted on the internet.

I am a firm believer in "we the people," and I therefore believe that it takes more than just "recognizing the power of we the people"; in fact, we the people have to work as a united force to actually use this power. And historically, beginning this work has often entailed one or a few persons coming forward with a compelling case for this work and for why this work truly requires "we the people."

I do not believe for a moment that [these UCLA faculty statements](#) on how UCLA is operating are not compelling, and especially so at a time when UCLA is marketing itself as "the most popular campus in the nation," and the University of California itself is operating as the most powerful public university system in the United States (and one of the most powerful public university systems in the world).

So I understand why the media is ignoring this case of a student termination from UCLA, but if I were also to ignore it I would be complicit in the backroom work of powerful private corporations who are working mightily to privatize the entire University of California system. And as a citizen, and as one of "we the people," I have to assume a citizen's responsibility for protecting and maintaining the University of California as one of the world's best public university systems.

I am explaining myself to you here so that you understand why I betrayed your trust in me and decided to post our e-mail exchange. You can find the webpage with our exchange, prefaced by my remarks, at this link: [www.uclastudentabuse.info/uc-berkeley-dean-as-uc-commissar](http://www.uclastudentabuse.info/uc-berkeley-dean-as-uc-commissar).

Your vital work on free speech and academic freedom is surely made hollow by the University of California in its abuse of its immense power against those with the least power—UC students. And as you're certainly aware, speaking about the power of "we the people" and the importance of free speech and academic freedom amounts to very little (except powerful marketing propaganda) if "we the people" do not attempt to gather our power and use it to try to stop this abuse of UC students by one of the most powerful education institutions in the United States—and the world. You're presently in one of the best possible positions to stop the University of California from abusing UC students. Consequently, the choice to stop this abuse of UC students is yours; however, it is the one that fundamentally defines who you are at the University of California: a person working for "we the people" or a person working for the UC as an academic commissar.



Sincerely yours,  
Tom Wilde  
Los Angeles, CA  
424-581-1556