

April 24, 2019

Office of the President
Building 10
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305-2061

Via Electronic Mail

Dear President Tessier-Lavigne and Provost Drell:

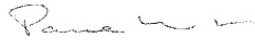
We, the undersigned, are concerned about the future of the Stanford University Press. Although we do not have complete information about the exact plans, we understand that it is likely that the university will eliminate the modest subsidy that the Press currently receives, requiring a drastic and likely fatal downsizing. Such a momentous decision should be made only after full discussion in the academic Senate, with a chance for all members of the university community to be heard. Moreover, we urge that any decision be based on a careful examination of the Press's operations by experts with experience in academic publishing who can offer an assessment of the Stanford University Press and suggestions for improvement.

As law professors, we also want to make it known that we regard the Press as a vital institution for scholarly work in our fields. The Press has shown remarkable strength in a variety of academic disciplines, including law, many of us have published books with the Press, and we have all read and benefited from the many excellent books it has published.

University presses serve a vital need, publishing specialized and rigorous scholarship that, while vital to the academic mission, cannot hope to reach a large enough market to be profitable. Accordingly, almost all university presses operate at a loss, which is made up with either endowment income (both Harvard and Princeton have endowments of over \$100 million), journal income, fundraising or a subsidy from a central university. The small annual subsidy the Press receives pays dividends in the form of wide-ranging lists that showcase a variety of academic disciplines and, because of the Press's reputation for excellence and thoughtfulness, regularly compete for authors with much larger and more well-funded presses. Eliminating that subsidy will not only undermine an important venue for scholarship, but it also sends an unfortunate signal about Stanford's commitment to scholarship in the arts, humanities and social sciences—all fields of inquiry vital to any professional school with serious academic aspirations.

We hope you will reconsider any decision to eliminate the subsidy to Stanford University Press and urge you to, at the very least, present any such decision to the academic Senate for discussion to ensure you have a complete picture of the value of the Press.

Sincerely,



Paul Brest

Mariano Florentino Cuellar

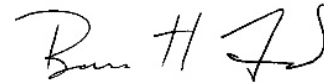


George Fisher

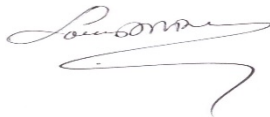


Richard Thompson Ford

Marc A. Franklin



Barbara Fried



Lawrence M. Friedman



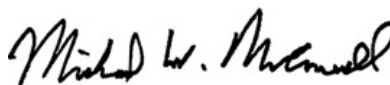
Paul Goldstein



Robert W. Gordon



Deborah Hensler



Michael W. McConnell



David Alan Sklansky



Norman W. Spaulding



Amalia Kessler



Bernie Meyler



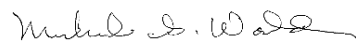
Mark Kelman



Jane Schacter



Ron Tyler



Michael S. Wald



Buzz Thompson



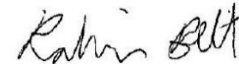
Janet Martinez



Phil Malone



Jacob Goldin



Rabia Belt



Joe Grundfest



Gregory Ablavsky



Janet Alexander