



## Georgetown Law administrator on leave after tweeting Supreme Court nominee would lead to ‘lesser black woman’

Ilya Shapiro, who was scheduled to begin a job Tuesday as Georgetown Law's executive director for the Center for the Constitution, was placed on administrative leave, officials say.

By Antonio Planas

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An incoming Georgetown Law administrator is on leave after sending tweets last week, which are now deleted, saying in part President Joe Biden's Supreme Court pick would result in a “lesser black woman” as the nominee.

Ilya Shapiro was set to take over Tuesday as the executive director for the law school's Center for the Constitution. Shapiro's previous job was vice president and director of the Robert A. Levy Center for Constitutional Studies at the Cato Institute.

Shapiro tweeted Jan. 26 his choice for the Supreme Court vacancy, Sri Srinivasan — a South Asian of Indian descent — who is chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Shapiro also criticized Biden's vow to nominate a Black woman to the nation's highest court. “But alas doesn't fit into the latest intersectionality hierarchy so we'll get lesser black woman,” Shapiro wrote in a tweet. “Thank heaven for small favors?”

Georgetown Law Dean William M. Treanor said Monday in a letter to the law school community, Shapiro was placed on leave pending an investigation into whether he violated school policies and expectations on professional conduct.

“I have heard the pain and outrage of so many at Georgetown Law, and particularly from our Black female students, staff, alumni, and faculty. Ilya Shapiro's tweets are antithetical to the work that we do here every day to build inclusion, belonging, and respect for diversity,” Treanor wrote.

“Pending the outcome of the investigation, he will remain on leave and not be on campus. This investigation will follow the procedures established by Georgetown University. Racial stereotypes about individual capabilities and qualifications remain a pernicious force in our society and our profession. I am keenly aware that our law school is not exempt.”

Shapiro has tweeted: “I apologize. I meant no offense, but it was an inartful tweet. I have taken it down.”  
In a statement Friday, he wrote, “I regret my poor choice of words, which undermined my message that nobody should be discriminated against for his or her skin color. A person’s dignity and worth simply do not, and should not, depend on race, gender, or any other immutable characteristic. While it’s important that a wide variety of perspectives and backgrounds be represented in the judiciary, so blatantly using identity politics in choosing Supreme Court justices is discrediting to a vital institution. Chief Judge Sri Srinivasan is, in my mind, the most qualified nominee a Democratic president could choose.”