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April 6, 2021

Senator Regina Barrow  
Committee on Women & Children  
Louisiana State Senate  
P.O. Box 94183  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: April 8, 2021 Senate Hearing

Dear Senator Barrow:

I received your request to appear before the Senate Select Committee on Women & Children. Due to ethical and legal duties that prohibit me from sharing information about Taylor Porter's representation of LSU, I am unable to testify before the Committee. Additionally and importantly, the privacy rights of the individuals involved, particularly the student complainant, must be protected.

Within the bounds of our obligations, I can offer the following. In 2013, LSU asked our firm to assist in investigating a complaint related to Les Miles so that LSU could make informed decisions regarding its response to the complaint. In order to do so, we spent significant time gathering facts and provided expert legal analysis regarding the complex interaction of privacy rights, student rights, contractual rights and obligations, and other applicable laws implicated by the complaint.

Both Les Miles and the complainant were represented by independent counsel, both threatened litigation against the University, and both demanded absolute privacy. LSU took the complaint seriously and understood the risk that disclosure of the complainant's identity (in contravention of her demand for confidentiality) would discourage the reporting of future misconduct by others. Indeed, the complainant's privacy was a matter of extremely high priority both to LSU and to our law firm and remains a priority today. Furthermore, though we found that he acted inappropriately, Les Miles adamantly denied most of the allegations.

The complainant and her lawyer were consulted throughout our review and agreed with the corrective measures that were implemented by LSU. We stand behind our analysis and the thorough work we did for LSU.

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Senator Regina Barrow  
April 6, 2021  
Page 2

I have spent the vast majority of my lengthy legal career helping employers and universities to understand and comply with their legal obligations. Attorneys have a unique role and ethical duty of simultaneously exercising independent judgment, protecting their clients' confidences, providing sound legal analysis and acting as advocates, all for the benefit of their clients. Taylor Porter has always done this for LSU and all of our clients with the utmost integrity and professionalism.

Sincerely,

  
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Vicki M. Crochet  
VMC:ifd