



OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND ADJUDICATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

July 14, 2026

Laura A. Carlson, President
c/o Aundrea DeVuono-Young, Executive Assistant to the President
University of Delaware
104 Hullihen Hall
Newark, DE 19716
via email: aundreay@udel.edu

RE: Referral of EPA Complaint No. 40-26-R3

Dear President Carlson:

As you are aware, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Civil Rights and Adjudication (OCRA), External Civil Rights Division (ECRD) received the above-referenced complaint against the University of Delaware (University), which raises allegations of discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, disability, and retaliation for engaging in a protected activity. Specifically, the complaint alleges that professors treated Complainant differently from other students based on her race, color, and sex; that the University failed to provide Complainant with approved disability accommodations; and that the University retaliated against Complainant when she filed formal complaints related to the disparate treatment and denial of accommodations.

Pursuant to EPA's nondiscrimination regulation, ECRD must conduct a preliminary jurisdictional review of administrative complaints to determine whether to accept, reject, or refer it to an appropriate federal agency. *See* 40 C.F.R. §§ 5.605, 7.120(d)(1).

After careful consideration, ECRD is referring the complaint to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights' Atlanta Regional Office (ED-OCR) as the appropriate federal agency to address complaints of discrimination involving universities. ECRD has confirmed that the ED-OCR has also received this complaint and it is pending their review. ECRD is closing this complaint as of the date of this letter.

Finally, EPA's nondiscrimination regulation prohibits applicants, recipients, and other persons from intimidating, threatening, coercing, or engaging in other discriminatory conduct against anyone because they have acted or participated in an action to secure rights protected by the civil rights requirements EPA enforces. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 7.100. Any individual that believes a recipient has engaged in such misconduct can file a complaint with EPA.

If you have any questions, please contact Case Manager Ashley Acosta-Fox by phone at (202) 564-0401 or by email at acostafox.ashley@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Juan Carlos Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JuanCarlos M. Hunt, Director
U.S. EPA, Office of Civil Rights and Adjudication

cc: Catherine Libertz, Deputy Regional Administrator/Deputy Civil Rights Official
Allison Gardner, Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA, Region 3