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### IU Law Students Rally in Protest

Ellise Milenky  
*Indiana Daily Student*

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Bloomington

# IU law students rally in protest

## National strike objects to lack of minority teachers

By Elissa Milenky  
Indiana Daily Student

4-5-91

Some IU law students joined a nationwide strike Thursday to protest a lack of minority faculty employed by U.S. law schools and involved in the legal profession.

The day's events were highlighted with a panel discussion and rally, but the students did not boycott Thursday's classes.

Third-year law student Sal Vasquez said classes were not boycotted this year due to the law school's efforts at minority recruitment.

"Since IU is at least making the offers, we decided we wouldn't boycott classes," Vasquez said. "However, to not hold the panel discussion or a rally wouldn't serve a purpose either. We don't want to pat them (law school) on the back — there's still the white male good-old-boy network."

Terry Bethel, IU School of Law acting dean, said next year's faculty will include one African-American associate professor, five tenured women professors and three women associate professors.

"I feel isolated, alienated, frustrated and angered," second-year law student Tim Dismond said. "You're dealing with the fact that there are very few of your peers. On top of that, you're faced with a predominantly white faculty. There's no role models or incentive."

This is the third year of the nationwide law student strike, which was organized by the Co-

alition for a Diversified Faculty, a student group at the University of California's Boalt School of Law.

Michael Friedman, a first-year law student at the Boalt School of Law and member of CDF, said over 30 law schools across the country participated in Thursday's strike.

IU first participated in the strike in the 1989-90, when there was a call to boycott classes to show widespread dissatisfaction with the low number of minorities involved in the IU Law School.

But not all students are in favor of actively recruiting minority faculty members. Third-year law student Tom Meyers said hirings should be based solely on merit.

"I'm not against hiring whoever is best for the position," Meyers said. "I realize the percentage of minority faculty is small, but I don't see the problem. If we looked at the percentages of applicants and their qualifications, it's accurate."

Members of the School of Law's faculty appointments committee sat on the panel to discuss the recruiting methods and efforts of the school.

Bethel said this year's committee has tried to actively recruit more minority faculty members, and has put in a concerted effort this year.

"I was hoping we could get together and talk about what we've done, and not what we have to do," he said. "But you don't always see the results in one year."

Associate Professor of Law Joseph Hoffmann, a member of the committee, attributes the low numbers to a lack of minority faculty members in the hiring pool.

"In a sense, we're still paying the price for the

historic lack of access for women, but particularly minorities, which continues to this day," he said. "There are fewer and fewer minority faculty members, fewer minorities in the law school, thus there are fewer minorities in the hiring pool."

*"I feel isolated, alienated, frustrated and angered. You're dealing with the fact that there are very few of your peers. On top of that, you're faced with a predominantly white faculty. There's no role models or incentive."*

Tim Dismond  
law student

Though students are appreciative of the school's efforts, some are not satisfied with the results.

But Meyers said the cultural background of a professor does not affect the education.

"People are here to get a degree, and they don't give a hoot who teaches them," he said.

Many students say they will continue to pressure the administration and serve as a constant reminder.

"I don't just want to see efforts," Dismond said. "I'd like to see results."