

An open letter to the Devil's Advocate Scholarship Committee of The Satanic Temple,

It is summer and the church bells ring in Boston. Your ire is my ire: the bells ought not ring in the halls of justice nor in the halls of government, not in Massachusetts, home of constitutional conventions, nor in any other in this great nation. But, I implore you, ought the hooves of Baphomet grace these floors?

In reference to Satanic Temple Inc. v. City of Boston, you ask the Satanic youth of America "what steps ... should be taken to curtail judicial corruption." As a member of the Temple since the age of thirteen, I am constantly inspired by your commitment to employing the democratic systems available to promote my rights and those of my fellow Americans. However, I take issue with the grounds of this year's Devil's Advocate Scholarship prompt.

A comparison of the scholarship prompt against the text of Satanic Temple Inc. v. City of Boston indicates that our Temple was asking not to participate in "a public forum," but to deliver a pre-meeting invocation, and that compensation of invocators had been standard practice since the 1800s, but said practice was terminated by Mayor Michelle Wu. The ruling against the Temple by Judge Angel Kelley was affirmed by a three-judge appellate panel.

I believe that the Eternal Rebel's work is best executed on the higher road, and when corruption is alleged, we cannot corrupt ourselves. Where loopholes exist in our democratic institutions, we cannot distort the facts and mire them with blemishes of our own. In brief: we play clever, not dirty. The statement outlined in the scholarship prompt violates the Satanic Temple's second fundamental tenet: derision for derision's sake alienates potential allies both in the government and among the people, interrupting our pursuit of justice and allowing a single judicial ruling to cast us from the high road into the petty brawls of the lower one.

I believe that judicial corruption is best curtailed through the appellate system and through term limits – particularly to address corruption within the Supreme Court. I believe in pursuing this issue on the grounds of the invocation practice violating the principle of the separation of church and state and providing an avenue for political cronyism. I believe in the Temple's ability to uphold the Tenets, to choose to address this struggle with logic over emotion, and then to move swiftly to the next worthy cause. I believe in the Satanic Temple.

With courage never to submit or yield.