

Following the nine Bar Ilan Professors' response re the Sheinman affair

Following [the initial blog](#) about the latest contours of the treatment Hanoch Sheinman is receiving at Bar Ilan, nine Bar Ilan professors, all from the Faculty of Law, have [responded](#), with a text that sounds as if it was dictated by a marketing expert, not an academic (and most certainly not a colleague).

So it may be worthwhile to point out that none of these nine was willing to make any public statement at all back then ([when their Dean threatened, explicitly and on the record](#), Professor Sheinman – an untenured colleague of theirs – that serious steps will be taken against him, simply in virtue of that now famous letter; this despite attempts on my part, for instance, to get some of them to speak up); nor did any of them think it appropriate to make a public statement in response to [their administration refusing to allow an LGBT event on campus, and indeed comparing this to a pedophile event](#) – not a public word from any of these nine (eventually there was some compromise and apology).

So with regard to each of them – all, it is worth noting, tenured professors, unlike Prof. Sheinman – we should ask whether they thought none of these things called for a public statement. If so, we've learned something about their morals, and should treat their marketing testimony here accordingly. If they thought an outcry was called for, but were afraid to speak against their Dean or administration, then we've learned something about their courage (have I mentioned that they're tenured?), and should wildly discount a public statement they choose to make supporting their Dean and administration.

Perhaps none of this is hugely surprising, coming from a university that [strongly discourages political expression \(except from the religious orthodox, right-wing, of course\)](#).

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