

12 PEOPLE

The AP reveals how it is that a top legal scholar can be un-hired by the University that just signed him.

A conservative Los Angeles County politician asked about two dozen people in an e-mail last month how to prevent the University of California, Irvine from hiring renowned liberal scholar Erwin Chemerinsky as its founding law school dean, a spokesman for the politician said Friday.

Making Chemerinsky the head of the law school "would be like appointing al-Qaida in charge of homeland security," Michael Antonovich, a longtime Republican member of the county Board of Supervisors, said in a voicemail left with The Associated Press.

As a result of the email, it appears, 12 people had discussions with Michael Drake, who then un-hired Chemerinsky.

Petracca said professors were angry that Drake hasn't given a full explanation for his decision, except to say at a faculty meeting Thursday that he spoke with 12 people about Chemerinsky before withdrawing the offer. He wouldn't say who those people were, Petracca said.

The LAT adds a few more details about the lynch mob:

Also Friday, details emerged about the criticism of Chemerinsky that the university received in the days before Drake rescinded the job offer, including from California Chief Justice Ronald M. George, who criticized Chemerinsky's grasp of death penalty appeals. Also, a group of prominent Orange County

Republicans and Los Angeles
County Supervisor Mike Antonovich wanted
to derail the appointment.

[snip]

Michael Schroeder, one of Orange
County's most powerful GOP
political players, said a group of 20
prominent Republicans organized
against Chemerinsky in recent weeks,
believing him to be a "longtime
partisan gunslinger" and too "polarizing"
for the job.

Another member of the group, who asked
not to be identified, said Drake's
cellphone number was distributed so the
protesters could call the chancellor.

And then reveals that lynch mob member, Tom
Malcom, appears to be trying to undo the damage,
by un-un-hiring Chemerinsky if he promises to be
a good, silent boy and allows Malcom to babysit
his behavior.