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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FEDERAL LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST VARSITY TAVERN  
FOR TURNING CUSTOMERS AWAY BASED ON RACE**

**Fort Worth, TX (March 19, 2020)** – On March 18, 2020, Stephen Acheampong filed a complaint in Federal District Court asserting that Varsity Tavern in Fort Worth, Texas, violated the law by refusing him service because he is African American.

Mr. Acheampong, who visited Fort Worth on spring break when he was a student in a pre-medical school program, was twice turned away from Varsity Tavern for alleged dress code violations, while non-African-American patrons were admitted wearing the same clothing. On one occasion, Mr. Acheampong was told he couldn't enter Varsity Tavern because he was wearing Air Jordan sneakers. Mr. Acheampong and a white friend switched shoes, so that the white friend was wearing the Air Jordans. They returned to Varsity Tavern, and the white friend was let into the bar without any issue. Mr. Acheampong, now wearing boat shoes, was also admitted. Once inside the bar they switched shoes back. A bouncer then told Mr. Acheampong to leave because he was wearing Air Jordans in the bar.

“Being kept out of Varsity Tavern because of my race was embarrassing and made me feel defeated,” Mr. Acheampong recalls. “I didn't feel like I had the same right to enjoy the bar as everyone else did.”

As alleged in the complaint, Varsity Tavern has often denied people entry because of their race. Even today, posts on public sites continue to bemoan the bar's racial discrimination.

Mr. Acheampong sues under public accommodations laws passed during the civil rights movement and Reconstruction, which make it illegal to refuse service to people at restaurants and other places of public accommodation based on race. He also alleges that Varsity Tavern was negligent in hiring, supervising, and training the employees who denied certain customers entry into the bar.

Mr. Acheampong is represented by Rebecca Livengood and Reed Colfax of Relman Colfax PLLC and Mark Whitburn and Sean Pevsner of Whitburn & Pevsner.

A copy of the complaint is available at the following link:  
[www.relmanlaw.com/media/cases/890\\_Acheampong\\_v\\_Varsity\\_Tavern\\_-\\_Complaint.pdf](http://www.relmanlaw.com/media/cases/890_Acheampong_v_Varsity_Tavern_-_Complaint.pdf).

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