

March 29, 2020

Dear Class of 2020 Students,

By now, you have likely heard or read about the decision of the New York State Court of Appeals to delay this summer's New York State bar exam until the fall. I understand your anxiety about this decision and share your concern about its implications for the beginning of your legal careers.

Over the weekend, the New York and New Jersey law school deans met to discuss the ramifications of the postponement, and to examine ways to mitigate the impact of this delay on our students. Of particular concern is the possibility that even a delayed fall bar examination might not be feasible if a second wave of COVID-19 infections were to occur in the fall.

I can assure you that every one of my dean colleagues is laser-focused on how we can influence decision-making by the New York Court of Appeals to enable our 2020 graduates to continue their professional journey pending the administration of the bar exam. We will request a meeting with the Court to continue our exploration and propose ways to address a novel situation that could have a profound impact on our graduates.

We are also reaching out to the New York State Bar Association for its support and to a number of other New York legal organizations whose influence will be important. I will keep all of you posted on our efforts.

Please remember that the present situation is not our destination. That much, we know. As for the challenges along the way, my fellow deans and I will do all we can to advocate for you, our students.

As always, I wish you good health and optimism.

Best regards,

Craig M. Boise

Dean | College of Law