

March 17, 2020

Dear College of Law Faculty,

By now, I am sure that you have read today's messages from [Chancellor Syverud](#) and [Vice Chancellor Haynie](#). I write to deliver additional news, adjustments and guidance, based on their messages, the continued evolution of COVID-19, and the feedback we received from you, concerning your online teaching experiences last week.

### **Online Courses through the End of the Semester; Final Exams also Online**

Based on the continued evolution of COVID-19, including official guidance from the CDC and New York State officials, the College of Law will not resume residential instruction this semester. **All classes will resume on March 23, all of them online through the end of the semester. Please also expect that all final exams will be administered online.** Vice Dean [Bybee](#) will follow up with you on the administration of final exams.

### **Limited Access to Dineen Hall**

Like other buildings on campus, until further notice, **Dineen Hall will be not be open** to anyone other than essential personnel. Library Director [Jan Fleckenstein](#) will be in touch with all of you tomorrow with details of the Library's operations between now and the end of the semester. We are fully committed to supporting the research needs of our students and faculty in these difficult times, including working out how to get physical content to and from users.

### **College of Law Operational**

The College of Law business operations continue. Staff are available to you by phone or email at all times during business and office hours.

### **Your Feedback: Adjustments to Online Approach**

Many thanks for your feedback on your online learning experience last week. Based on your reflections and suggestions, we will implement the following changes, effective immediately after Spring Break:

- **Learning Platforms**: Faculty are free to use Blackboard (Collaborate) or Zoom. Please be in touch with your students this week to make clear how to attend class, and enter the classroom, after Spring Break.
- **Recording Classes and Attendance**: Given the occasional sound challenges and internet

connectivity issues, **all classes must be recorded** and the recordings of all classes will be available through the end of the semester. Please know: this measure is not a substitute for attendance. All students are expected to attend all of their classes, online, and you are tracking attendance online. Recording the classes will make sure that no one loses any content or opportunity because of technical challenges that may surface.

### **Our students and their investment**

Our students have invested a lot in their legal education. Please help them to continue to make the most of it. Look for them, and call on them. The Socratic method endures! Continue to advise them and support them and their leadership on our many student organizations. Please continue to send [Robert T Conrad](#) the news of student and class achievements. We will share those news visibly and with pride, with our entire College of Law Community.

### **Work Studies: A resource**

Many work studies are available to help you! They are working remotely and ready, willing and able to support our efforts. If you would like to tap into this wonderful resource please be in touch with [Shelby Victoria Bergen](#).

There are no words to describe the impact of COVID-19 on our journey together. We will never forget the profound disappointment caused by the many cancellations and disruptions caused by this truly unprecedented crisis. I am confident that we will get through it together, and that we'll remember how we rose to the occasion with Orange pride and resolve, for our students.

Thank you for all you do. Stay the course, heed the guidance, be well. I will continue to share news and additional details as they evolve. Please remember to send your questions, feedback and concerns to [lawpreparedness@law.syr.edu](mailto:lawpreparedness@law.syr.edu), and encourage our students to do the same.

We are tracking questions, exploring and troubleshooting responses, and updating our evolving [Law Preparedness](#) page on the College of Law's response to concerns and impacts around COVID-19. Visit that page often for information and resources in support of our journey together.

Best regards,  
Craig

**Craig M. Boise**  
Dean | College of Law