

March 18, 2020

Hello Everyone,

As we approach the resumption of classes next week, online, I write with additional information, updates, and reminders.

Reminder: Dineen Hall Closed as of Friday, March 20, 2020

Like other buildings on campus, until further notice, Dineen Hall (including the Library) will be closed to students (students received a message earlier today reminding them of this policy).

Consistent with CDC guidance, and today's gubernatorial order, our faculty and staff access to Dineen Hall will be limited. If you must enter Dineen Hall, please let [Sarah Valenti](#) know.

Our Library's staff will remain available to support you as you transition to online teaching and continue your research and work throughout the semester. The library staff will have access to the Library for essential services only, as they are now primarily working remotely. Library Director [Jan Fleckenstein](#) will be in touch to confirm the details of the Library's operations between now and the end of the semester. Jan and her team are fully committed to supporting our teaching and research needs in these difficult times.

Our Approach, Our Students

As we all know, we are now living under highly uncertain conditions. We have received a number of worried messages from our students. They are concerned about their health and the health of their families; they are questioning their ability to attend class from less-than-ideal study spaces away from Dineen Hall; they are thinking ahead to exams and grades; and, especially for the Class of 2020, they are worrying about the impact of COVID-19 on their final transcripts, their bar preparation, and the early stages of their careers.

Some of our students are poised to adapt, others are struggling. Many of them now have greater child and other family care responsibilities. *All of our students* are dealing in one way or another with the disruptive effects of the crisis.

As College of Law Faculty, we pride ourselves on our shared commitment to our students. Because our priority is our students, we have already altered some of our practices to meet new challenges. There will undoubtedly be further changes as we determine the best way to

move forward. We all want to make sure that our students can succeed.

In this spirit, please keep in mind that next week many students will return to classes anxious and unsettled. Please give your students (as well as yourselves) time to adapt to the online learning format and to the significantly altered conditions outside the classroom. Consider how due concern for your students may lead you to adjust some assignments, deadlines, and course policies. Affording your students appropriate leniency now will help ensure that they can continue to learn and progress through the remainder of the semester.

Finally, please remember to visit, and to encourage our students to visit, the [Law Preparedness](#) page detailing the College of Law's ongoing response to COVID-19, and listing the resources available to our entire College of Law Community.

All the best,

Keith J. Bybee

Vice Dean and Paul E. and the Hon. Joanne F. Alper '72 Judiciary Studies Professor | College of Law