

March 19, 2020

Dear College of Law Students,

Over the last couple of days, we've received dozens of emails from you expressing concern about this semester's grading and exam processes and how best to account for the many challenges associated with COVID-19.

Thank you for sharing with us your varied experiences, perspectives and opinions. I assure you that we have anticipated each of the concerns that you've raised and have been working diligently to find appropriate solutions. As you know from personal experience, no single solution to a difficult dilemma will satisfy everyone. Disappointment related to COVID-19 is inevitable. Nevertheless, I expect that we will have developed a path forward by early next week.

Changes in grading and exam procedures involve decisions and consultation at both the College of Law and University levels, and they are complex and multi-faceted. They raise a host of issues that implicate the ABA Standards with which we must comply in order to maintain our accreditation, as well as various rules that impact your admission to the practice of law in various jurisdictions. In addition, we must craft policies that are fair and equitable for students in a wide range of academic and personal circumstances. That's our charge.

The good news is that our faculty, who will make the final decision about how we will proceed, have decades of experience in teaching and educational administration. They understand our grading system—which they created—and our exam administration practices, and they can grapple with the implications of various scenarios across a broad range of student circumstances.

Most importantly, faculty empathize with the dislocation and disruption that you are feeling in this moment—because they are experiencing it, too. We all are. The challenges raised by COVID-19 affect not only all of you—both our JD residential and JDinteractive students—but also our faculty and staff who are working overtime to address them. They, too, must adapt to doing their jobs remotely, contend with childcare while they teach at home, deal with the loss of household income because of business closures, and comply with restrictions on social interaction.

The College of Law has a proud 125-year-old old tradition of being a community that supports and uplifts its members. Whether students, staff or faculty, we are all stewards of that

tradition. Let's make sure that in this crisis we pull together in support of our shared goals.

I look forward to seeing you next week. And please stay tuned for an invitation to join me soon for coffee in the Zoom Café.

Best regards,

Craig M. Boise

Dean and Professor | College of Law