

Aug. 10, 2020

Dear Students,

I look forward to seeing many of you soon! If you are planning to be in Dineen Hall this fall, I write to welcome you in advance to a new interpretation of our magnificent space that responds to the pandemic and is aimed at the health and wellbeing of our College of Law community.

Your experience of Dineen Hall will be different, to be sure; but I hope you will find it welcoming and easy to enjoy. Here is what you need to know and expect. Don't worry, there will be plenty of signage throughout the building to help you navigate.

### **Hours of Operation**

Dineen Hall will be open to students every day from 7 am until midnight. You will need your swipe card to enter the building. **Guests are not permitted.**

### **Rules and Regulations; Code of Conduct Applies**

When approaching and while in Dineen Hall, all students must observe the following rules and our [Stay Safe Pledge](#), subject only to special accommodations in place via the [Center for Disability Resources](#):

- A mask is mandatory at all times.
- Practice proper social distancing protocols (keep 6 feet apart).
- Except during designated times during the weekdays only (see *Eating!* below), no food is permitted in the building.
- Beverage containers with a lid are permitted.
- When occupying a designated Quiet Study Room or Active Study Room you must vacate the room 10 minutes before the next scheduled class in that room.
- Prior to leaving a room, sanitize your spaces Supplies will be provided.
- Be respectful of others and your surroundings.
- Adhere to room capacity limits.
- Be mindful of the need to social distance in elevators. No more than three people should occupy an elevator at the same time. If you can, use the stairs.

Failure to comply with these directives may result in a referral to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR) for violation of the Code of Student Conduct, which governs individual and group behavior on and off campus. Sanctions for violating the pledge may be found on the [OSRR website](#), ranging from warnings to expulsion. **Failure to comply could also**

**impact state assessments of your character and fitness for purposes of bar eligibility.**

### **Navigating Dineen Hall**

In Dineen Hall, you will find spaces to accommodate as many aspects of the student experience as possible. All seating spaces within Dineen Hall have been reconfigured to allow for social distancing. Again, there will be signage throughout the building.

### ***In Person Classes***

Please refer to your class schedules to find out where to attend your classes in person.

### ***Active Learning***

Students who have back-to-back in person and online classes will find spaces in which to attend their on-line classes.

### ***Quiet Study***

Rooms for quiet study have been identified and marked accordingly throughout Dineen Hall. Students are invited to use these spaces for study between classes.

### ***Library***

The Law Library will be open for research and study from 7 a.m. to midnight every day. The Circulation Desk and Reference Office will be open for in-person services during the day. We will also provide library services remotely during the day and into the evening through the [Law Library website](#), including access to all print and electronic collections. For information on working remotely with the Law Library and utilizing all library resources, please consult our [Research Guide](#).

Due to social distancing requirements, group study rooms in Dineen Hall are now individual study rooms. Students may reserve individual study rooms both inside and outside the Library for up to 2 hours per day at <https://syr-law.libcal.com/reserve/studyrooms>. Reservations may be made up to 7 days in advance.

### ***Modified Socializing***

As always, the Levy Atrium will provide space for students to meet informally. The capacity of the Atrium is greatly reduced to accommodate social distancing. Please sit only where permitted and do not sit on the floor.

### ***Student Organization Meetings***

For the fall 2020 semester, all clubs and organizations should plan to meet via an online collaboration platform (e.g., Zoom). If it is absolutely necessary to meet in person, such meetings may be held in person but only between 7 p.m. and midnight, subject to room

availability. [Rooms must be reserved in advance via this form.](#)

### ***Eating!***

The Neporent Café will in fact be open from 8 a.m. until 9 a.m. and again from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. for food service and consumption, Monday through Friday. The café will be closed at all other times for cleaning, disinfecting and preparing for the following day's and week's operations. Students can bring their own food and beverages for consumption in the café. The Melanie Gray Ceremonial Courtroom will be the only other place in Dineen Hall where students will be able to eat from 11:50 am to 12:50 pm on weekdays. As an example, no one will be permitted to eat and drink in the Atrium, where a mask must be worn at all times.

Campus Food Services has removed half of the seating in the café, installed plexiglass shields where appropriate to safely maximize space, and placed social distancing signage reminders as needed. The café will limit "made to order" options and enhance "grab and go" offerings. The café will be open for students to eat their lunch subject to social distancing guidelines and space availability. First-come, first-serve will apply. [Additional food options can be found here.](#)

**No food is permitted in the building outside of the places and time set forth above.**

### ***Administrative Spaces and Student Services***

All administrative and student services spaces will be inaccessible. If you plan to visit such spaces you will find at each point of entry instructions on how to meet with staff. We are here! But, like you, we must abide by the official guidance of State, county and University officials and help to minimize the number of personnel in Dineen Hall so as to maximize the ability of our students to be in Dineen Hall.

### ***Continued Flexibility***

Our plans are subject to change, as COVID-19 guidelines continue to evolve. We will keep you posted on any adjustments and thank you for your patience and flexibility.

I look forward to seeing all of you soon. Thank you in advance for observing our space protocols and for your kindness and care in doing so. The space is ready for your use and will be so, for as long as we can abide by the guidance that's in place to protect your health and wellbeing and the health and wellbeing of our faculty and staff.

Please do not hesitate to call or email me if you have any questions.

Stay well,

**Sarah Valenti**

Assistant Director of Events and Facilities  
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