

April 23, 2020

Dear Graduating Students,

This spring, we have made difficult decisions as we have tackled COVID-19 together. Inevitable as they have been, these decisions continue to have an enormous impact on you and our entire College of Law Community. Throughout the semester, you have demonstrated that we are Syracuse Strong. Your tenacity and resolve to persevere in strength and solidarity, and to overcome the pandemic with dignity and creativity are truly inspiring. Thank you!

Perhaps the most difficult decision has been to delay Commencement—that day which so publicly and happily celebrates our law school graduates. Like you and your families, my colleagues and I on the faculty and in our various administrative offices have felt profound disappointment in this news.

Commencement being delayed, many of you took the time to respond to a survey to share your thoughts and ideas on how best to celebrate your accomplishments in the face of this pandemic. Today, I write to share that based on your responses, **we will celebrate you TWICE.**

Please join me on May 7 at 7 p.m. for the Class of 2020 Awards Celebration on Zoom, where we will recognize your scholarly achievements and your time at the College of Law in the presence of your guests, faculty, and staff. We will continue the tradition of announcing our 2020 academic and other awards, and we will toast your successes. I look forward to a wonderful evening!

In May 2021, please plan to commence with the Class of 2021, here in Syracuse. JetBlue President and COO Joanna Geraghty has confirmed her ability to join us as your Commencement Speaker. In the months to come and the year ahead, I will look forward to a joyous reunion for a well-deserved—if delayed and truly one of a kind—Commencement exercise. As you know, Syracuse University may hold Commencement exercises this fall. As in the past, our College of Law grads should feel free to participate in these exercises if they occur. Please know that doing so will not at all change our plans to hold a 2020 College of Law Commencement in May 2021 for all of you. You can count on it.

In the meantime, **on May 8, at 11 a.m., I hope you will take a look at your inbox for a special send off.** It won't replace Commencement, but we hope it will leave you with a sense of pride and strength as you embark upon the next chapter in your careers.

With my best wishes for your continued success in good health,

Craig M. Boise

Dean and Professor | College of Law