

March 20, 2020

Dear LL.M. Students,

I write to you as we continue to adjust to COVID-19 and the many ways it is disrupting all lives. I am mindful that the disruptions for you are even more egregious, as you contend with the international implications of COVID-19. They are complex. I also know that the impact of COVID-19 on your experience at the College of Law is especially damaging given your short time with us. Indeed, COVID-19 will deprive you and me of much of the time we had planned to spend together, in Dineen Hall. Please know that I am doing all I can to make sure that our time together will nevertheless be fruitful and gratifying.

## **Updates**

### ***Bar Eligibility***

Online instruction triggers implications for your eligibility to sit for the New York State Bar Exam, which is why I have sent a letter to New York's Court of Appeals asking for a waiver of strict compliance from the Court's rules on restrictions against distance learning for LL.M. students. I will keep you updated on the status of our request as soon as I receive information from the Court.

### ***Student Visas***

Many of you may be wondering about your student visas and the ability to extend your status beyond your time in the LL.M. program. For those of you who will be graduating this May, now is the time to apply for Optional Practice Training (for F1 visa-holders) or Academic Training (for J1 visa-holders).

Syracuse University's [Center for International Services](#) and Assistant Dean Horsfall in our Office of International Programs will guide you through this process and answer questions as they come up. For those of you who are graduating in future terms, I am hopeful that we will see you in Dineen Hall this fall.

Together, we will achieve our shared goals.

Stay strong, and stay tuned. I look forward to seeing you for coffee in the Zoom Café next week. An invitation will follow.

Best regards,

**Craig M. Boise**

Dean and Professor | College of Law