Dear LSU Law Center Class of 2018:

Next week you will be joining us at the LSU Paul M Hebert Law Center as a member of the first-year class. The fall semester, when we welcome our entering class, is an exciting time at the Law Center. The first day of class is Monday, August 17, 2015. The students, faculty, and staff of the Law Center are looking forward to your arrival.

Attached with this letter you will find a copy of the Code of Student Professional Responsibility, popularly known as the Honor Code. There are two reasons we are sending it to you before you begin your studies in preparation for your career in the legal profession. First, the Honor Code and the values it embodies are important. At a time when the general popular perception of lawyers is not positive, you must understand that a critically important character trait of a member of the legal profession is integrity. In law school, you are being educated to join an honorable profession. As part of that preparation, you will be held to the high standards of conduct embodied in the Honor Code. Second, when classes begin, you may find it difficult to take time away from your studies to read this document. With that in mind, I encourage you to read the Honor Code before you arrive for orientation on August 13th.

As you read, please consider that as a law student, you want not only to avoid violating the rules, but also to avoid the appearance of impropriety. Conducting yourself and your affairs in a professional manner is important to you as a law student and, later in your career, as a member of the legal profession. The Bar Association is deeply concerned with ensuring that its members demonstrate integrity and honesty. In order to be admitted as a member of the Bar, you must demonstrate these virtues by fully disclosing any academic or legal violations on your application for admission. Your application to the Bar must be consistent with the information you supplied on your law school application. Please be sure that your application to the LSU Law Center fully discloses and relevant information. You must continue to demonstrate these virtues by adhering to the Honor Code. Your reputation among your peers is very important, and the manner in which you conduct yourself can significantly affect that reputation. Also, please recognize that you are responsible for both adhering to and assisting in the enforcement of the Honor Code.

We hope that your reading of the Honor Code impresses upon you that you are entering a noble profession, and a law school that is committed to training its students to become honorable lawyers.

We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center next week as a member of the Class of 2018!

Sincerely,

Cheney C. Joseph, Jr.
Dale E. Bennett Professor of Law
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs