Dear Students:

Warning: Long email!

I have left you alone for a few days by email—I hope you are still well and healthy but staying (and I AM SERIOUS) socially distant in a physical sense—yet socially in touch with friends and family in a virtual way. Don’t try to do this emotionally and mentally alone—even though we need to remain physically distant! Speaking of distance: you may already be functionally “sheltering in place,” since school is out and some of you have kids home from school, but please get ready for that as well. I have a concern it’s coming. Get yourself thinking how that could work for you; if it doesn’t happen, then we will all be happy! I will be at the law school tomorrow (Friday) from 11am-1pm, in addition to the previously arranged Sunday 2-4pm, just in case that helps anyone pick up books. More on e-books below...

I have quite a few updates and comments today, and (apologies in advance) I might need to send another email tomorrow. This email is much longer than the ones I prefer to send, but I saved up some thoughts and information in order to avoid multiple emails the last day or so. I have some information on classes, on some tech resources (zoom, e-books, internet access, etc.), contacting career services, and on a few other miscellaneous considerations such as scholarship questions, exam accommodation forms, etc. If you have questions or concerns of any kind, which I am guessing most of you do, please read on, and please keep this email for future reference.

First: Classes! We start again on Monday. I will be reminding all of your professors not just to plan and be ready to go online next week but ALSO to be in touch with you tomorrow about those plans.

A few thoughts on class:

a. Much of what you will see happen will be the posting of video or audio links to the Moodle page for your courses, along with (of course) the attendant reading assignments, etc.

b. Some professors will opt to use Panopto which means pre-recorded video. Panopto is a video technology many or all of you will have seen before since it’s used for capturing make-up classes and the like. Some professors might use a technology called Zoom, which allows for live interaction via webcam—it’s like one big FaceTime for the whole class, I think you might say. It’s relatively simple on the student side once the professor sets it up, and it should work with smartphones. (If I can join a Zoom call with a bunch of other professors from campus, and I can then host a Zoom faculty meeting for all the law professors, well, let’s just say that I think most of you are going to get the hang of it after just a short time!)

c. I want to emphasize to all of you that regardless of methodology—these will all be recorded. They will stay on the Moodle page all semester. If you are unable to join the Zoom class session for any reason, you will be able to gain the value of the class (or participate, or attend, or whatever you want to call that) by watching that class session later, at a time that is better for you. That will be regardless of the reason, whether tech difficulty (internet issue, computer trouble, whatever) or kids at the house, other family care issues, or your own illness. (More on Zoom and tech below under library and tech resources.)

d. The attendance policy was suspended until March 27 for health-related reasons. That applied specifically to live classes. That issue does not apply now, but now that we will be online and in very disrupted places, and much of this will not be delivered live anyway, the attendance policy will need some kind of adjustment to account for the online environment. We cannot address every issue at the same time. Please be patient; read the next point below.
For now, please simply note what I say above about everything being recorded and posted, and do what you can to watch and participate when you are able to do so. The entire faculty is very invested in making sure that your education does not wither while we are all in such a disrupted state. We do not want you to have ½ of a semester of whatever course you are in right now, then take an exam. What you are learning has value, and you took these courses for a reason. No one is going to be dropped from a class for non-attendance this week or next, but at the same time, please don’t put yourself effectively “behind the 8-ball” by doing nothing right now if you have the capacity to get back at it. You need some normalcy. When you can, you should read your materials, watch videos, listen to lectures, work problems, and do what it is that you came here to do. We are all adjusting to this situation as best we can, and we are working to make this semester valuable for you. Note that I said “when you can.” We know that won’t always be the usual times; for some of you this is going to be much more challenging than it will be for others. [see note below on that!]

Some of you are already asking me and other professors and staff members about grades and grading policy. That is a topic on which you will need to remain patient. As noted above as to attendance policy, we cannot address everything at the same time. This week we have been working to go online (or, in LSU parlance, GeauxOnline (I kid you not!)), and we have had to shut down the building and send all staff and faculty to work remotely. We will circle back to these topics; they are important.

Second: The library has assembled a resource page for students on technology questions, library reference, etc.: SEE LIBRARY COLLECTION OF GUIDES HERE. Use the tabs to reach different types of information. Details of some tabs follow.

Thank you Assistant Dean Todd Venie and the entire library, educational technology, and information technology (IT) staff!

From our educational technology and IT specialists, we have information about using Zoom and Panopto. (All this lives on that major page above, which is on the library page of the Law Center website.) Things like how to create a Zoom account and join a Zoom meeting are found there.

From our intrepid library and information specialists, we have information about access to e-books (including Bluebook, and some law books) and about some lower-cost internet access that is being made available by many if not most internet providers. See those headings below for more detail.

Access to e-books

Several of the major publishers of books commonly used in law schools have offered to make e-books available to students free of charge. Please note that access to these e-books is temporary and will expire at the end of the spring 2020 semester.

We have added information to this guide that will show you how to access these materials. We will be adding information to the guide as more publishers provide access to their e-books, so please check this guide for updates.

You will also be receiving an email directly from Assistant Dean Venie today that will provide you with information you need to access the Bluebook online. Please look for this email, including in your spam and junk folders. First-year students are encouraged to set up their Bluebook access right away!

Internet access at home

As classes have moved online, internet access is critical for all of us. The Federal Communications Commission Chairman has asked broadband and telephone service providers to take action to make and keep this vital service accessible for everyone. The Keep Americans Connected Pledge states that, for the next 60 days, the company pledges to not terminate service for non-payment of bills, waive any late fees incurred, and open its Wi-Fi hotspots to any person that needs it. Numerous companies have signed the pledge – see https://www.fcc.gov/keep-americans-connected where the FCC is keeping a full list.
If you don’t have internet access at home, check with your local provider to see if they have any special plans in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Here’s a sampling of local and national providers’ plans that have come to our attention:

- **AT&T**
  - [Unlimited internet data](#) regardless of plan.
  - [Low-cost internet](#) ($10 a month) for qualifying low-income households.

- **Cox**
  - [Upgraded all internet plans](#) to at least 50 Mbps at no charge. No-fees for remote helpdesk with some plans.
  - [Low-cost internet](#) ($10 a month) for qualifying households.

- **CenturyLink**
  - [Low-cost internet](#) for qualifying households.

- **Charter Spectrum**
  - [Low-cost internet](#) for qualifying households.

**Third:** Career Services questions…like other staff members and departments, Career Services is working remotely. That means Gwen and Melanie remain ready and able to meet with and/or counsel you remotely as well. It works! Telephones do work, not just email! (Or you could perhaps get fancy with video, too.) You may email the office at lawcareers@lsu.edu, or you are more than welcome to contact advisors individually.

**Fourth:** Exam Accommodation Forms: Under our usual practice these were paper forms and not to be submitted via email. But now—obviously paper submission is impractical. Forms must now be submitted to Kim Langlois at klanglois1@lsu.edu. If students experience issues submitting their supporting documentation, please contact Assistant Dean Henry (jakeh@lsu.edu). Original deadline of April 3 by 4 pm still stands. The Office of Disability Services remains operational (their website), and if students need the services of the Disability Services office, they are encouraged to contact that office via email. The Law Center will absolutely work with all students to address any and all accommodation issues.

**Fifth:** Student Affairs questions—(a) If you have questions about your Law Center scholarship, please contact the Law Center Admissions Office at lawadmissions@lsu.edu. A member of the team will respond or reach out to you. (b) You may have other types of questions or need your enrollment in the law school verified for another reason (loans, etc.). Contact Assistant Dean Jake Henry with all enrollment verification-type questions.

**Sixth:** Assistant Dean Henry is also the go-to person for any other student-affairs-type questions, and if he isn’t the right person, he can direct your question. If you don’t know if it’s “academic” or “student” in nature, feel free to email Associate Dean Carroll and Assistant Dean Henry at the same time.

jakeh@lsu.edu
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**Last but not least (whew!):** Take care of yourself. Mental health is important. The stress of this is going to be real for some portion of you. Campus student mental health services is still operational, and they can schedule remote counseling sessions. 225-578-8774. In addition, if food insecurity is an issue for you at this time, please contact me. I will see what I can do to help, as the campus food bank has had to close due to low supply. If you prefer, you can also contact the Baton Rouge Food Bank at (225) 359-9940 or [https://brfoodbank.org/get-help/](https://brfoodbank.org/get-help/).

I am reminded every time I send a broadcast message to you that we have 569 very important people on our law student broadcast list. We have had to close the building to all 569 of you—we had no choice—but we are working on better ways to keep in touch than just these emails. Please stay tuned.

All my best (and wash those hands!),

Dean Lockridge

Lee Ann Wheelis Lockridge
Interim Dean
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