Dear Students:

I know that life for many of you has been thrown into great disarray. It’s not normal for any of us. For some of you the change in circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic includes significant economic difficulty—even financial emergencies—whether due to loss of employment, change of living situation, additional expenses that were unforeseeable, or more.

For those of you with significant economic hardship, I am happy to announce that we have been able to launch, late today, an online portal and online application for the Law Center’s Student Emergency Relief Fund. The fund is available to address emergency needs of our students when they are unable to meet immediate, essential expenses due to a temporary hardship, including hardships resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. It is designed to provide limited financial assistance to students experiencing unforeseen expenses that, if not resolved quickly, could lead to their departure from LSU Law and/or loss of momentum toward completion of their law degrees. These funds are not intended to be used for routine expenses nor as a consistent supplement to a student’s education funding sources.

The emergency funds have been provided through a recent major contribution from the AccessLex Institute, as well as by private donors, all with the express purpose of addressing law students’ emergency needs.

Please see the Student Emergency Relief Fund page for more information and for a link to the online application. For more information, you can also contact Assistant Dean Jake Henry (jakeh@lsu.edu) or Dr. Karen Soniat (ksonia2@lsu.edu) in our development office.

If you are experiencing non-economic difficulty with the disarray caused by all the recent upheaval in your life (our lives?), please reach out to Assistant Dean Henry. We know that everything that has been happening has been, well, a lot. Law school isn’t a walk in the park in the best of times—and these are not the best of times.

Stay strong, everyone—you can do this. We can do this. Let us try to help you if you are struggling. You are not alone.

All my best (from a distance, with clean hands...now go wash your own!),

Dean Lockridge

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