Dear Graduating Students in the Class of 2020:

As you know, the LSU Law Center remains committed to holding an in-person ceremony to celebrate your graduation when it is safe and permissible to do so. We look forward to the time when we can gather together to celebrate your achievements! In the interim, we hope you enjoyed the virtual graduation celebration this past Friday. We also hope you have been able to celebrate this milestone in your own way.

A few people have asked whether academic gowns and regalia (hoods, caps, tams, etc.) might be available to you to take personal graduation photographs. There is no rental option from our supplier available right now since our in-person ceremony date has not been set, and there is no feasible way for the supplier to engage in the usual short-term rentals at this time. (We will—as always—have short-term rentals available for our later in-person ceremonies. See cost comparison below.)

What the supplier has made available at this time for all LSU graduates is a keepsake gown for purchase. The supplier has opened this purchase option for a short time, until May 31, 2020. This is available to you if, for any reason, you wish to proceed to obtain regalia sooner rather than later.

The supplier, Oak Hall Industries, has worked with LSU to create a site for purchase of what it calls “keepsake” LSU academic regalia entirely at the option of graduating students: https://lsu.shopoakhalli.com/. We at the Law Center want to be clear this is an option—and not a requirement. As noted above, when you participate in our in-person ceremony, rentals will be available if you wish to delay the expense—or you may wear regalia that you purchase. The choice is yours. If you order now, please watch for a confirmation email and UPS tracking number for the ground delivery of your order.

I double-checked the most recent rental costs we were provided by the supplier against the full-package cost for the “keepsake” regalia. This may not be a straight-up comparison, since the supplier said it uses “less expensive” fabric for the so-called “keepsake” regalia offered for purchase, but the supplier does state the keepsake gown still has the three all-important purple velvet arm bars to signal the JD. We are not able to compare the two products directly, so we are simply providing you all the information we have.

Costs rounded to nearest dollar.

**Purchase:**
$124 with shipping (package includes everything, with tam rather than cap/mortarboard) (or individual items—gown $50, hood $51, tam $86/cap $9, tassel $7)

**Rental:**
$200 less $100 deposit = $100 net cost to rent gown/hood with cap/mortarboard OR $286 less $100 deposit = $186 net cost to rent gown/hood plus buy a tam—which you must purchase, not rent. (Either way, you receive the $100 deposit back once you return the rented pieces.)

We hope all of you are able to participate in our ceremonies to be held later, when you will be welcome to wear either rented or purchased regalia. Again: this is entirely at your option—but there is a **May 31, 2020** deadline from the supplier for the purchase option.

All my best—as always,

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