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School of Law_Dean Update_March 11, 2020

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From: Dmitry Bam <dmitry.bam@maine.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 6:01 PM
To: Maine Law Class of 2020; Maine Law Class of 2021; Maine Law Class of 2022
Subject: Maine Law Update -- Message from the Dean -- PLEASE READ

Dear Maine Law Students:

By now, you have seen the guidance that was sent earlier by Chancellor Dan Malloy. In case you haven't read it, you can find it [here](#). Obviously, not everything in the Chancellor's message applies directly to our students. But it also does mean that we have to make some major changes to our program of legal education.

Over the next 10 days, the faculty and staff will work diligently to continue preparing for online delivery of course content, which will begin on March 23. Most of that will likely happen via Zoom, but we will also explore use of other technology, including Blackboard and other asynchronous methods of delivery. If there is any silver lining to this it is that we can explore all that online has to offer. Other schools have been doing this for some time, and this gives us an opportunity to develop expertise in this realm as well. You should have recently received an email from the Director of Technology outlining the steps that you will need to take to be ready for online classes. Please read the email, follow the instructions, and complete the survey.

Of course, there are aspects of our programming that cannot be delivered online, especially the work done by the Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic. The operations that require in-person course work will continue in person, and the administration will work closely with the courts to ensure that our clinics continue to meet our obligations.

Our top priority is the safety and well-being of all the students, faculty, staff, and the entire Maine Law Community. We cannot prohibit you from traveling, but we strongly discourage it. I just canceled my trip to New York, even though I was very excited to see some Broadway shows. If you have non-essential travel planned, please seriously consider canceling it and staying in Maine. If you do travel, make sure you follow CDC guidelines and safety protocols. Stay on top of the news and exercise good common sense.

In order to keep everyone as healthy as possible, we are restricting building access to students effective close of business Friday, March 13. Please remember to gather all of your belongings before leaving the building after the end of classes on Friday (or whenever your last class happens to be), as the building will be closed to students after that.

Our other priority is to ensure that you can complete your semester successfully, receive a high quality legal education, are able to graduate (if you're a 3L). (No decisions have been made about graduation, and we will continue to meet constantly as more information comes to light. We don't want to delay the decision, but also don't want to act before it is necessary.)

Please continue to monitor your email frequently as we will be in contact with you about registration for next year, spring exams, graduation, new dean and faculty hires, etc. We will also update you about upcoming events, including Justice for Women, Barrister's Ball, MAPIL, OCLJ Symposium, and others.

If you need any help or support dealing with these circumstances, please feel free to contact the administration – the same people you would have contacted if you were here in person. The building will remain open for Maine Law employees who are not traveling out of state, and we will be available to help you.

I know there are many questions that still need to be answered, and we will continue to deal with the circumstances as they arise. And undoubtedly, there will be kinks to work through. We will work through them together. I appreciate your patience and understanding.

Best,
Dmitry

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