



April 19, 2021

Dear Students,

While the last day of classes is often a time of celebration and congratulatory messages, this year feels different. Today is not only the last day of classes, it also marks the end of the trial of Derek Chauvin for the killing of George Floyd. The trial brought excruciating detail about the final minutes of Mr. Floyd's life, and during the three weeks the trial was underway, we watched in horror the additional killings of Daunte Wright and Adam Toledo.

All of this comes following a year of protests, calls for racial reckoning, violence against our Asian and Sikh communities, a global pandemic that has disproportionately ravaged communities of color, and plenty of emotional labor. These events have had a tremendous impact – particularly on our Black students and students of color.

As you prepare for exams, I know you will prioritize studying and hard work. But I hope you also find some time to take care of yourself during this stressful period. Seek out the support that's available to you – through CAPS (via their [website](#) or by setting up an appointment with [Hilary Delman](#)), or through your faculty and staff here at the Law School. And know that your hard work and studies matter because now, more than ever, we will depend on you – the next generation of lawyers – to fulfill the promise of justice for all.

Sincerely,

Dean Perdue