August 21, 2020

Dear Students,

Every year, I tell our students how excited we are to welcome them back to campus. But this year in particular, after a remote spring semester, a long summer, and countless challenges brought on by the pandemic, I have to say: We’re more excited than ever to see your (masked) faces back in the building!

Whether you’ll be returning for in-person learning, or are taking classes remotely this semester, I’m proud to say that we’re well prepared as a community to support you in the semester head. Your staff have been busy preparing the signage, sanitation stations, and other accommodations to make the building and classrooms safe and easy to navigate. Your faculty have spent the summer exploring ways to make teaching in this new environment as effective as possible. I invite you to explore this video to get a sense of what returning to campus will look like, and remember to check our COVID-19 Update Page for answers to many of your questions about important policies and procedures.

The pandemic has changed a good deal about our semester. But throughout all the change, two things remain consistent. One of them is our commitment to providing you with an exceptional legal education. The other is our commitment to re-double our efforts toward making our Law School a truly diverse, equitable, and welcoming community.

Over the summer, we launched a Diversity & Inclusion website, and have added new resources and action items. This semester, your administration will continue to partner with student organizations as we further this work, which includes analyzing recruitment and hiring processes, exploring curricular resources, and incorporating additional anti-racism trainings. We’ll also host our next Diversity & Inclusion Community Meeting in October (stay tuned for more details).

As we enter this new semester together, we’ll also plan on coming together in September for a One-Month Virtual Check-in. Particularly with some of our students studying entirely remotely, this will be a chance for us to join as a community, discuss challenges, share updates, and answer questions related to the new learning environment. Look to the Docket e-newsletter for more details, as well as other important updates throughout the semester.

Even though the building may look different, know that we’re still here to give you the support you need – from career counseling to academic advising to library resources, your faculty and staff are ready to take on this semester with you! Don’t hesitate to reach out to us with questions.

Sincerely,

Dean Perdue

203 Richmond Way
University of Richmond, VA 23173
(804) 289-8740 Fax: (804) 289-8992
law.richmond.edu