

Dear TJSL Community,

I hope you are safe and healthy while continuing to face the challenges of this Covid-19 summer. I am writing with an important update regarding our plans for the Fall 2020 semester.

As you know, we have made every effort to implement a safe re-opening for the Fall semester. At the same time, however, we have carefully monitored the progress of the pandemic and the roll-back of re-opening in the state and county. Keeping in mind that the safety of our students, faculty and staff is our priority, we have decided to proceed with exclusively remote, synchronous Zoom classes for the Fall semester. This applies to Week One orientation activities beginning next week, as well as to all courses beginning the week of August 17.

Like so many of you, I am disappointed that we will not be able to come together on campus for the Fall semester. Unfortunately, Covid-19 infections have surged across the country in recent weeks, and San Diego County has not been spared. San Diego has been on the State of California's County Monitoring Data list since July 3, 2020 because of the county's high rate of transmission of coronavirus. Despite steps that rolled back re-opening in San Diego County, the situation in the county remains precarious. The availability of Covid-19 testing is limited, and the county has limited capacity to launch prompt investigations into potential outbreaks, meaning that the Law School would have little ability to detect asymptomatic spread or prevent outbreaks on campus. Moreover, as of the morning of August 3, 2020, the state has still not released the necessary guidance for re-opening institutions of higher education.

For these reasons, we have made the hard decision to offer all classes remotely for the duration of the Fall semester. We will be best able to achieve our goal of providing an excellent educational program by maintaining continuity in the method of delivery for classes and avoiding stressful last-minute on-again, off-again on-campus classes dictated by the unpredictability of the pandemic in San Diego. The program of remote education offered this Fall will build on the remote teaching and learning done by students, faculty, and staff during the Spring and Summer terms. Most of our professors are now experienced with online teaching via Zoom from the Spring and Summer terms, and all have devoted time and effort over the summer to prepare for the possibility of entirely remote classes. Faculty are also committed to providing office hours and other opportunities for student-teacher engagement using Zoom or other remote platforms to host one-on-one and group meetings.

In addition, all testing during the Fall will be administered remotely. We anticipate that online tests will be proctored using a remote proctoring service. Students must therefore have access to a computer / laptop with a camera and internet access sufficient to participate in all of their classes and to take remotely proctored tests. Students who anticipate any difficulty with these requirements should reach out immediately to Associate Dean Anders Kaye (anderskaye@tjssl.edu) or Assistant Dean Lisa Ferreira (lisaf@tjssl.edu).

While we have concluded that all courses and testing will be conducted remotely for the entire semester, we will continue to evaluate whether the campus may be re-opened for limited use of the library for quiet study by students and bar studiers, should there be a significant improvement

regarding Covid-19 in San Diego. We will alert you if we are able to open the library to student use.

The Law School will also provide student services remotely until further notice. All departments remain open and available during normal business hours. Those departments can be reached at:

Academics	academics@tjssl.edu
Academic Success & Bar Preparation	academicsuccessprogram@tjssl.edu
Career Services	careerservices@tjssl.edu
Externship/Pro Bono	jtropp@tjssl.edu
Financial Aid	financialaid@tjssl.edu
Information Technology	help@tjssl.edu
Library	rwickman@tjssl.edu
Registrar	registrar@tjssl.edu
Student Affairs (including Disability Accommodations)	lisaf@tjssl.edu

Students are welcome to schedule phone or virtual appointments directly with an individual staff or faculty member.

The Law School will utilize various online platforms to support the strong community spirit at TJSL. Student events will be held using online platforms, such as Discord or Zoom. Other events, Dean's forums, and community-building events will be held online as well. Although we will not have opportunities to chat in the halls or gather for events on campus, I am confident that there will continue to be a robust sense of community thanks to the efforts and creativity of students, faculty, and staff.

Thank you for your resilience during this time. Despite the challenges 2020 has brought us all, we look forward to a great semester and to working together to maintain the vibrant community experience unique to Thomas Jefferson School of Law.

Sincerely,
Dean Keller