MEMORANDUM

TO: All Law Students
FROM: Stephen C. Ferruolo, Dean and Professor of Law
DATE: April 17, 2020
SUBJECT: Updates on Law School Classes/Events for Remainder of Spring 2020 Semester

This Memorandum provides an update from the Memoranda I sent you on Friday, April 3 and Tuesday, April 7.

Thanks to the many students who continue to join our weekly Town Hall meetings. For those who were unable to participate, you can access the recorded version of the April 15 Town Hall [here](access code O6@C6@34).

The final Town Hall of the semester has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 22 from 12:00-1:00 pm PST. Please submit your questions in advance using [this form](access code O6@C6@34).

While we will not hold Town Halls during the exam period, we will continue to send updates and a summary of updated information each Friday for the rest of the semester.

The following covers only information that has been updated since April 7 and is again organized alphabetically. If you do not see a topic covered below, please refer to my prior memoranda:

- **Bar Exam.** At least 15 states have now cancelled the July 2020 bar exam. For an updated list of actions by jurisdictions, use this [link](access code O6@C6@34). The following updates are specific to the State Bar of California.
  - **July 2020 Bar Exam.** On April 15, the State Bar of California Board of Trustees sent a letter to the Supreme Court of California stating that there was a serious question about whether the July 2020 bar exam could (or should) be held as scheduled and proposing two options for the exam: (1) postpone the exam to September 9-10, 2020 and administer it online, in person or both; or (2) cancel the exam and hold the next bar exam, as scheduled, in February 2021. In either instance, the Bar recommended that the Supreme Court establish a working group to consider development of a provisional certification program, under which eligible individuals would be permitted to work under the supervision of a licensed California attorney for some to-be-determined period of time. A copy of the Bar Trustees’ letter is attached. The Supreme Court is meeting on April 22 and is expected to make a decision then.
Although there is no telling what the Supreme Court might do, it now appears unlikely that a July 2020 bar exam will be held in California. Beyond that, your guess is as good as mine, as the Court has never responded to the letter the deans of California ABA-accredited law schools sent in March asking to be consulted. Earlier this evening, seventeen deans sent to the Court a letter expressing concerns about the feasibility of holding an exam in September and recommending provisional licensing to enable graduates to launch their careers.

Transcripts and Certification. The State Bar of California Office of Admissions has confirmed that they will accept electronic certifications and transcripts from an applicant’s law school registrar’s office that confirms a JD degree has been awarded. These electronic documents must be followed by originals as soon as possible, and applicants who successfully pass the bar examination will not be placed on the motion to become a licensed attorney until the originals are received by the Office of Admissions.

Moral Character Applications. The State Bar of California has relaxed filing deadlines for moral character applications. Specifically, the following will be allowed:

- Applicants have ninety (90) days from the date of submission of a moral character application or an extension application to provide completed fingerprints;
- Applicants have ninety (90) days from the date of the incomplete notice to provide the necessary information and documentation; and
- The Program Manager for Moral Character Determinations has permission to allow submission of the aforementioned documents past the ninety (90) day mark if good cause is demonstrated.
- Applicants can access a list of LiveScan fingerprinting locations which are still operating here.

Career and Professional Development (OCPD). Please see the attached memo from OCPD for the latest updates and information.

Commencement.

- Regalia: Any graduating students who have already rented their regalia will be receiving communication from the USD Torero Store the week of April 20 with further instructions on the options available for regalia refunds.
- Schedule: Graduating students will shortly receive a survey from Law Student Affairs, which has been asked by the University Commencement Committee to collect data on scheduling preferences for ceremonies during the weekend of October 16-18, 2020. We will provide more information about the fall commencement ceremony as soon as additional details are finalized by the University Commencement Committee.

Courses.

- CALI Awards. We have confirmed that a CALI award may be given to the highest performing student in any class that is typically eligible for CALI. Faculty have been informed that they have the option of making CALI awards this semester.
- Summer 2020 Courses. It has recently been determined that all summer courses will be held remotely. As previously announced, Summer 2020 courses will be graded on the standard letter-graded, pass/fail, or H/P/L/F systems. Refer to the course descriptions for each course’s specific grading designation. Additional summer courses may be added; please check the course schedule in MySanDiego for the most current course offerings.
● Law Student Affairs (LSA).
  ○ Law Student in Need Fund. Through the generosity of donors, the School of Law has established the Law Student in Need Fund to provide direct support for law students who are facing emergency circumstances that place in jeopardy their ability to complete their legal education. Please visit the Law Student in Need Fund website for the funding guidelines and a link to the application. Applications have already been submitted and funds already being awarded to law students.
  ○ Law students are also eligible to apply to the Toreros Together Emergency Fund for Students. Law students who wish to apply for this fund should first apply to the Law Student in Need Fund. If you are not fully funded or need additional resources, email how you have been personally impacted by COVID-19 and your specific needs to studentaffairs@sandiego.edu.

● Pardee Legal Research Center. USD Law students now have free access to CEB Pro in law school and for 18 months after graduation if they sign up while they are a student. Get your free CEB Pro account now:
  1. Sign up at ceb.com/lawschool with your USD email address
  2. Enter your unique school code: SDX19 (expires May 31, 2020)
  3. Learn more at ceb.com

If you have questions, contact LRC Reference at lrcrefer@sandiego.edu.

● Technology and Remote Course Information. USD’s ITS department is aware of concerns regarding Zoom and security issues. While Zoom has in the past been a target for retrieving user names and passwords, most of the passwords obtained were either old passwords or expired accounts. ITS has confirmed that USD’s Zoom server is behind a very robust network and thus very hard to reach. Specific questions can be directed to help@sandiego.edu.

ATTACHMENTS:
● April 15 letter from State Bar of California Board of Trustees to Supreme Court of California
● April 17 letter from Deans of California ABA-Accredited Law Schools to Supreme Court of California
● OCPD Memo