To Our 1L Entering Class:

We want to let you know that USD has announced today that we must begin the fall 2020 semester with remote teaching. The California Governor and the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency are maintaining restrictions around higher education due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We had hoped for a different result by this point in time. We are disappointed. We know that you are as well. But we understand the need for this decision for the protection of everyone’s health and safety.

We want to assure you that we are fully prepared to offer a rigorous curriculum remotely. USD School of Law has added many resources to assist faculty and students. Our faculty have invested significant time during the summer break to ensure you will have a robust and engaging educational experience utilizing the newest technology.

We want to assure you that some actions will remain the same, such as smaller 1L sections with about 40 students (compared to the typical 80 student sections). This will increase and enhance our ability to form connections with you. Further, we are developing new approaches to connect, outside of class time – with professors as well as your peers, ensuring the community experience that is a hallmark of our law school. More information on that will be forthcoming.

Most importantly, we are ready, willing and able to pivot to in-person and hybrid courses (along with the remote option) once the State and County release higher education from the current restrictions. We remain eager to welcome you in person when the time comes.

Here is a link to the communication from USD President James T. Harris III.

Sincerely,

Margaret A. Dalton, Esq.
Interim Dean and Professor of Law

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