



Appalachian School of Law

Statement on COVID-19 – Novel Coronavirus

March 18, 2020

Dear ASL Students, Faculty, and Staff:

As you are all aware, the coronavirus is necessitating many changes to our daily lives, including the operation of ASL. This is a very rapidly changing situation and, as conditions and CDC guidance change, we must also adapt. It is our priority to protect the health and safety of the ASL community. The remainder of this statement details the adjustments that will be made to classes and staffing. Please read the information carefully and let Associate Dean Heidt or me know if you have any questions.

ADJUSTMENTS TO CLASSES AND CAMPUS EVENTS:

Classes will be conducted online beginning March 23 through at least April 8.

- All classes will be conducted online with both asynchronous and synchronous components.
- A minimum of one class period each week will meet synchronously during its normal time on the schedule.
- Your professors will contact you to indicate which class sessions will be held synchronously; however, until that time, you should plan on being available online at the times you normally would normally have in-person class.
- The attendance policy will apply to synchronous classes and attendance may be verified for asynchronous courses through assignments.
- Some of the synchronous courses may be conducted on campus. Students remaining in Grundy are welcome to attend these sessions in person so long as CDC and Virginia Department of Health guidance allows. Information on which classes will be on campus will be distributed by your professors.
- In addition to attending the synchronous classes, you should plan to have additional asynchronous classes and assignments from your professors.
- Some changes to syllabi will be necessary to accommodate the change in course delivery methods.
- No later than April 5, the administration and faculty will determine if we are able to return to in-person classes after April 8. That decision will be communicated to the community as soon as possible. For the safety of the ASL community and to comply with CDC guidance and state and federal laws, additional quarantine rules may prevent you from returning to campus depending on where you go during this time frame.

All events on campus are cancelled until at least April 8.

- Recent guidance from the CDC and Governor Northam indicates that no more than 10 people should gather in any one place.
- Additionally, persons 65 or older, or those with underlying health conditions are advised to self-quarantine.
- In light of these guidelines, it is not practical to hold events on campus at this time and all events up to April 8 are cancelled.
- The status of events after April 8 will be communicated to the ASL community as soon as possible.

Graduating 3L's.

- 3L students graduating in May face an additional level of complications surrounding the transition to online education.
- Several state bars limit the amount of distance education students are allowed to take during their J.D. for students that wish to take that state's bar. ASL, by holding classes last weekend and compressing the schedule this week, has ensured that all classes this semester will not be considered distance education under the ABA definition. ASL graduates, however, need to review the specific requirements of the bar for which they plan to sit. Jeremy Hurley can assist you with any questions (jwhurley@asl.edu).
- We understand that completing this semester and transitioning to bar study is priority for graduating 3L students. We also understand that without the normal rhythm of in-person classes it will be even more difficult than usual. We are here to assist you with your study schedules and plans. Jeremy Hurley (jwhurley@asl.edu), Nathan Mehta (nmehta@asl.edu), and Rebecca Wescott (rwescott@asl.edu), as well as additional writing coaches are all available to you so that you may begin planning and ensure that you do not lose valuable study time ahead of the bar.
- Additionally, access to Themis bar prep. software is available now to all graduating 3Ls. Please contact Jeremy Hurley (jwhurley@asl.edu) to get access and get set up to begin intensive bar study.
- Finally, several professors have offered to hold additional intensive reviews for bar tested subjects over the coming weeks and months. Please watch your email for additional information on these sessions.

Access to campus.

- So that professors and staff can adjust to online teaching, no classes will be held on March 19 and 20.
- Beginning March 23, the ASL campus will remain open during normal operating hours so long as CDC and Virginia Department of Health guidance allows.
- Students, faculty, or staff experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (fever, dry cough, aches and pains, and other flu-like symptoms) should not come to campus.
- Students, faculty, and staff wishing to access campus facilities will need to have their temperatures checked upon entering campus.
- Temperature checks will be 7 days a week from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. until further notice.

GUIDANCE FOR EMPLOYEES

Staff employees not in a high-risk category should report to work on a normal schedule.

- Though classes are moving online, the law school will remain operational, necessitating staff support.
- Pursuant to CDC guidance, staff employees 65 or older or who have underlying medical conditions should not report to work and should instead contact their supervisor as soon as possible.
- Staff experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (fever, dry cough, aches and pains, and other flu-like symptoms) should not report to work.
- All other staff should report to work on a normal schedule unless otherwise directed by their supervisor.
- Student workers should contact their supervisors for further instructions.

Faculty employees should continue to teach classes and provide student services.

- Faculty will continue to teach classes in an online format as indicated above. Faculty not in a high-risk category may also hold synchronous online classes on campus.
- Pursuant to CDC guidance, faculty employees 65 or older or who have underlying medical conditions should not come to campus.
- Faculty experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (fever, dry cough, aches and pains, and other flu-like symptoms) should not come to campus.
- Faculty with additional responsibilities for student services such as career services or the academic support should continue to provide those services to students, using online resources where necessary.

Implementing these changes will no doubt be difficult, and we know further questions will arise, but we remain confident in the ASL community's ability to adapt and triumph. Thank you to everyone in the ASL community for your support, optimism, creativity, resilience, flexibility and team spirit in these challenging times.

Thank you,

Justice (ret.) Elizabeth A. McClanahan
Dean