



Appalachian School of Law

Statement on COVID-19 – Novel Coronavirus

March 23, 2020

Dear ASL Students, Faculty, and Staff:

Though we have been following CDC guidance of limiting gatherings of more than 10 people since it was released, the Virginia Governor has now ordered the same until April 23, 2020. The Governor's order has thus preempted us from resuming a full-time class schedule on campus for the remainder of the semester. Therefore:

- Classes will remain in their current online/hybrid format for the remainder of the spring semester.
- Exams will be conducted remotely.

ASL continues to monitor the developing situation with COVID-19 and take steps to increase the safety of the ASL community. Please review the following relevant information:

- A bill has been passed to ensure that students receiving a housing allowance under the GI-Bill will continue to do so even if their school has converted to distance education. This temporary measure is in effect through December 21, 2020. Please contact David Brookshire at dbrookshire@asl.edu if you have questions.
- The VBA is helping Virginia law students who may have housing issues due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please contact Gus Chafin at gchafin@asl.edu if you or another student you know needs assistance.
- Interest on federal student loans has been temporarily waived and 60-day payment forbearances are available.
- With the Governor's order, it is clear Commencement and Barrister's Ball will not occur on May 2. If students so desire, we are committed to holding both events at a time when we can do so consistent with federal, state, and local law and CDC guidance.

In light of the ongoing concerns around COVID-19 and the entire ASL community's interest in maximizing safety, ASL continues to implement the following policy regarding domestic and international travel for students, faculty, and staff.

- Students, faculty, and staff who travel more than 50 miles from campus and then return to Grundy must disclose the locations they have travelled to before returning to campus.
- Anyone that meets this criteria should send an email to Susie Gibson (sgibson@asl.edu) identifying locations to which they have travelled.
- Students, faculty, and staff that have travelled more than 50 miles from campus or been visited by someone coming from more than 50 miles from campus; that are coming from high risk areas; or from areas with substantial community spread of COVID-19 may be asked to provide a health screening and self-quarantine for 14 days before returning to campus.

As a reminder, the CDC recommends that everyone avoid discretionary travel at this time and many states have issued stay at home orders.

Campus facilities remain open. Consistent with CDC guidelines, all students, faculty, and staff should not come to campus, regardless of travel, if they:

1. Are 65 years old or older, or have underlying medical conditions, or
2. Are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (fever, dry cough, or other flu-like symptoms)

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.

Thank you,

Justice (ret.) Elizabeth A. McClanahan
Dean