



Appalachian School of Law

Statement on COVID-19 – Novel Coronavirus

March 30, 2020

Dear ASL Students,

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:

- On March 30, Governor Northam issued a stay-at-home order that, with limited exceptions, requires all individuals in Virginia to remain in their residences. With respect to institutions of higher education, the order specifically prohibits in-person classes and instruction, but allows institutions to remain open for the purposes of facilitating remote learning and other essential functions. ASL, therefore, will remain open subject to the restrictions below. The full text of the order can be found at the following link:
[https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/executive-actions/EO-55-Temporary-Stay-at-Home-Order-Due-to-Novel-Coronavirus-\(COVID-19\).pdf](https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/executive-actions/EO-55-Temporary-Stay-at-Home-Order-Due-to-Novel-Coronavirus-(COVID-19).pdf)
- ***Until further notice, the ASL campus is closed to all students that have travelled outside of a 50-mile radius of the campus since March 18th or who have had close contact with a person that has travelled outside of this radius since March 18th. While no cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Buchanan County to date, cases in surrounding areas are increasing, warranting the use of great caution.***
- ***Students are not permitted on campus, regardless of travel, if they are 65 years old or older, have underlying medical conditions, have a fever of 98.9 or greater, or are experiencing other symptoms consistent with COVID-19. (dry cough, or other flu-like symptoms)***
- ***The Governor's order means that all classes will be conducted remotely. No classes will be held in person on campus for the remainder of the semester or during the first two summer intercessions.***
- ***All students accessing campus for any reason must have their temperature checked immediately upon arriving on campus and before accessing any campus facilities, including the library. Temperature checks are only available at designated times. Students arriving on campus at times when checks are not available will be asked to return at the next available time. Please refer to the procedures for temperature checks below.***

- ***Library hours will be restricted to 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 midnight, Monday – Saturday and 12:00 noon – 12:00 midnight on Sunday. Students will not have access to the library outside of these hours.***
- ***All students on campus for any reason must follow social distancing guidelines and maintain 6 feet of separation between persons. No student group meetings of any size are permitted.***

Graduation and Events:

- Because the Governor's Order is in effect until June 10, all events must be postponed until at least that date. ASL is tentatively looking at dates in the week following the bar exam to hold graduation. We will continue to update students as details are available.

Exams and Grading Policies:

- All grading policies remain in effect and ASL is not moving to pass/fail grading for the spring semester.
- All exams will be conducted online in open-book format. The length and composition of each exam is at the professor's discretion but will be distributed to students over the next two weeks. Please watch for emails from Associate Dean Heidt or Beth Stanley for additional details regarding exams.
- Some students have expressed concerns about withdrawing students impacting the grading curve or required NP/F percentages. At this time very few students have withdrawn from courses, so the impact is negligible. We will, however, reassess this issue after the withdraw period closes on April 3. If a significant number of students withdraw from any one class, the faculty will make adjustments to ensure that the remaining students are graded fairly.

Summer Classes:

- Because the Governor's Order is in effect until June 10, all 1st and 2nd intercession courses will be held online. Additionally, we are attempting to reschedule some classes so that students may take more than one class in each intercession. This will mean longer intercessions but more opportunities for students. Please watch for emails from Associate Dean Heidt and Beth Stanley for updates.

Bar Exams:

- At this time only two states have postponed their July bar exams, Massachusetts and New York. Because of the large number of takers in those jurisdictions, however, these decisions may impact other states.
- The NCBE, which creates the MBE, MEE, and other test components has stated that it will make a decision regarding the availability of these exam components for July by May 5.
- Virginia has also stated that it will determine if a July bar exam will be held by May 5.
- Several states, including Virginia, have indicated that if it is not possible to hold a July exam, they intend to hold an exam in the fall rather than moving all July takers to the February exam.
- Graduating students should stay in touch with Jeremy Hurley (jwhurley@asl.edu) regarding their plans and for information regarding individual state bar exams.

- All bar exam resources including Themis, bar coaching, and writing coaches are still available to students. Please contact Jeremy Hurley (jwhurley@asl.edu) for more information.

Temperature Check Procedures:

- Temperature checks will be 7 days a week from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. until further notice.
- Students who have not had their temperatures checked for the day will be asked to leave campus and return when checks are next available.
- Upon entering campus, students exhibiting a temporal artery temperature greater than 98.9 degrees Fahrenheit will not be allowed to access campus facilities for a minimum of 24 hours. After 24 hours, students will be allowed a re-screening. Upon re-screening, if the student's temperature is no longer greater than 98.9 without the use of medication, the student will be allowed to access campus facilities.

Thank you,

Justice (ret.) Elizabeth A. McClanahan
Dean