

Dear Rising 1Ls:

With the arrival of summer, we eagerly anticipate the start of the school year this August and the chance to meet all of you! The Office of the Dean of Students ("ODOS") and the Office of Student Life ("OSL") plan the first year Orientation week, oversee co-curricular life at the Law Center, and serve as advocates for student interests. We recognize how unusual this time is, but are looking forward to exploring the opportunities we will have to try new (and perhaps improved) ways of connecting and building community. We are fully committed to making sure your 1L experience is rich, engaging, and filled with opportunities to grow, transform and build community with each other and with our staff and faculty.

Now that you are officially a Georgetown Law student, **your primary source of information for this summer will be the [Orientation website](#) (instead of the Admitted Students website.)** Please regularly check the Orientation website for updates. This letter summarizes a few of those updates, with more to come in letters from me every few weeks this summer.

As you heard from Dean Treanor last week, we are planning to offer all of your classes live on campus this Fall, pending the approval from the District of Columbia of the University's Reopening plan and subject to change if there is updated health guidance. You will have the option to participate remotely if you need to for health or other personal reasons, no questions asked. Our staff and faculty are deeply committed to doing our very best to not disadvantage anyone who needs to participate by Zoom for a few days or the whole semester.

Given this flexibility, we know that many of you are now making plans about when (or if) you will move to Washington this summer. The mandatory Orientation week for J.D. students in the full time program runs from **Monday, August 24 through Friday, August 28, with a few hours of programming each day**. Because we know that plans for some of you will still be in flux in August, and because the pandemic likely will not permit us safely to gather you together on campus in large numbers until later in the school year, **Orientation will be offered primarily online**. However, because classes will hopefully be offered live on campus starting the following week, we think it important to give you a chance to meet a few faculty and experience a simulated class live on campus during orientation week if your situation permits. Each of the 1L sections will have the opportunity to do this in a 2-3 hour block at some point during the Orientation week, and we will keep you posted as that schedule comes together. Please note that you will be able to participate in the in-person programming during orientation week remotely, including the simulated class meeting with your professors. But as with classes this fall, we very much hope you will participate live on campus if you can.

#### **Activities this Summer:**

We are thrilled that many of you have been joining us in recent weeks for yoga, barre, meditation and the SBA Fireside chats! You'll come to see that well-being activities and informal community activities such as these are part of the heart and soul of the Georgetown Law experience. In July, we will continue these Pre-Orientation opportunities with a short Faculty Talk series. The series will highlight various areas of law and policy by some of our most

influential and impactful faculty in their fields. It is also a chance to get to know faculty members and your fellow 1L students. The Faculty Talks will be open to all first-year students on a drop-in basis on Zoom; you need not sign up ahead of time. A schedule of the talks will be distributed and posted on the Orientation website by the first week of July, so stay tuned.

For those keen to see our faculty and distinguished alums in action this month, and to get a preview of the unique intersection of cultural and legal opportunities that make DC such an exciting place to live and learn, let me highlight a wonderful opportunity next week. Each year, one of DC's true cultural treasures, the Shakespeare Theatre, presents a hilarious mock trial of a famous character in literature, with some of DC's most accomplished attorneys and judges playing the jury and advocates (two years ago, the panel included Justices Ginsburg and Breyer!). Next **Monday evening, June 22**, the theater will be live-streaming the show free of charge for law students, and Georgetown Law community members will play prominent roles. This year the trial is a humorous take on A Midsummer Night's Dream, the advocates are Georgetown Law alumna Kathryn Ruemmler (President Obama's White House Counsel) and Abbe Lowell (legendary DC trial lawyer and former Georgetown Law faculty member), and the distinguished bench of DC Circuit judges will include our own adjunct professor Judge Patricia A. Millett. If you would like a ticket, call 202-547-1122 and mention the free ticket offer for Georgetown Law students.

### **Housing on Campus:**

For those who have applied to live in the on-campus Gewirz Student Center, the housing selection process will commence as soon as our fall housing plan has been approved by Georgetown University and city officials. We can say for now that, pending city approval, Gewirz will open at reduced occupant density and with social distancing and other public health measures in place. We hope to let you know soon whether you have secured a room through the housing lottery. Please know, we are working hard to create a safe environment while also providing opportunities for residents to feel a part of a robust residence community.

### **Additional Questions?**

With all the unknowns surrounding the pandemic, we know that this year more than ever you likely will have some specific questions about moving to D.C., first-year classes, campus resources and public health measures, and how to balance school and other commitments. As questions arise, please feel free to email or call ODOS (tel. 202-662-4066 or email [laworientation@georgetown.edu](mailto:laworientation@georgetown.edu)). Think of ODOS as your portal to the Law Center – the place to go if you have a small question but don't know where to get started, or a more serious concern that needs immediate attention.

I look forward to meeting you all in August, whether live or on-screen. For now, stay safe and be well.

Warm regards,

Mitch Bailin

Associate Vice President and Dean of Students