Dear Members of the PSL and SIA Community,

Thank you all for supporting each other and for your patience as we all navigate the challenges of COVID-19 and the transition to remote instruction on Monday. With special thanks to Dean Shaffer for leading the PSL/SIA COVID-19 Response Team; Dean Gardner, Sara Krome, and the IT Team for transitioning our courses; Dr. Gartner and Dean Engle for sorting through the academic details; and so many others on the response team and beyond for their around-the-clock work this week, we are as ready as possible for Monday.

Both Penn State Law and SIA will remain open during this period, but will be functioning somewhat differently to support remote instruction and telecommuting. The building will be locked, but accessible via swipe cards during this period. In line with the university’s guidance strongly discouraging students from returning and encouraging everyone to practice social distancing, please only come to the building for essential business and not to congregate or study. If you are sick, have been in contact with people who are sick, or are in self quarantine, please do not come to the building.

All of our key offices in both schools will be open, but operating remotely. The Penn State Law COVID-19 Information Page, https://pennstatelaw.psu.edu/psl-virus, and SIA COVID-19 Information Page, https://sia.psu.edu/sia-virus, provide contact information for key offices in both schools during this period and those offices are also reaching out to students directly. We will continue to provide academic, admissions, career services, clinical programs, communications, faculty, financial services, HR, GIP, IT, library services, and student services support during this period. In addition, the university has a very helpful information page, https://sites.psu.edu/virusinfo/, with many resources, including information on steps to take if you feel ill. The university has also created resource pages on remote learning, https://remotelearning.psu.edu/, and remote teaching, https://remoteteaching.psu.edu/.

We are aware that many students may lack access to course materials. We will allow students who are not sick, have not been in contact with those who are sick, or are not in self quarantine to come by the building to pick up things from their lockers. In addition, the university and our library are working on options for students to have online access to course materials whenever possible. Dean Hinckley will be in touch with details for online access to course materials as we are able to work them out – we have a plan for law publishers and are going to work with SIA faculty – as well as on how library services will work during this period.

I have been so grateful and impressed by how our community has pulled together to face this challenge. We know that there will likely be some issues as we transition to remote instruction on Monday, and our teams stand ready to work through them with you. Please be patient as we make this massive transition and please continue to support each other as we all do our best in this evolving situation. WE ARE!

Best,