

4-28-20 Stetson Law.

CART Provided By: A La CARTe Connection.

CART Disclaimer: This rough edit transcript, which may contain missing, misspelled or paraphrased words, is only provided for your immediate review and is not certified as verbatim and is not to be cited in any way.

[ captioner standing by ]

>> We want to say thank you for our panelists joining us today. We're excited about today's live chat panel. We want to thank our students for tuning in today. This is the fifth installment of our live chat theory and we appreciate your engagement thus far and hope that you found these live chats to be informative and helpful and also enjoyable. We certainly hope that this has been an opportunity for you to get to know Stetson a little better and to feel engaged with our community so far. The goal of today's live stream is to allow you to get to know the student experience and we have some students joining us today, current students who will be able to share why they chose Stetson and what their experience at Stetson has been and maybe give you some tips and advice as to what you should be thinking about as you begin your Law School journey. My name, I forgot to introduce myself, my apologies. My name is Karla, Davis-Jamison and I'm joined today by fellow colleagues from the admissions office, car men Johnson our Associate Director and Isaac Miller our associate direct for FRA strategic marketing and statistical research. I will stop there and allow our current students to introduce themselves and then we will shift to a question and answer session. Throughout the session if you want to post your questions in the question's feature, that's where we'll be grabbing them a little bit later after

the introductions and we'll take as many questions as we possibly can and there's no question off limits so feel free to ask any question that is on your mind. We're happy to respond to those. And keep in mind that our students were in your shoes not too long ago. So, they have some very valuable advice and continue accomplishments they can share with you about Stetson and their experience here. So, at this time, I want to shift to Gabby and allow her to introduce herself.

>> Hi, everyone. Hi, my name is Gabby Torres. I hope you are all safe and healthy and all that good stuff.

[ audio froze ]

>> If you would like to join it -- okay.

>> Hello? Am I okay?

>> Apologies.

>> Nature of the beast. I don't know where I cut out so, I graduated from Florida State University and I come from a suburb outside of Fort Lauderdale and I went to Florida State because I wanted a larger school experience. I wanted that big university vibe. And then after I finished living in Tallahassee and finished my undergraduate career, I did not want a large university life anymore, which is the reason that I was so drawn to Stetson.

Immediately the faculty and the staff at Stetson is the most kind and welcoming community that I've ever experienced on a University level. Which was amazing and definitely is a Testament to the fact that smaller schools can give students more attention. So, that was a huge deal for me. And also, I love St. Petersburg, the beach and the culture and the museums and I wanted to live

somewhere that I could -- I wanted to learn somewhere I could also live and have more than just school be my driving force in my life because as a part-time student there's a lot more going on in my life than just Stetson. I also wanted to be able to get involved and getting involved in a large campus is different and a little difficult. So as a first-year, I am a member of the student bar association and I'm also a member of the part-time student's society which I think is amazing because I was able to get involved on a serious level as a first year student, which just goes to show you that Stetson takes its students seriously and wants them to get involved in all the things they can get involved in. And it's really been wonderful. It's been a great experience so far. So, congratulations on getting admitted and I hope to see you all on campus whenever we can be on campus again.

>> Thank you, Gabby and Marisabel, are you there?

>> That's right. Okay. Great. Can you hear me now? Hi everyone, my name is Marisabel, I'm a first year full-time student. Grew up in Miami Florida and decided to go to UCF in Orlando for my undergrad so I'm first generation so moving away from home was a difficult decision in and of itself and in making my decision to go to Law School, like I said I'm a first generation student, I didn't really have anyone to help guide me and so I actually became involved with a pre-law fraternity at UCF, phi alpha delta and quickly became the President of it. I became really immersed and through that opportunity I was able to meet faculty admission staff from all over Florida, all over the country and Stetson just immediately stood out. Their faculty, their -- the people at the school are so genuinely welcoming and friendly and it's like a culture that I didn't really feel a lot

with other schools and that really drove me straight to Stetson. Their campus, I may be a little biased, but it is the most beautiful campus in all of Florida. It truly is. If you have not had a chance to visit the campus I highly, highly encourage it. So, yeah, so coming to Stetson I of course first year grades are very important, so I tried to focus as much as possible, but I also wanted to be involved. And during your first year it's a good opportunity to start getting involved a little bit so that then your second year you can really be more involved. I am part of the Hispanic bar association, part of the Florida lawyer's association for women and I recently got elected as President of Phi Alpha Delta. I also was recently accepted into the joint MBA program so you have questions about that I'm more than happy to speak on my experience on that so far and how the application process was if that's something that you're interested in. I was also recently selected to be a Stetson ambassador which I am so, so happy about because if you couldn't tell I'm passionate about Stetson and really love it so much so this is just an amazing opportunity for me to continue representing Stetson and working with potential and admitted students as well, as well as current students.

So, yes, I truly love Stetson. Another amazing thing are the professors. I was actually recently talking with one of my classmates about this a few days ago about how amazing the professors are here and how Stetson is truly, truly lucky to have such an amazing faculty, like group. Just my contracts professor, hopefully you guys have Marco when you start because he is literally a contracts guru and happy to have him as a professor. So, congratulations everyone, happy you applied to Stetson and got admitted. It's a really big step in itself and you should really be proud and, yeah.

>> Thank you, Marisabel and congratulations on all your new appointments.

>> Thank you.

>> Now, Breyon Love.

>> Hi all, can you hear me?

>> Yes.

>> Awesome. My name is Breyon Love second year candidate originally from Atlanta, Georgia and spent a little time after my undergrad I graduated from Florida A & M University in Tallahassee. I worked for a couple years after undergrad as a retail Executive for a couple years. But I always wanted to go to Law School and Stetson was on the top of the list for me based on the high marks in trial advocacy but also I was used to that small learning environment from my undergrad and I loved that you really get an opportunity to interact with your professors and it's a small class environment. And like Marisabel and Gabby talked about how amazing their first-year professors are, they really are some great professors and I loved being really close to the beach. That's definitely a great uphill for me. But both of those things really were some of the things that I looked into when I wanted to join Stetson and of course having the opportunity to attain my MBA while getting mid JD was very important to me. Here at Stetson I've been involved with black law student association, also had opportunity my first year to participate in a couple of the oral advocacy competitions and really enjoyed those and throughout the first and second year there's always a lot of different activities and things to get involved with. So, I encourage you guys to get involved with and, yeah, welcome to Stetson and I hope to meet some of you guys when you come in this upcoming fall.

>> Thank you, Breyon and last but not least we have Christopher joining us from a beautiful setting.

>> Yeah, just hanging out at work today under quarantine, pretty much on remote work but I come in to do stuff. Hey everyone, I'm Chris Pate from Auburn, University went there for under grad. During my spring break my final year of under grad my roommate and I decided to do a Law School tour. Most fun thing to do on spring break. Right? So, we went around Alabama and saw Florida state and came to Stetson and my roommate is from Tampa. We absolutely fell in love. It's a tropical paradise and the next day his family took us out to lunch with a group of attorneys, it happened to be attorneys, they were family friends but they were attorneys and many Stetson trained and I got to interact with them and I knew Stetson is where I needed to go. And funny part about it is actually one of the people at that lunch was the CEO and President of the firm I'm now working at and coming to as an associate after I graduate. So, it all came full circle. Since being the Stetson I've been on law review, moot court and got to travel to 4 competitions I argued in front of the Florida state court last summer at the Florida bar conference and been a teaching assistant for RW1 and RW2 courses and President of the Stetson federal bar association, I've had experiences to work for federal judges during the summer, I've worked as a summer associate at the law firm I'm currently working at now and I will join this firm in products liability with focus in aviation once I pass the bar in September. So welcome to Stetson.

>> Thank you, Christopher. And what a cool story. Okay, so I will ask everyone to rejoin us and remind you all who are viewing to post your questions.

If you have any questions for the panel, Lees take the time to post those questions in the question feature and we'll get to them. We have a few questions already here. So, I'll go ahead and start with those. The first one is from Amen, the question is related to housing. So want to get some information, a perspective on housing options, recommendations, you know, are you living on campus or off campus, how did you, you know, do your housing search and what resources would you recommend students consider as they consider housing. Anyone want to take that first question?

>> I can talk a little bit about it. It I actually started my first year actually living a little further from campus, so I actually commuted from south Tampa which is maybe a 25-minute commute. I did that my first year but if I was to do it over again, I would stay close to campus. Now I actually stay in Rosa which is walking distance from the library and I think that's one thing I would have done differently is to really work with the housing office and stay a little bit closer to campus, if you can and if not, you know, stay maybe 10 minutes somewhere in St. Pete and that was something that I really missed out on is really getting engaged a little bit more and having that access to the library all the time.

>> I actually came down during the summer after my undergraduate, finished, came down for what was described as a house shopping trip but it was more of a fishing trip with side house shopping but I looked on zillion low and areas around campus for apartment and come to find out there's tons of affordable housing right around Stetson. I actually in the condos, golf view condominiums across the street from the school and it's known as the Law School second dorms because over 50 percent of the people that live there are law students and I found a very

affordable apartment unit in that building so that's where I live and there's plenty of opportunities on campus and around campus.

>> Yeah.

>> Gabby.

>> Hi. Sorry about that. I would say as a part-time student you will have class in both Gulf Port and Tampa campus. So, you definitely want to keep in mind that you want to be kind of close to both as much as possible. So, I live fairly close to 275. But on the St. Pete side because most of my classes are in Gulf Port. So, I'm 10 minutes from the Gulfport campus but pretty close to the highway which makes it easier to get across the bridge to Tampa in the evenings. So definitely just keep that in mind if you are a part-time-student ha is deciding to go to Stetson. You need access to both campuses, and you will need it and traffic is rough in the afternoons.

>> Just a little.

>> So, I also live 25 minutes away from campus, actually. And as you can see, I've been pretty involved. So traveling back and forth at first was an issue but then I realized that if I just plan to be there the whole day I would take a change of clothes if I needed to and also my lunch so I really wasn't spending too much by not being able to come back and make myself a quick snack in the middle of the day so even if you manage to find something that's a little more removed from the campus, you can definitely still make it work.

>> Our next question is from Melissa and it's related to student organizations. Basically, when are they meeting. She knows that student organizations typically try to meet during the 12:00 to 1:00 break hour but are there other times that



student organizations have found to be effective in meeting the scheduling needs of students? And then Gabby if you want to specific specifically to how part-time students are able to engage with student organizations that would be helpful. So maybe one or two of you and of course, Gabby.

>> Okay. So that is correct. Most student organizations do try to meet between that noon and 1:00 time frame because most students are on campus, full-time students are on campus and have nothing to do during that one-hour period. The part-time student society, it's 4 part-time students, 5 part-time students, meets in the afternoons, meets in the evenings around 5:15 because night classes start around 6:00. 6:00, 6:15. So usually students can get there a little early and we can have our part-time student society meeting then go to class afterwards. Because the noon to 1:00 time slot isn't feasible for 95 percent of us. The student bar association alternates their meetings. So, you'll have one meeting at noon and one meeting at 5:00. And they flip back and forth to try to accommodate part-time students. As far as other organizations are concerned, I'm not really sure but I will tell you that SBA and PTSS both offer recordings and teams log-ins so you can attend virtually if you can't in person. So as a part-time student if you're at work and you can't make it in, you can go online, go into a team's meeting and you can listen to what's going on so you can still stay informed and stay involved without having to physically show up on to campus which is pretty helpful.

>> Yeah, and I'll jump in for the full-time student aspect, I guess. I've been leader or in leadership positions in a couple different organizations and the way we typically do it is send out a poll link or something through engage or one of the

other software platforms the school uses to try to get an idea when people can meet. We do typically try to meet during lunch just because one, food is great, and all the student organizations provide free lunch with their meetings and what not and two it's when everybody is on campus like Gabby. So typically, it's the noon time but 5:00, 3:00. Typically, classes are, the brunt projected between 10:00 and 12:00 and 1:00 and 3:00 so anytime outside of that people are usually free to meet.

>> All right. I will switch to a question that maybe Christopher since you're closest to taking the bar you might want to take the lead on this question. Can you talk a little bit about bar prep opportunities at Stetson?

>> Absolutely. And there are a ton of them and I'm actually taking advantage of some of them this year. First off, your bar prep starts day one of Law School. It starts with the foundational first year class that teaches you the foundations of law and Stetson does an incredible job of that. I loved my first-year classes. It sounds nerdy but I love them, and you will be there too. Professors care about their student's success and willing to work with you throughout Law School and this we're in particular there's a couple courses Stetson offers for bar prep, multistate, survey, Florida law, overview of Florida law and a bunch of different courses easing you into the full summer long bar prep process. I didn't take a lot of those courses because I was focusing on working more and doing other outside school activities but did take survey. At first, I wasn't sure it was doing focused on barriers helpful, extremely helpful. I covered a bunch of the topics and re-learned them and memorized the elements for cause of action and a lot of subjects we will be tested on the Florida bar and on top of that Stetson has a

resource, entire department that's solely focused on helping students prepare for the bar and I haven't really met with them that much but friends have and they get plans and strategies in place for each person so they can do as best as possible on the bar.

>> Thank you. So, we will shift to Melissa's next question, which is related to experiential opportunities. If any of you have taken advantage of clinics or externships can you jump in and describe sort of what that experience entailed, perhaps what was the process, what was the benefit and tell us a little bit about your experiential opportunities at Stetson.

>> Has anybody else done an externship? I don't want to take up all the airtime.

>> All right. We just previously had, I think it was last Thursday we had Christy and Ryan do a wonderful clinic and externships live chat. And that live chat was pretty amazing. I learned a lot. It's available on our connect with us page. And it's viewable as a recorded session. So, Melissa I'm going to encourage you to take a look at that if you haven't already to learn a little bit more about the clinics and externship opportunities at Stetson.

>> And I did do federal judicial externship which I think is a great opportunity. Typically, students do it after one L year and involves working with a federal judge in Chambers which there's no better experience for a law student. So the application process is simple, you submit a resume and writing sample and if you're selected you get to work with a federal judge and do draft orders and research and strategize for the judge to see how they will write opinions and do everything that's ongoing in the court house in the summer so it's invaluable and I

suggest everyone try to do it.

>> Thank you. So, Thomas has a question related to the small college setting, the small community that we've talked about that is definitive of Stetson. He wants you to share what that experience looks and feels like in terms of attention that students receive from faculty, classroom interaction, what is the small school setting feel like and would you recommend it to students?

>> So, I can definitely speak on this because it is one of the things that really drew me to Stetson. First, so there are two Stetson campuses. One is the undergrad campus and the law campus is St. Petersburg so we don't have any undergraduate students at our campus which is really nice. It's only dedicated to the law community so everyone you see walking around you know they're either a faculty member or a student and like we had spoken about before, the community, the environment at Stetson is very friendly, very welcoming. All the students, there's no real competitiveness like you see at a lot of different campuses so everyone is very approachable and a lot of times you will see the same faces around, quite often. So, you become really comfortable with different people and you feel comfortable going up to them, asking them any questions. You know who the two L's are and three L's and you can approach them and ask anything you are interested in like stern chips, different competitions, moot court, the professors are -- so for the 1L courses our classes are a little bigger, but they're still not as big as I've heard some of the 1L courses get at other schools. And the professors are always more than willing to speak with you, to invite you over to their office hours. I've never had a professor not able to schedule a meeting with me because they don't have enough time. So that's really great.

Also, the library is open 24 hours, and that's just amazing. I don't know if that was part of the specific question but technically it is only open to law students, especially after hours and on the weekends. So that was another thing that was really important for me.

>> I like to add a little bit. I know access to your professors is really big. I mean these are professors that have amazing resumes that have clerk for judges, worked for judges that have been partners at law firms that have done really big publications and to really get an opportunity to work with them and to get to know them, you know, helps with your development as a student but also in the future. You know you might have a recommendation letter that you might need or you might have an opportunity to do research for a professor or be a teaching assistant for a professor that has worked for a judge or has been a partner and that's some great experience you can have and I have some friends that are at other law schools and they don't have that access because it's a much bigger environment. So just having the opportunity to really get to know your classmates, but also have that access to knock on your professor's door and really chat with them is a great and valuable experience in my opinion.

>> Yes, Gabby?

>> And if I may add as a part-time student like we a lot of times aren't on campus at the same time as our professors are, up until class time. And it is huge that they are so accommodating with our schedules. They understand that most of us work or have families or have all these other obligations that make it very difficult to get on to campus, you know, between 9:00 and 5:00. And so, our professors are not opposed to meeting on 9 weekends, there's not opposed to

helping us figure out ways we can communicate with them and even more so than our career development, my professors so far have been so interested and so considerate of our well-being beyond our academic setting because they understand there's more going on in our lives than just like this specific experience. And so, like professor Lake specifically was my torts professor and he was constantly concerned about our well -- how we were doing beyond the classroom even if he wasn't worried about our academic performance he was asking how we were doing and to knock on his door with any problem we were having, not just academic settings. Zoning the small school setting is phenomenal. It really has strengthened my experience and bonding with my learning. It's may me way more interested in learning because I want to be able to go to my professors and say hey what do you think about this thing and I want to come to them with experience and knowledge.

>> Thanks. Okay, so our next question is from Samuel and Marisabel I will ask you to respond as the leader on this one since you're in your first year as full-time student. He wants to know what the first-year schedule looks like, specifically regarding sort of what days of the week and what hours are classes, et cetera?

>> Sure. So, they do a good job setting the schedule for you. First year fall and spring are completely set for you and you will be in your respective section except for your research and writing course which is different. So normally last semester I had class every single day, Mondays, I actually didn't have class in the morning which was nice and I had class in the afternoon and then every day Tuesday-Thursday I had class, 1:00 in the morning at 10 I'm sorry, 10:00 a.m. and one in the afternoon at 1:00 p.m. or 3:00 p.m. I was a little luckier in that

regard because I know there's another section that had 1 class at 8:00 a.m., I believe. Then I had one Friday class in the morning. Then this semester, same thing. I had class every day, Monday was both morning and afternoon then Friday my morning class then we had mentioned before between 12:00 and 1:00 there's always a lunch gap so there's a popular time for organizations to have meetings. I've never heard of a meeting taking place before 12:00 or after 1:00, before 5:00 so they're really conscious of accommodating to the student's schedules. It wasn't huge work overload. I mean you're going to Law School so there will be a lot of work, but the classes are spaced out nicely and always time in between to do anything you may need to do and by 5:00 I was always done.

>> Thank you. So Breyon and Christopher I will ask you to chime in on this question. It's related to exams. What are exams like? And can you describe in any detail how you prepare for exams and how you are successful through exam period?

>> Sure, Breyon you want to go first?

>> Sure. Sure. So, I do think that was an adjustment for me. I went to business school under grad. So, there's more of the presentations and, you know, maybe occasional research paper and quizzes throughout the semester. But it's definitely a different philosophy and exam process in Law School. I think your first year some of your classes you might have a midterm to help engage and give you like some practice questions to help you formulate how to attack an exam. But usually most of the exams are one final at the end of the year and it really kind of captures everything that you learned throughout the semester. The professors do a really good job of letting you know what they want. You know,

letting you know what they expect. So, you are learning the law and you have to try to not really learn it. You know, you have to really put effort into Mott learning it. They're going to give you the black letter law, as long as you're keeping up with readings and taking good notes you will be fine and research and writing classes do a good job of giving you the structure of how to answer and write an exam because in practice, you're going to be given an issue or fact pattern and you are really going to have to identify those things and attack them in a certain type of way and you learn all those skills throughout your first year semester and first year courses. So, once you like find out your way of learning and everybody learns differently. You'll have an opportunity to kind of formulate that throughout your first exam season to learn how to do your outline and how to retain information for you, but once you get through that you will be just fine.

>> Thank you.

>> Yeah, you want me to jump in as well?

>> Yes, yes, yes.

>> So, yeah, exams can be a little daunting. First semester of Law School I remember in particular kind of sitting in classes and thinking, okay, I know there's an exam after this, how do I need to be prepared for that huge exam. The first year professors do a really good job of kind of coaching you through that first semester courses and reminding you, hey today would be a good day to make sure you distilled your notes into an outline so they keep you accountable to make sure you're preparing throughout the entire semester for the exam because it's a start to finish process. You really have to be paying attention in class, doing your reading, taking notes then you'll do have well on the exam and it kind of comes



naturally. Then during like the reading week and reading period before exams always I took my notes that I had not distilled into an outline and distilled them into an outline and it's a long tedious process but by doing that I knew everything I needed to on the exam and the exam itself, my first crim law my heart was pounding and 4 hours XML exam and you blink and it's done and you restate everything you learned and applied it and I did well and I know a lot of people did well and it's not nearly as scary an application as it is in your mind. So, preparation throughout the semester and...

>> I want to add one more thing. I know I can remember when I was being admitted and starting my first semester everyone would say outline. Okay, what is an outline. What does it look like? I need to see a finished product to see where I need to get. But there are a lot of commercial outlines that you can just look at to see like, hey, this is the idea of what the finished product should look like. But you definitely want to create your own and develop your own process but I'm the type of person I need to see the finished product so it might help you, okay, what is the goal I need to get to and you develop your own process of than synthesizing and creating your own and that will really help with being successful during that time.

>> The next question is sort of a general question related to how -- what would you recommend a student be doing during the summer leading up to fall classes? A couple of folks have actually posed this question. And it's a great question. We get it all the time in admissions so I would love to hear your advice as students. Wife been there before. What do you recommend students be doing now during their summer sort of leading up to starting fall classes?

>> I recommend this book.

>> Okay.

>> It's called Law School confidential and I bought this early in the summer before my first year started. It just has everything, I mean it talks about how to outline, how to read cases and case briefs, how to prepare for exams, how to then after your exams are over how do you kind of reflect on how you performed on those exams, if you would want to perform better or maintain your study strategies and study habits and just making sure you make a plan for the future to maintain those habits. It talks about the law review competition, it talks about literally your first, second and third year in detail and externships, opportunities, employment, how to approach, you know, getting your career path and I highly recommend this book. It is an amazing resource to have.

>> Great. You were ready with the book.

>> It's a very important book for me because I'm planning on writing on to law review, so it has information about the law review competition and it's just an invaluable resource for me.

>> Excellent.

>> I would say read anything that you can get your hands on. I think that one of the things that you want to be doing is getting into the habit of reading. And I think that book sounds great. I wish I would have had it. I think I might buy it and start reading it. I know we're past the first year but... I'll take any help I can get. But I would say read anything. Read any sort of book that you can get your hands on and just get into the habit of reading and understanding what you're reading and then being able to like explain what you read to someone else. And

on top of that, I would say take a deep breath and relax. Because you will have the next 3, 4 years if you're a part-time student to stress about Law School and how to figure it out. So, I would say take the time while you have it to take care of yourself, because it will all sort itself out.

>> Yeah, I agree with all that. Just one little word of caution. Be careful with some of the Law School prep books that you read because they're scare you. There's no need to be scared. I remember I read the book 1L which is about a guy going to Harvard Law School and he made it sound terrible and it's not. So do read a bit, as an under grad I didn't read a ton but in Law School it literally becomes your life, reading and analyzing and doing legal reasoning so read stuff for fun but also spend a lot of time just enjoying free time. Right? Because once you enter Law School your schedule becomes very busy. As you progress through Law School it's busier and then you're spit out in practice where you're extremely busy so enjoy to yourself, take vacations and do anything outside that's fun and also maybe start thinking about a strategy on how to have healthy nationals Law School. Start to exercise or build a schedule where I work out from 8:00 to 10:00 and do this and that. Start preparing yourself for the regimed life sometime but enjoy your free time. I cannot say that enough.

>> Anything to add?

>> I was going to say what Chris said. I think it's important to enjoy that summer. I actually took a few trips to visit friends the summer before Law School and I really appreciated that. I got a chance to really spend time with my family and enjoy them. Because, you know, hey, you're hiding the grind of Law School and I did read a lot for leisure. So, I was a big person in personal development

books. But I got into reading more into, you know, some creative books on adventures and things like that and that was really something that kind of freed up my mind but also keep the stimulation going. So, I think everything that everyone said was right on.

>> Okay. Great. Wonderful. Those were all pieces of very good advice. My next question is related to our pro bono requirements. Can you all talk a little bit about -- can someone, maybe not everyone talk a little about your experience with the pro bono requirement at Stetson and what you see as the benefits, right, of having that pro bono requirement as part of our curriculum. Anyone want to take it?

>> I can start out on that. So, I actually have -- I like volunteering with habitat for humanity. That's just something that I like as, you know, as a young person. Like I did that a lot and I like working with my hands so that's something I can do for myself. There's a lot of legal pro bono that you can kind of add on throughout your time at Stetson with organizations. So, it might be one hour or two hours here with an organization and those add on. But the importance of pro bono is as a lawyer, you know, it's our duty to really kind of keep up those legal pro bono hours and it's actually for most of the bars out there, you have to have a certain amount of legal pro bono that you give and that you do for free. So that's just something that we have to do as lawyers and attorneys and you'll just continue to start developing that process here in Law School.

>> Our next question is related to a little bit more recreation and the question specifically is, you know, what is your favorite thing to do on campus or near campus in the Gulf Port St. Pete area. What is your favorite activity outside of

studying for classes?

>> I'll hop in on this one. I've actually during our quarantine process I picked up bike riding. So, there's tons of bike trails around Stetson's campus and that's one thing I do for fun all the time. I will bike from campus to downtown St. Pete. There's a trail that once there and back. So, I do that a lot. Fishing, the beach are great things to do. I always go out in downtown St. Pete, that's great going on and great restaurants in the area, park Shore areas and fun to go to. So, there's tons to do. Out -- everything from outdoors to night life to anything. St. Pete and Tampa together offer it all.

>> Yeah, I agree with that. Go ahead.

>> Go ahead, Breyon. I was going to chime in on the trail. I thought about doing it and haven't quite done it. I plan on doing it one day.

>> It's really nice too.

>> A lot of trails. And it's actually close to Stetson. So, you can actually start and run if you like running on that trail as well. But I enjoy coffee shops. So, there are a lot of coffee shops on central Avenue and around just the St. Pete area. So, couple of my classmates we go there, maybe every other Saturday and just, you know, go over notes but get coffee and get some lunch on central Avenue and that's just something to get away and do something different.

>> I would have to say my favorite thing to do in St. Pete is go to the Saturday morning farmer's market.

>> Yep.

>> You get great food, great coffee, you can buy fresh produce, you can really -- really it's a great way to spend Saturday morning away from Stetson and

studies and it's fantastic and I think a couple times a month there's an Indy flea market and sometimes they're on the same day so you can make a whole afternoon out of finding goodies and it's fantastic and if you want to go ahead and hit Vanoy in the afternoon, which is a beautiful park, I saw dolphins once, it was great. I would say parks and flea markets are the best part of St. Pete.

>> There are a lot of festivals around that area too. And during the summer, every Saturday there's a festival downtown St. Pete. So, Christopher you mentioned I think I heard you say quarantine, you know, we're currently living in sort of a quarantine status. Wondered if we could have maybe you and one other person describe your experience with our online learning now. You know, we are now in a virtual learning curriculum and if you want to maybe talk a little bit about how that shift, how that adjustment has gone and share your experience with the online platforms, what platforms are we currently using. There was a question earlier about whether or not we're using Blackboard or some other online platform. If you want to speak to that.

>> Sure. Sure. I may not be the best person to talk about it from a student perspective because this semester I didn't take my classes that required any in-class stuff. However, I did TA for an RW2 research and writing course which to have that online initially really kind of worried me. I didn't know how we were going to do that because as you may or may not know the final culmination of your 1L is giving your first oral argument before judges and that was the thing that made me nervous about Law School but it became my favorite thing. So, doing that online gave me a little fear but actually working with a professor I worked for the online learning environment worked as well if not better than the

classroom, which is really crazy to think. We had more engagement during classes, people were asking a lot of questions and we gave great instruction and gave feedback, so I don't think it's changed anything. I think the students that took the class I TA'd for got just as much out of it as they would have in person and the oral arguments we did it through Blackboard Collaborate and we had no disruptions or issues during oral arguments which was impressive to me and I think actually the online learning has instilled in some of these students in Law School now the knowledge to do online platform stuff in the future. For example, at work now as you know all courts in Florida closed their doors to nonessential business however, we are doing compositions and hearings and meeting with clients and groups of people on opposing council through online medium. So, we're using Zoom, Blackboard, I think every meeting platform, but it's allowed the campus to keep producing great students like usual and allowing us to Collaborate like we always have.

>> Great. Anyone else want to chime in about their virtual learning experience?

>> I would say as a part-time student it's actually a little bit better, I think, because -- I mean we're always rushing on to campus, rushing to get to class from work, sometimes there's traffic on the bridge that you really can't help and stressing about getting there on time. And, you know, we always do and it's always great and nothing can replace the in-person experience but I would say in some respect it does take a little bit of the pressure off of part-time students because we can stay at work later and, you know, plug into our computer and go to class or we can, you know, make it home early and plug in. So, it's definitely got its benefits and I would say my professors have done a great job of keeping us

informed and engaged in class. It's really been great. Honestly.

>> Yeah, I have learned so much about technology in the last month.

Christopher, you know I've learned platforms, Teams and Zoom and it's been wonderful to see everyone just sort of shift and grow and stretch in order to meet our current normal. And I say current instead of new normal, it's our current normal. Because that's where we are currently. Another question we have is related to mentoring. So, there are a variety of different mentoring opportunities around campus. If any of you could speak to those. Who are your advisors? You know, do you have upper class advisors or mentors or alumni, mentors that have been instrumental in providing you guidance and support?

>> I think I can speak to that. So, the organization that I'm in does a really great job of pairing you up with other attorneys that are in the area. So we work well with -- and they do a good job of coming on campus to events and welcoming the newly admitted students and that really helps to get some mentors already in practice, but also I had an amazing experience with just LinkedIn. So as I've kind of matriculated through Law School I've been interested in different areas of the law and I reached out to some Stetson alums and they have been more than welcome to talk, a couple have taken me out to lunch to tell me about their practice area and I really appreciate that as a Stetson community to really them being able to welcome me and tell me about their practice area and I have really been happy about that.

>> I'll drop in on top of that as well. I second finding organizations with mentors. I have a mentor through a federal bar in federal practice and court. So, I actually had a mentor through that who started meeting with me and we



have lunch every month, even now. She works for the AUSA's office, federal prosecutor so she helped me through my job search and given me guidance because she was in a firm at the time and also beyond that like the actual set-up structure mentor program just find an older law student to talk to. If you're interested in moot court find something like myself and ask about what skills you need and reach out your TA. I've TA'd every semester since I got out of RW1 because I enjoy helping the younger students learn and grow and giving guidance and feedback based on what I learned. So, look to the older students willing to help and most of us are. Find someone to talk to and ask as many questions as you can to learn about the process so you cannot make the mistakes or shortcuts we did.

>> Okay. Our next question is from Mia and the question is two parts. How many of you knew or know directly what type of law you want to practice? And if you do know, when did you decide that or are you still figuring it out? Then our second -- the second part of her question is to you, Christopher, about your interest in aviation law. How did you get into that? She is the proud sister of a pilot.

>> There we go.

>> Yeah.

>> I'll let somebody else take it and I'll wrap it up.

>> So, so my undergraduate degree was in finance and through that I've actually known for a while I'm interested in getting into the corporate side of the law, specifically anything working with contracts or businesses, specific niche, I haven't really found yet but Stetson does a great job. If you're not sure going

into your first year it's completely okay and you'll hear this again and again because there are a lot of students that don't know exactly what they want to practice going into Law School and that they have an interest for the law and the professors do a great job when they're going through the course material they'll stop and say if you're interested in type of material maybe look into this area of the law and a lot of professors specialize in different areas. So, you can always free freely to talk to them about their experiences and any of the specifics of different areas of the law that you may be interested in.

>> Thank you.

>> I guess I'll jump in. Anybody? Okay. Well my job search I kind of did what I guess a lot of students do. I came to Law School having no idea what I wanted to do. Not a include. I didn't want to be in the courtroom, I was scared to talk in front of people and RW2 happened and I figured out wow, I want to be in the courtroom all the time. So, in your second summer a lot of people work for private firms or public groups that you may be interested in working at after graduation. 2L you do summer associate programs and that's where you're trying to get a job. So, I applied to a bunch of firms, went through an extensive interview process and got hired at the firm I'm not now which is strictly trial defense firm. So, everything from car accident defense to aviation accidents to litigation. We do all that. So, when I actually started working at the firm I went -- we have a great program, 10 weeks and you get to work for everybody. You get assignments from every different group, every different partner and their group. So, I started receiving a lot of work from the products liability group and fell in love with that area of law. It was defense stuff I liked and litigation but

wasn't just the car accidents, it had more depth to it. I had to learn a lot about different products and things. So, I really liked that. And just so happened they did a bunch of aviation and that's cool. Getting to work with airplanes and helicopters all the time it's interesting. So I did have aviation background, my dad was a flight medics I can on a helicopter and spent a lot of times out at the airport watching helicopter take off and stuff and that was cool and since working here I've decided to get my private pilot's license and learn more about the field I'm practicing in.

>> Cool. So, our next question is from Laura and I'm going to ask each of you to share your experience here. Her question is, what do you wish you had known before coming into Law School? What do you wish you had known before coming into Law School? If you want to just reflect on that a minute. And then I'll ask each of you to respond to that one.

>> Who wants to go first?

>> Marisabel are you ready?

>> I don't know. It's really a tough question to answer because I wish I knew everything that I knew now but that's not really practical. I would say there are just like a few things that I would really, really recommend. In undergrad I didn't really get to know my professors as much. Now it's very, very important. The professors it was mentioned before they're incredibly valuable resource, especially if you're planning on doing clinics in the future or applying to any specific programs, professors will be a great source for recommendation letters and you want to make sure that your professors know you well before you approach them to ask for a letter of recommendation so make sure you're visiting their

office hours and emailing them with questions and just going to chat with them sometimes and getting them to know you a little better because this way they will be able to reflect you and be able to recommend you better on any potential letters of recommendation, also outline early. I will say that. You don't want to be stuck outlining all your classes at the beginning of the reading period before finals. I'm President of phi alpha delta. So, you need to know your study habits and may need to modify them, I had to coming into Law School but know what works for you and stick with that.

>> I like how you switched it from what do you wish you had known to advice that you can give. That's totally fine.

[Laughing].

Love that.

>> I'll go ahead. I wish I would have known that I could do it. I think I went into my first semester very nervous -- I mean and honestly still a little nervous because it's the first day of class and every professor is different and all that stuff. But I wish I would have known that I could handle it. Because as difficult as it is and as, you know, the workload is what it is, you can do it. Like everyone can do it. And so, I think I wish I would have had that faith in myself to say like, hey, I've got this and whatever comes my way I'll figure it out. Because like I promise you, you will figure it out.

>> That's great.

>> I think maybe the only thing for me that I would have focused more in under grad maybe is with the business degree it's more like presentation and, you know, more like strategy and things like that. And finance. So, it's a lot of math and

things like that. So, I really didn't practice a lot of writing and even I worked, you know, previously before Law School and I didn't do a lot of writing. It's more like quick emails, things like that. So, I wish I would have practiced a little bit more developing my writing skills to really make them strong. And that's one thing that I had to really work hard, my RW1 and RW2 and thankfully I had some great professors that really kind of worked with you to get you a lot of practice. And my first summer I actually worked with a personal injury firm and it was a lot of writing and I really like had -- it was a smaller firm where I was able to get a lot of feedback and really work with some attorneys like one-on-one and I really appreciated that, that opportunity. And I know from now till then like I am, like 360. You know? Well not 360, 180.

[Laughing].

>> Yeah, I second what everybody said so far and to kind of jump in and agree with Gabby and Breyon., the biggest thing is beyond knowing you can do it is trust the process. You're going to walk in on your first day of whatever class and somebody will get called on and you're going to be concerned about not knowing the law and oh, I don't know anything. Well, you're not supposed to know anything. It's your first time doing this stuff. And the same goes for your research and writing classes. I came to law school with some writing background, under grad was terrible but some, and by the end of the class I looked at what I wrote, and it was like wow. So understand the professors have this world down to a science, everything they do that first year is working on your mind to train you to think and act like a lawyer so trust the process and know you can do it and watch yourself grow and be astounded by that. Right? That's

something you should be very proud of. I came home from Christmas break, I guess summer break after my first year and my parents will like you're a completely different person P you act and analyze differently so know you can make those changes. Everybody does T it's part of the process. It's like Bootcamp for the military, just law practice.

>> Excellent. Okay. We're going to stop there. We're right at the 1:00 hour. I want to say thank you, thank you, thank you to Christopher, Marisabel, Breyon and Gabby. We really appreciate your taking the time to talk with our admitted students today to share your experience. This was extremely helpful, and we really appreciate your time. To our admitted students, thank you for joining. Thank you for taking the time to spend this hour with us, thanks for your questions. If you have any follow-up questions or if we didn't get to a specific question that you had, please feel free to email us, call us in the admissions office and we will be happy to make sure we get an answer to you regarding your questions. And we hope that you will continue to stay engaged and stay tuned for upcoming live streams. I think you see there we've got a slide up that shows you our next live stream is this Thursday, April 30th at 12:00. We'll have a panel of Stetson Law alumni to talk about why they chose Stetson, what their career paths have been and answer any questions that you have. Then subsequently there's some additional dates there that we are planning for in May. So, we've got a long line of continued engagement with you through right now up to May 14th and we possibly will have some beyond that time frame. So, we hope this was helpful, again if you have any follow-up questions feel free to reach out to us. Thank you to Carmen and Isaac and thank you again for joining us. We

hope you have a good rest of your day, stay safe and stay healthy. Thank you!