

1-27-21.

Stetson Law.

[ captioner standing by ]

>> Good afternoon everyone. I hope you're having a wonderful day. My name is Karla Davis-Jamison and I'm the Assistant Dean for enrollment here at Stetson college of law. In my role I oversee admissions and student financial planning and on behalf of myself, Darren our Director of admissions, Carmen Johnson and the entire admissions and student financial planning team I want to thank you for joining us for today's virtual open house event. We are very pleased that you set aside some time to engage with us today and we're hoping this interactive webinar allows you to get a better sense of the Stetson Law community, the first year experience and how to be successful during your first year of Law School. At this time it is my pleasure to introduce Michèle Alexandre. She became Dean of Stetson college of law in 2019. Dean Alexandre is a remarkable leader and trailblazer and prior to Stetson she was Associate Dean for faculty development and intellectual life and profess of law at the Mississippi college of law. She got her degree at Harvard, she has constitutional law, international law, civil rights law, critical race theory and Human Rights. Dean Alexandre.

>> Hi everyone. How are you? I'm excited to be with you this afternoon. And don't tell anybody but I'm particularly excited because you all are about to talk about writing and I happen to think writing is one of the most pivotal things and the best tool you need for your career. So you are in for a big treat. My job is simply to welcome you. I hope to see your faces on camera soon. We will have more of these webinars where when get to chat about what the fall will look

like. For those of you who are already admitted, yea! For those of you in the process or may even still be thinking, come on. Come on board. Our community is just amazing. I'm running up my two years here and I can tell you that there is nothing like Stetson college of law. We innovate, we are always trying to be better. We work with students one-on-one to figure out what the best next step is, not only for the individual student but for our program. So for that reason, our 3 pillars in the last 2 years have been national reputation, academic excellence and comprehensive advocacy. To that end not only do we have advocacy programs geared towards that but we have programs in business and other spheres. So we have a business law concentration for example and you know that we are number 3 and really top in legal writing and our legal writing is both advocacy centric or policy. We have so much going on here, so many upper level courses in writing but also touching on the issues that you care about, whether it's social justice or whether it is environmental law, we have writing courses that intersect in that. You know Stetson Law has been around for a long time. It will continue to thrive with your help because every student and generational students that come through they make us better. So what I will share with you before you hear from professor Cameron, professor Feeley and professor Long is how instrumental writing has been for me. So I want you to really pay close attention and imagine yourself as this attorney that you will be but as a pivotal contributor to society. Being an attorney made me a better writer. Being a better writer is the joy of my life to be able to figure out how we'll converse with others to try, just try to be one little drop in the sea of change. I believe you will do that too and I believe these professors will be instrumental in your journey. Nice seeing you all. Can't wait to

talk to you further.

>> Thank you, Dean Alexandre. So as Dean Alexandre mentioned our topic today is the first year experience. Also known as the 1L year. Many law students consider the first year of Law School to be the most difficult and challenging while also perhaps the most exciting. So although the first year curriculum is complex and intimidating there are some key things students can do to ensure a successful first year experience. And in today's session you will hear from Stetson's own faculty. They will share insights into what to expect during the 1L year and also provide some helpful tips and advice that you can use inside and outside of the classroom to succeed in your first year of Law School. Our panel includes 3 of Stetson's distinguished professors of law, Catherine Cameron, Kelly Feeley and Lance Long, 3 of my favorites. So I will briefly introduce each professor then after I've shared their bios, you will hear from our professors. While they are presenting if you have questions we ask that you post your question in the questions feature and we will take questions after their discussion. We'll save plenty of time to get to your questions. Also just want to remind you that this session is being recorded. So we will provide a link to the recording after today's session. We'll send that to you via email so if you miss something or just want to go back and hear it for clarification you'll have an opportunity to do that with the recording link. So at this time let me introduce our panel. Professor Catherine Cameron teaches and researches in legal writing and media law. She currently publishes articles or frequently publishes articles and presents on the topics of legal reader comprehension and reporter access rights. Professor Cameron also authored a book with profess perfect Lance Long titled the science hind the art of

legal writing. Professor Cameron earned her bachelors in journalism, masters in mass communication and law degree from the University of Florida. Go gators. She worked for the reporters committee for freedom of the press, a nonprofit organization that specializes in media law issues in Washington DC and she also spent several years working as a staff attorney for the 18th judicial circuit before joining Stetson's faculty in 2004. Professor Kelly Feeley joined the faculty in 2000 and she teaches research and writing and interviewing and counseling. Since coming to Stetson she's been a part of Stetson's national award winning advocacy program as the faculty advisor of the Stetson alternative dispute resolution board. Arbitration client counseling mediation and negotiation competitions. Professor Feeley lectures on advocacy and research and writing and speaks on negotiating, mediating, interviewing and counseling at national law conferences. Professor Feeley graduated from Florida State University with a degree in communication studies and she earned her JD degree at Stetson University college of law where she was a member of both the mock trial team and the moot court board.

Professor Lance Long joined Stetson after having taught legal research and writing for 9 years at Brigham Young school of law and at the University of Oregon school of law. Before teaching he practiced in orange county, California and in Utah. His practice was primarily focused on appellate and motion practice in the areas of intellectual property, contract and construction law. Professor Long's scholarship currently focuses on the efficacy of various types of environmental advocacy and empirical analyses of language in appellate briefs and opinions. He coauthor with professor Cameron. Professor Long graduated from Brigham Young University and while at BYU he was a member of the BYU journal of legal studies, a member

of the BYU comparative law journal and member of the international moot court competition team. So at this time I will stop there and allow our panelists to begin. Professor Cameron would you like to start?

>> Sure. So we were asked to think about first year of Law School and what kind of tips we would give folks that are about to embark upon such an endeavor. And I got to thinking about what I would have liked to have known before I started and probably the biggest thing I would have liked to have known was that I was about to embark on a pretty time consuming and stress inducing process. Right? So some people take the stress of Law School remarkably well and it's really not a lot for them but most of us find especially the first year to be quite a lot of work. We have a lot of reading, you have a lot of intense studying. You have exams that, you know, come up that you have to be prepared for and there's a lot of material to digest and understand and be able to analyze and spit back on an answer to a test. So it's a lot of work and it's a lot more work than most undergrad degrees. And so what that means is that during the stretch of the semester, the 12 or 13 weeks you're going to have more stress than you've probably been used to in the past. So one of the things I wish I had known before I started Law School was that it really does benefit you to kind of get your life in order before you start Law School. So if there's any small simple things you can do before you start the semester of your first year, you know if you need to go to the dentist or get your oil changed or anything along those lines go ahead and get those checked off. Those are little things in life we have to do and during a normal average day not a big deal but when you've got a lot of reading you've got to do and you've got a test coming up they can become much bigger tasks. So if you

can get those out of the way before Law School that's always a good thing. And the other thing I really would suggest that you look into is, you know, having some serious conversations with your friends and family. So, you know, all of you have done well in under grad and you may have found under grad gave you a lot of time to hang out with friends and family. You know when Thanksgiving came around you probably had a whole week that you could go home and relax and hang out with your family but when you're in Law School you often have exams Thanksgiving week. So you go home and spend it with your family then you have to go to the back room and do studying after Thanksgiving dinner. Right? Is this is the time to explain to the folks that love you and s'more you that you're about to embark on a pretty stressful year or three years and that you're going to need their support and you're going to need them to understand sometimes you may not be as quite available as you wish you could be but that doesn't mean you don't love them or don't want to spend time with them. It's just a temporary thing for 3 years so you can get through this pretty intense period of study and that you and they are all going to be better pour it once it's all done. So, I think preparing folks for that, that love you and also preparing them to support you. Right? So if you're stressed out and need support you want them to understand that this isn't like under grad. And so, you know, you may be very stressed and want to talk to somebody about it and you want them to know how to be there for you. So having those kind of conversations before Law School I think is probably the best use of your time. I often have students ask me should I read a particular book or should I watch a particular movie. And I don't know there's anything out there that I would say that would do the most for you when you're in Law School more

than taking the time now to kind of get your life in order as simple as possible so you can really focus on you and what you need to do to get through the next 3 years. So that's my big tip. Kelly do you want -- I mean professor Feeley, I'm sorry would you like to take the next one.

>> It's okay. As you heard from Karla I am a Stetson grad so I know what it's like to go to Law School at Stetson. We're going to go round robin and keep giving you advice and this piggy-backs on something professor Cameron said. Law School is a lot of work and it's going to take you a lot longer to do the readings that you're assigned for each class and you might say no, it's not going to take me a long time. I'm a quick reader. I really know how to retain things once I read it. The problem is you're going to be learning an entirely new language. It's the language of the law. You're also going to be reading very densely and sometimes very poorly written judge's opinions and you have to weed through what the court was trying to say to figure out what happened in that case and most importantly, why. So a 10-page case that you might say oh if I had to read 10 pages I can get that done in 30 minutes. No problem. Well 10 pages of a court opinion might take you 2 hours and at the end of those 2 hours you still may not fully understand what was going on in that case. So basically, preparing yourself for the fact, the reality is that things are going to take a little bit longer to do in Law School than they did in under grad. Another thing that's significantly different in Law School than in under grad is it's not about memorization and regurgitation. So in under grad and trust me I know we are all guilty of this. You might have showed them day one and you might have showed up for the exam and you still could have done well in that class. Well first of all you have to

attend according to the American bar association there's a requirement that you attend 80 percent of the classes, because they want to make sure you have enough of a legal education to be able to sit for a bar exam. So you actually have to show up. But what do you do when you show up to class? How do you take notes? We'll tell you every student thinks they're the transcriptionist taking down every single word the professor says they're somehow going to do better than everybody else. It's not the case. What you want to do in Law School is listen. Listen to what the professor is saying then boil it down to words that make sense to you. Because if you try to get down every single word, instead all you're going to be doing is saying okay what did she say, what did he say, I missed that last part and you're not really listening or processing what is being said. The professor might spend 5-10 minutes on a topic that could be boiled down to a sentence or two and if you take the time to just listen and then boil it down to that sentence or two that means you processed it. That means you understood it and that you've taken notes that actually have some meaning to you. So those kind of go hand in hand and know things are going to take you longer and know that your note taking should be different than what you did in under grad. So those are my two tips for now. So Long, add to those tips.

>> I'll add on to those great tips professor Feeley. So it brings up the next natural question is well, I have to take notes a little differently, I have to take notes in a way that I can comprehend things and start synthesizing information immediately and have that synthesis reflected in my notes. One of the ways you might want to do that if you're not already doing it is to consider writing notes by hand. There's been a lot of study in learning theory about the efficacy of hand



written notes, vice bee typing notes. As professor Feeley said if you're going to be a transcriptionist you probably didn't need to go to Law School to learn how to do that. It's a skill many of us naturally come by, many of us type quickly. You might have hand writing your notes. Sometimes the actual motion of writing has been shown by neuropsychologists to actually help synthesize and help you remember your notes better than simply typing down. So I think that's extremely important advice to really consider how you might want to take notes in a Law School class. Now you may have done things in your under grad that worked really well and if they did, stick with them for right now. On the other hand, because there are -- it's so much more difficult to read and get through material it's much more difficult to comprehend it and the sheer amount of materials it will be probably much greater than anything you encountered as an under grad. For all those reasons it might be helpful to explore some different ways to study. There's a great book called make it stick or making it stick, I can't remember whether it's the gained form or make it stick but I've read it 2 or 3 times and it has some great tips on how to study in ways that help you to comprehend and retain information. Now if you're already doing the things that are suggested by making it stick, stick with it. If not you might want to consider maybe trying some new things as far as study habits. One other thing as far as your study that I think all of us would agree upon is it would be nice if you could find some people to study with. In this time of COVID that may be difficult but you might be able to do it through virtual study groups but it's really helpful to get several people together, get your minds together and you can also divide and conquer that way. If there are several cases that you have to have prepared for a class, each of you can take

the lead maybe on one of those cases on helping the others to understand and comprehend it. Realizing you have to do all the reading but if one person focuses on one thing and another on another thing you can maybe get more done. It's always helpful to actually articulate and to hear things as well as it is to write and read things. All these different methods of comprehending and acquiring information utilizes different areas of the brain and all of them can be helpful. So think through some of these ideas as ways you might want to take notes and study and prepare for your various projects during the semester as well as your final exams and of course we did write a book. You don't need to [Indiscernible] please don't do that but it might be an interesting read for some of your classes and legal writing classes we actually require that book because it does go through and explain that the way we will teach you in Law School both in your doctrinal classes as well as in your legal writing classes is back by solid science and we tend to want to keep up on the learning theory and both teach you ways to write that are consistent with best practices. So those are just some thoughts maybe following up on professor Feeley's and professor Cameron's idea of how you might want to actually approach your studying and note taking.

>> Yeah and if I can piggy-back on that. You'll hear a lot of tips about the best way to study. Especially when you finally physically get on campus you'll start talking to older students that say oh well the way I got an A in that class was I did X, Y and Z. And it's always worth trying out whatever X, Y and Z is like professor Long said because it might be a great way for you to start processing things that really works for you. But the one caveat I have is when I started Law School I tried to do it all because I was getting all this advice from different people so I

was trying to, you know, take this kind of notes and this kind of notes and type things out and hand write things and doing group projects and a lot of those things really didn't work for me and if I stopped and thought about it I would think this is not helping me. I should stick to places where I'm actually learning things and I'm not getting distracted. One of the big things was professor Long said group work and people do really well with study groups in Law School. But I couldn't handle it. All I thought when I was with my study group is these people are so much smarter than me and it caused me all kinds of problems with understanding anything. So I felt like I'm doing something wrong but really just group work didn't work for me and it took me probably a year to let it go, because I was so afraid I was doing the wrong thing. But I wish I would have said okay I'll try it out and if it doesn't work I'll go back to the things that have worked for me so that's my one caveat. I definitely would trial these things but do remember that you had success in under grad for a reason because you had figured out some things that worked for you. So if the new things you try in Law School don't work for you fall back on the old things because you know they worked for you but try the new things because this is a different kind of learning, it's a different level of learning so you may find some of these tools that people suggest are things you haven't explored before that really do work for you.

>> Okay and I will pick up on that and talk about what is it like in terms of the competitive nature of the being in Law School because I'm sure you heard things, you've seen movies, right, that it's just cut throat and people are out to be number one. First of all, Law School attracts smart people. So I think what's really wonderful about that, which again if it works for you, the group activity can be

helpful because if you're surrounded by other smart people it only makes you smarter. And you might have someone who looks at a case or reads a case in a different way than you had and you might think wow I never thought about that. So it actually can be a good thing to hear somebody else's perspective if that works for you. But my big tip is not to compete with other people. You should be competing with yourself. You should be trying to be the best law student that you can be so you can learn the material. It's always difficult to go from being the top of the class in high school, in under grad then to come to Law School and realize everyone I'm going to school with was in the top of their class and the way math works is we all can't be at the top of the class. It just -- you can't be. So you might get a grade you say to yourself, I don't get grades like that. Other people get grades like that. It's really hard to swallow. Instead you want to use that as a learning tool to figure out how did I study. Right? And maybe I do need to make some adjustments so that's what professor Cameron was saying. Try different things but be willing to change when you realize something doesn't work. Take advantage of it when professors give you sample or practice problems or, you know, hey if you turn in this essay I'll give you feedback. That's the best way to figure out what your audience wants is to find out what your audience wants and to actually let them give you some feedback on your work so you have a chance to improve before the final exam or the final memo or the final assignment. And kind of hand in hand with this don't be afraid to be wrong. I promise you, all of you are going to be wrong. The 3 of us are wrong. Lots of times. You learn a lot more by sometimes what you do wrong than sometimes you stumble upon being right and you're not sure why and by that I don't mean

just raise your hand and yell out anything you want in class but I'm saying if the professor calls on you or you raise your hand and you're not 100 percent sure I promise you you're not going to spontaneously combust if you get the answer wrong. Most professors are very kind in trying to either tell you that's not the right answer or talk you through how to get to the right answer. And so I think if you can be open to that and realize all of you are going to be wrong at some point and that's what being an adult, that's what being a human being is all about. You're going to make mistakes. Just don't make the same ones. So hopefully if you're a little embarrassed or stressed having to answer that question in class you actually learned a lot more about what the answer was, because you listened and realized you looked at it slightly the wrong way or missed an important phrase from the case. So you realize next time I'm going to read just a little bit more critical so you learn from it. So don't be afraid to be wrong. I promise you it won't be the first or the last time.

>> Yeah. I'm so glad that professor Feeley mentioned this idea of not trying to compete with others. Not only is it frustrating and stressful, it actually hinders learning. Studies have shown that students who study to acquire and understand the concepts and the information actually excel above those who are studying for a grade or trying to do what they think will get them a good grade. You will actually do better grade wise by not worrying about the grades and by truly trying to understand the information and how that will help you become a better lawyer. Study to really learn the craft and the skills of being a lawyer. And the good thing about coming to Stetson, I'm sure all of you this was at least part of a consideration is that we do have a very noncompetitive environment at Stetson. I

will say until you get to the advocacy teams, the competition teams. And that's not intraschool, that's interschool competition. We are very competitive in our advocacy teams. But as far as the nature of Stetson student life and interaction with professors it's very collegial. Your professors here are -- I don't know a professor who is not willing to do anything to help you to succeed. There really is more of a personal touch here at Stetson. That's one of the reasons you're here. You're getting a professor like professor Cameron and Feeley, okay and maybe even me that actually really care about your success, really care about you as a person and take advantage of that as professor Feeley said your best feedback will be from your professors often and their teaching assistants. Please take advantage of that. There's nothing better than getting that feedback and doing better next time. I often tell my students about a time when I was learning to surf and the board flew up in the air and it came down and hit me in the head. There was a huge gash and I ignored it and continued to surf for another 15-20 minutes and I felt like I was about to pass out so I went and stood on the beach for a while and a person walked by and said dude your head is bleeding so bad and I had been bleeding profusely from my head for 15 or 20 minutes but rather than suffer the embarrassment of realizing I made a mistake and I needed to take care of this problem, I ignored it and it actually could have killed me. The point is feel that gash, if you don't do as well as you thought you would feel the gash, figure it out. Get it stopped and get back out there and surf again. So I just think that's a great concept that professor Feeley suggested there. So I would just suggest those things in addition to that.

>> Yeah and along those lines someone mentioned Law School is a marathon

not a sprint and the light bulb went off for me that all my classes build on each other and I hadn't thought about it up until then but when I was an under grad my classes were stress disparate. I might take a linguistic class and not many built on each other so I had to get through that semester, get enough to pass the test and so if I missed something in a class it wasn't the end of the world because I had to get through that semester then it was gone. But in Law School all your classes build on each other so if you miss a concept that's going to haunt you for a long time. So what's great about Stetson as professor Long mentioned is we've got all the professors are here to teach. One of the mistakes I see students do over and over again they don't understand something and they don't ask about it. If you miss a concept you need to reach out to the professor. You need to go to their office hours or send them an email N COVID world have an online meeting with them and figure out what you're missing so that you don't have this gaming hole in your knowledge that haunts you later. So, you know, don't be so embarrassed like professor Long was to deal with the issue. Go ask the question, figure it out then move on.

>> Okay and I'm going to go back to something else that when professor Cameron was talking about getting your life in order and simplifying your life. I will say while you're in Law School because things do take longer you want to treat Law School as it's a job. Especially during the week you want to schedule your time and that also means scheduling breaks because also we see the other side where students say I spent 17 hours in the library yesterday and I think to myself, spending 17 hours in the library doesn't mean it was 17 productive hours. Right? We might have been better off spending 4 hours, right, with breaks along

the way rather than just cheating yourself in a cubical saying I will stay here all day. That's not how our bodies are designed to learn material. Shorter bursts, break, et cetera. You want to get into that pattern and don't give up all of your hobbies. So having exercise or if you have a pet or you like to paint, that doesn't go by the way-side completely. You may have to limit it or make sure you schedule it into your day so you have the time for it. You're going to find you'll have usual breaks between classes. Use those breaks wisely. Don't say oh good now I can go take a 4-hour lunch. You might say I will take an hour lunch and now that gives me 2 hours or an hour to review what I did in the previous class and two hours to prepare for the next class. You're using your days as productive as possible so you're not pulling all nighters and not staying up getting up at 6:00 a.m. and going to bed at midnight. That's not necessarily helping so get in a planner and get a plan and stick to that plan. People do better on schedules. We just do. And the more you can stick to a schedule including some fun time and some exercise or playing with your pets, do that. But do treat it like it's serious and that it's not like I'll get to it next week. You'll find that with Law School, procrastination just doesn't work because there's no way you can make up for the material that you decided to, you know, push aside for a few weeks. It just doesn't work that way. If you get a day behind that's okay. You can usually catch up from that but when you start getting a week behind it can become, I don't want to say impossible but less possible to catch up on that material.

>> That is some of the best advice you can possibly get right there. And I actually made it when I started teaching more than 20 years ago I actually asked students who excelled in my class, how do you study. What would you advise,



what would be the best tip you would give anyone on what you did to do so well. Almost every single student followed the advice professor Feeley just gave you. They treated Law School like a job. They work 9, maybe 8, 9 or 10 hours. They went and did what they would normally do. If they cooked a meal they would cook a meal. If they went out and exercised they would exercise. They didn't destroy their life. They had a good life but they had a full-time job and not a full-time job like maybe a 5-6 hour a day job. Maybe more like an 8-9 hour a day job. And that was their secret to succeeding. What professor Feeley said about, you know, losing sleep has been shown by numerous studies, especially for the type of learning that you're going to do in Law School where you're going to as professor Cameron said build on concepts, one on another and have to remember things over long periods of time. You will have a comprehensive final in most of your classes that builds on concepts. These will not stay with you through cramming and especially if you miss a lot of sleep. Studies have shown that long periods of sleep are necessary to transfer information from short term memory to long term memory and when you embed it in long term memory that's when it's going to be available for your final exams and indeed for your practice of law. I will tell you to this day the subjects I know best that I can recall at any time are my first year class subjects. Because I studied this way and they were embedded so deeply in my long term memory they have never left me. Even though I've never really practiced in the tort area, at least not traditional tort areas, I can rip off tort law like I studied it yesterday because I've gone through these techniques that professor Cameron and professor Feeley mentioned. And I think I did really make a concentrated effort to get full nights of sleep. Which is not only essential

for that mental learning but in these days of COVID it's one of your best defenses against any illness is to get sleep. So just kind of like expanding on that, just really reaffirming that concept I think is really important. And maybe that's a good time to kind of move to maybe some other things about Law School life or what to expect in your classes. How do the professors teach? Is it like -- what was that paper chase or what's the one with --

>> Legally Blonde.

>> Professor Cameron, Feeley, enlighten us. What is it like in these Law School classes the first year in.

>> Well I mean in my experience you know traditionally Law School classes, you know, before my time and when I went through and in the dark ages of the 90's were very Socratic method based. So you would go home and to your reading and come in the effects day and the professor would ask questions about the cases and try to get the students to learn from the cases as a group. But I think we're modernizing our approach as T.I.M.E goes on. I have more short lectures then do an exercise but I teach a skills class mostly but even when I teach media law which is more of a substance based class I try to work in exercises and those sorts of things to make it more interactive and give the students a chance to use the knowledge they're learning to make it solidify in their brains a little more. So I think we're modernizing hour approach. Some people believe in the Socratic method and there's definitely a place in law. That's how lawyers learn. You have to read cases and teach yourself areas of law that you don't know. So I mean that's the reason the Socratic method was in Law School. But I think more and more professors are finding that, you know, using sort of interactive exercises and

a little lecture may be an easier way to clarify the law for students and teach students than pure Socratic method. Would you agree?

>> Absolutely. I believe they are tweaking it to be the kinder gentler Socratic method. Students are looking for the right answer. Tell me the answer so I know what's going to be on the exam and we try to say that's not how this works. There are 50 shades of gray when it comes to the law about pretty much everything. We also joke we would give you a nickel every time we say the phrase it depends, it would pay for your 3 years of Law School. By the way we don't give you a nickel for every time we say it depends. But it really does. So I find I don't just want to tell students this is what you need to do, I'll say well let's talk about it. What do we think should be included in this initial paragraph that, you know, what purpose does it serve? What do we want to tell the reader? Because collectively if you can get students more engaged and involved in the thought process why something works and why it should be there that's going to stick better and that's a soft Socratic method. Instead you would want them to buy into oh regardless of what topic I'm working on or regardless what type of assignment if I'm going to do an introductory paragraph this is the type of information I can include then the student is learning. They're learning that, oh, yeah that makes sense. I'm giving the reader a foundation and telling them concepts that are going to permeate through the entire paper and it's important to tell it early. Professors will ask a lot of questions and a lot of times that's to get students involved. Sometimes they'll let students know in advance you will be on call next week or these 10 students be prepared for class next week in particular because you're probably going to get called on. So some of the professors are

kind that way to let you know because again being a passive learner is really -- it's less likely that the information is going to be comprehended and obtained. The more engaged you are the better it is. So I find our professors really try to incorporate lots of different ways like professor Cameron said, small group work or an exercise or having a class discussion to get people more involved in the process rather than one person being on the hook for two days straight and having them just pale and panic and say I don't know what I said because I'm so nervous and scared.

>> Yeah. That is exactly right. And this is why professor Cameron and professor Feeley are awesome professors. They really make an effort to teach in a way that is -- that facilitates effective learning. And that is to use more active engaged learning. It's a lot of fun actually to do the soft Socratic method. You will get a kick out of that and I don't know of any really mean, mean -- well maybe a couple but not first year professors. I don't think any 1L professors will intentionally try to humiliate you or make you feel small in class. I can almost promise you that. They're really good about wanting their best interest and all of us here love to use different methodologies that engage students. And so if you were thinking you were going to study the whole semester and get a final exam at the end that's probably not going to happen in any of your classes. All 3 of us probably had that experience. I know from my 1L experience I had nothing but final exams in every class my entire grade was based upon that. Thank goodness we've evolved beyond that and Stetson more than many other law schools definitely has kept up with the latest and best methods of learning how to succeed in learning the law.

>> Do you have another round?

>> I was going to put in one other plug.

>> Okay go ahead.

>> Sort of extracurricular things. I think we do a great job for teaching. But one thing I think is really important in your first year is find your people. And an easy way to do that is we have a ton of clubs and organization that is run the gamut of all different political persuasions and interests and there's an environmental club that professor Long is involved in that plants tomatoes in our courtyard. So there's all kinds of groups that you can join then you can find likeminded people to hang out with. Even if you don't have a study group just somebody who is going through the same thing you're going through that you can chat with and talk with and, you know, in this COVID world it's a little bit harder because we're doing some things remotely but we just have so many groups that I think there's a lot of opportunity there. Sometimes people think well I'm an adult I don't need to join a group. I'm not a joiner but having that kind of, you know, sort of collateral support from people that are going through the same thing is important and feeling like you belong. Right? We do so much talking in Law School with very strong minded people about their points of view on the law and government and how things should work but sometimes, you know, you can feel like well I don't really fit among these people. And if you can search out a group and we have so many that there's always one that meets somebody's needs so if you can find a group of people that have the same interests as you do you can feel like you belong. These people are like me and I belong and I think that's really important. Sort of for your mental well-being as you go through Law

School.

>> If I can follow up on that it's okay if you don't know what you want to do because a lot of students come to Law School because family members are in the law or have their own firm. So it's pretty destined to follow the same path. Sometimes you think you want X type of law and you don't. Or I never thought I would care about contracts. I'm fascinated by it. So I would say be open. Your first job doesn't have to be your last job. You don't have to know what you want to do your first semester, your first year. It might take you till your third year until you find out what interests you and that's okay. That's what's great about a law degree. You're not getting a law degree in contracts or just family law or criminal law. You're getting a law degree that allows you to do any of those things and a thousand other areas of law. You may not love it and you want to do whatever it is you love so don't force yourself to take or go into an area of law that you have no interest in.

>> Okay just a final word on those things. That is such good advice from professor Cameron and professor Feeley.

>> You seem surprised we could give such good advice.

>> I'm not surprised at all. I've known these two for over a decade and they're amazing professors and amazing human beings. Which is what you're going to find in your first year at Stetson. You're going to find amazing humans, amazing people, amazing friends. I can honestly say some of my close ETS friends and some of them live in California, some of them live in DC, they're all throughout the United States, some of my best friends I keep in touch with are my first year Law School colleagues. You really can develop a bond with people and I look back at

Law School with fond memories. I had a great time during Law School. It was harder than anything I had done up to that point. It was very difficult but I look back with just fond memories about the relationships I had, the funny things that happened in classes with professors and students, the great activities that I engaged in with various extracurricular clubs and teams. And it is our hope that you all will have that same experience that you will find that this is challenging but a lot of fun at the same time.

>> Great. Thank you all so much and I didn't mean to rush you. I just wanted to pop in and let oven we were rounding out. But I enjoyed the illustrations. I loved professor Long on the beach, the guy telling him dude, your head's bleeding. [Laughing].

So funny.

>> Fourteen stitches on that one. Fourteen stitches, wow. Yeah, don't do that. Don't do what professor Long did then just reminding you to sleep. It seems like such a simple thing but as professor Feeley said you need to get plenty of sleep, be well rested. Of course planning your day as though this is a full-time job, all great insight, great advice. We hope it was helpful. We see a lot of questions in the questions feature here so we're going to get started with those now. I think Carmen Johnson our Director of initiatives and recruitment will moderate the questions but if you haven't posted a question yet go ahead and put it in there. We are going to take as many questions as we can between now and 1:30 the end of our session. So Carmen are you ready to go?

>> Yes I am. Can you hear me?

>> Yes.

>> Thank you. Thank you so much. And thank you to our 3 faculty members, esteemed faculty members who basically just handed out the best advice session I've heard in my career. I'm a graduate of Stetson Law and I hope you all took some great notes as Dean Davis-Jamison said we recorded the session and it's something our office and perspective students can use for quite some time. So again, you all have just experienced a treat. So they've already gave out some great pieces of advice, insight based on their experiences but you all have posted some wonderful questions so we thank you for joining us today so we will dive right in to some of the questions but I want to see if we can briefly have each of our professors -- we've heard your bios and some of the things you've accomplished but in particular, why of all the things you've accomplished have you chosen to teach at Stetson and I would like to start with professor Feeley because you had also chose to attend Stetson Law. So if you can start with that then I'll go to Cameron, professor Cameron then professor Long.

>> Sure I can tell you I didn't know I wanted to teach. When I embarked ongoing to the Law School I wanted to be a lawyer I never thought about teaching even though I had done things where I coached some speech teams and stuff like that after I graduated. Anyways things were happening with my law firm, it was small and we were going -- I was going to become more of an independent contractor kind of be on my own to share resources and I got the opportunity to teach for 9 months and I said this is my chance to determine if I really like it so I did it and guess what? That was 21 years ago. So clearly I like it. So if I had to go back to practice I could. But I have to tell you I love teaching. I just never thought I would enjoy it as much and I actually look at it as coaching to a bigger



team. Instead of coaching 3 or 4 students I'm coaching 35 or 40 students in a research or writing class or 15-20 in an interviewing class. So that's how I got into it.

>> Thank you and professor Cameron why did you choose to teach at Stetson Law.

>> Yeah so looking back on my life I think I always had a desire to teach. I had a little business when I was in high school where I went around and tutored other kids in algebra and got paid under the table I do believe. And was able to buy a Sony Walkman CD player. But I always did some sort of teaching work looking back at my history. I was a teaching assistant in college and felt like I had a pretty good knack at explaining things so actually when I went to Law School I thought well if this law thing doesn't pan out maybe I can be like a community college teacher or something or even a K-12 teacher. That was kind of always in the back of my mind so when this opportunity came up I thought well shoot I'll try to teach at the Law School and I was fortunate enough to end up here. And I mean there's nothing more fulfilling then giving back to the world and we get to do it on a really broad basis every day. Because I have currently in my class 36 people. To 36 people that can go out and make a difference in the world every day and I get to be a part of their success. And it's just so fulfilling when one of your students ends up, you know, becoming a big success. We just had actually a relatively recent grad get elected to be the public defender of Leon county and it's just amazing to watch somebody you knew, you know, as a young student just learning the law kind of rise to the pinnacle of their profession and selfishly I take ownership of that. Right? That I somehow contributed to that.

But that's a great feeling. So teaching is just amazing. And Stetson is a great place to teach. We have a beautiful campus. Like professor Long said we have a really collegial environment, I think, even among the students. I happen to have gone to a Law School that was very, very competitive and our law students do not and of course I'm on the other side of this but do not seem like the students that I went to school with. They work together they learn together they socialize together. So I have been very pleased with the collegiality there. So those are the big reasons that I work here and continue to work here and will for as long as they'll keep me.

>> Professor Long.

>> Like professor Feeley I came from practice. I didn't initially consider teaching. I was at a large international law firm in southern California. And I really enjoyed practicing law. I was having a blast. It wasn't until an associate one day said hey the Law School over here has a position open for teaching legal research and writing. You should apply because you're the one who teaches everyone at the firm how to -- how to do research and writing. I thought I did have that niche. I did the complex motions and the appellate practice. I thought, you know, I kind of always loved to do that so I actually taught at two law schools before coming to Stetson. As you heard in my bio. And I loved teaching at the University of Oregon but I did a visit, one year visit at Stetson and that visit came after having experiences at two other law schools and as much as I loved the University of Oregon, I loved their environmental law program, I loved my colleagues, there was something about Stetson that I actually liked even better. I chose Stetson because Stetson had on the one hand taught at a very

conservative Law School and on the other hand a liberal Law School. Stetson has a diversity and an idealism amongst its students. The thing that stands out and why I'm here at Stetson instead of at the University of Oregon, I lunch the University of Oregon, go ducks but Stetson students in my opinion are not only the equivalent of the students at other places but they excel and they have purpose and they're at Law School by and large for the right reason. They want to help make the world a better place. I've just not seen better values in students than I have here at Stetson. As professor Feeley said they may come in thinking they want to be the best criminal lawyer in the world and they end up saying no, environmental law is where I'm going to make my income. And they go forth from this and they really do make a positive difference on our judicial system, on our democracy and just on the life here in the United States. They are wonderful students and the call is like fellow professors here at Stetson, I loved professors everywhere I went but I can honestly say I have never been closer to colleagues than I have at this school. It has just been the most amazing experience for me. So I literally chose Stetson over other schools because I found the environment and the ideals, the values of the students and the professors here mirror the kind of things that I think we need to do to basically make our country a better country and there's no more important time than right now to be a lawyer and to be in Law School. If we ever needed competent ethical attorneys, we need them now in our country. And that is what we all want to do. We want to help you become competent and ethical attorneys.

>> Thank you all 3 for sharing that insight and about your personal journeys towards Stetson. Really appreciate that. So the first question I would like to

address is from Jill. Thanks for your question Jill. Basically I will ask professor Cameron to address this. Jill is asking how do your typical class exams say the 1L exams differ from the bar exam? Is there a link?

>> Yeah I mean I think usually there is. You know at least the Florida bar exam I mean that's the exam I have the most experience with. There is a portion that is essay then about 3/4 of it is multiple choice. And so I know most of our professors try to do a mix but some do p do all essay and some do do multiple choice but most give a mix giving you experience writing about the law and answering multiple choice questions about the law. But, you know, but they are pretty similar in that most Law School exams ask you to spot issues and talk about what the legal arguments are on both sides. Some professors do structure their exams differently but that's sort of the classic set up and I find that most of our professors kind of stick with that same classic set up and we're very keen on having folks pass the bar. Right? I mean that's an important part of our mission here at Stetson. So, you know, we routinely talk about, you know, the bar with our bar prep people and what they're doing with the bar and what they expect with the bar and how they grade the bar so we can try to tailor our exams to give you some experience being tested in the way the bar will test you and we actually do have some specialized classes you can take in your second and third year that do bar prep essentially. Right? They go through all the subjects on the bar and give you questions that are written just like the bar questions. In fact sometimes old bar questions. So there's a lot of linkage there when it comes to getting you prepared for the bar. Would you guys agree professor Feeley and Long?

>> I would say being organized and how you structure your answers rather than

jumping into it and writing everything you know, take a few minutes to actually organize your thoughts into a readable format because, you know, the professor has to read 85 exams. Right. Those that are more organized, use headings, follow a structure, those are going to do better because it's easier for the reader and the same is true for the bar. They're looking for organization and structure and they're timed. So just the sheer fact you will be under time constraints with our exams is of course similar to what you're going to have on the bar exam as well.

>> Absolutely. I think they've hit all the important points. Even in your legal writing classes your first year although it's not a timed situation it's the same organizational structure that you will use to organize a Law School exam answer or a bar exam answer. It's that method of legal organization, that legal readers will expect and you will get that over and over whether it's in a time setting or the untimed and polished setting you will use for your legal writing classes. So there is a strong correlation between how you learn to think and organize and answer questions in your first year and throughout Law School and the bar exam.

>> Thank you very much and great question, Jill. Our next question is from Katie and she basically wants to know do you advise professor Feeley for 1L students to work during their first year.

>> Tough question. I understand if a student has to work financially that's one thing but I also find when students are busier they tend to not have time to waste. They actually tend to make the most of their time because they realize they have to get a lot of work done. However, the first year is also kind of the most stressful overwhelming because you're learning just again a new language, a new

way to study. So if you don't have to work financially I would say at least don't work the first semester so you can at least get one semester behind you but I do understand for some people like I said either it's financially they have to or it's -- it might even be a mental escape. I've had students before who have been bartenders, it has nothing to do with the law but for them it's a few hours on the weekend it's a nice release from having to read the dense material and do heavy thinking. So if it's not detrimental to you sure but if you can avoid it, especially the first semester I would suggest not working.

>> Thank you so much for that. On a somewhat related note to professor Long from Ashley. Any advice that you would like to offer, you know, some people call nontraditional students who have families, they're trying to balance a lot of things and she mentions having to balance a job. So of course professor Feeley kind of addressed that but any advice for nontraditional students who might have families and things of that nature?

>> Yes and I think professor Feeley nailed the answer to that. I agree 100 percent with everything she said. If you're a nontraditional student chances are you will have a family or preexisting job. So those are going to be a given. With that I will say that some of the top students I've ever had are students with families and actually it takes away the stress and pressure of a social life or going out and hanging out with people as you might have done as a single person. It does provide a good support structure, especially if you do the things that professor Cameron and Feeley suggested that you do with your family before you start Law School. Let them know that you're going to need support, simplify things, get things out of the way. Use that as a positive. So even though it can

be difficult because if you have a job or a family or other obligations or you're coming back to Law School decades after finishing your under grad, these will all provide unique situations. There's a healthy group of students that will be in the same situation that you are in. We even have -- what's the family law student family society. They have a group of law students with families that meet together and discuss these problems. You know, they have outings and parties together for themselves, their children and things like that. So my advice would be to use that to your advantage. It actually could be an advantage to have a support structure there as long as they understand that you're going to have to spend a lot of time doing something that you weren't doing before. But there are resources here. There are administrators and other students who can provide support and reach out for that support if you are a nontraditional student and for whatever reason you feel like you need some extra help or some extra support. I love that we have such a strong veteran community here at Stetson and there's a strong support for veterans who come here and you will find other veterans and of course we have the whole veteran clinic here at Stetson. So regardless of your particular nontraditional status there will be support and resources to help you succeed here at Stetson.

>> Thank you so much for that. It's very good advice and we can definitely take a lot of advantages from the community feel that we have here at Stetson. So shifting to some current events and how it's impacting our legal education here at Stetson we have questions from and I will couple some of these questions from Zachary and Hannah. Thanks for your questions. Professor Cameron when it comes to, you know, the impacts of the COVID pandemic what -- how has that

impacted the classroom experience?

>> So I have to be honest with you I was one of those pessimistic people, of course we closed down in the spring like everybody did for the last half of the spring but when it came to the fall, Stetson really wanted to listen to our students, the administration thought it was very important to try to give students what they needed whether they needed to be home or wanted to come in-person because they felt they could learn better that way that we needed to work out a way to accommodate them. And I am so fearful of the virus you have no idea. I watched the vaccine reports every day. So I was very pessimistic. I thought oh goodness we're going to open and have a major outbreak and it's going to be awful. But we went forward in August with a hybrid approach. And the administration gave professors and students the opportunity to decide whether they wanted to be at home or partly at home or they wanted to be in-person at school physically at home. And through our Deans we figured out a way that every professor got what they wanted and every student seemed to get what they wanted as well. So I happen to be teaching online because like I said I'm fearful so I felt more comfortable that way and I have a cohort of students last semester and this semester who are like me just really felt a lot more comfortable being online at least for one class. Some of my students have chosen to be in person for their other classes. They just wanted to only be here part-time physically on campus. So there's been a lot of flexibility and when it comes to our rate they have been amazingly low. We have been consistently when we do testing for COVID and we do that here on campus, they have been amazingly lower than our surrounding environment. In fact every time we do testing we test 100-150



people. At the most I've seen two people come out positive. Its amazingly well and we don't have any spread on campus. If we did it would be a lot higher. So I think we're just doing an amazing job with, you know, keeping things clean. We have teams of people that come in in between classes and sanitize the room. We space students apart. I do have to wear a mask while on campus but all those layers of protection have really managed to keep our little environment with relatively low numbers. It makes me wonder if the whole world was functioning like this if we wouldn't have a virus any more. Like I said I was so pessimistic coming into this but I have been amazingly impressed with how well we managed it, how the numbers have stayed down and how the students have gotten on board with the whole process. I mean everyone knows we're all pulling together to get through this so we can get back to normal and to make sure that everybody is learning along the way in the best way possible then on top of that, I mean I have really been encouraged by how much the teachers have embraced online learning for those people that want to be online. I know professor Feeley was relatively new to online teaching a couple semesters ago and, you know, she and I spent hours talking about how we can get our classes online and exciting and not just a talking head for an hour and a half so our students will be just as engaged online as they are in-person and I feel like we had success. So on top of the physical things that we're doing on campus and our low transmission of the virus on campus, in fact I would say there's virtually none, knock on wood, right, you know, for those people that are teaching online and working in an online environment I think we've done a phenomenal job of doing that really well. And I can say at least in my classes a lot of my students say I actually prefer this and

what we can do in this online environment as far as talking in groups and sharing materials to being in-person because I can't get within 6 feet of somebody who is next to me in-person. So I think we've done well and I think Stetson is committed to doing everything possible to get us back to normal and hopefully again knock on wood we're going to be there quickly but in the meantime I'm not normally as good of a cheerleader as professor Long but I have to commend everybody that has run our facilities and everything we're doing here in response to COVID because I think we've done a phenomenal job.

>> Thank you so much for that insight. I know that's on the top of the minds for a lot of our viewers today and we have about 15 minutes remaining so we want to make sure we get to as many questions as we can. If we do not get to your question, of course we're going to try to provide you an avenue to make sure we can answer to you as well. So we'll keep moving on and there are multiple people that have asked this type of question so I'm going to kind of consolidate everyone. So Brent, Emma, thank you for this question. Professor Feeley, basically what does the first semester look like? I think they meant like the class schedule and what is the typical classroom size that you've experienced.

>> Great questions. Now for the -- usually when the students come in we have about -- and professor Cameron is on admissions, would you say 240 students or so make up an incoming class.

>> Yes and we split those into 3 sections.

>> You're talking you're in a section of about 80 other people and that's give or take. So for the larger classes you will take first semester I believe it's contracts, civil procedure and criminal law are your 3 kind of lecture classes and then you

have a smaller section of research and writing where you're in a section of probably about between 35 and 40 students in your research and writing class. So you'll meet with those larger classes usually meet in one big room and you probably meet twice a week. Then same thing with R & W you will meet twice a week and of course they try to scatter them throughout the week so maybe you have a day off with no classes or two days where we don't -- you don't have a morning class or afternoon classes so there are breaks in between. They try to do it so for first years first semesters usually, usually you don't have more than 2 classes a day and that's to get you in the swing of things of longer classes, the reading assignments taking longer, et cetera. So then you do, you get reading assignments for every class so you have to use our weekend for that but the whole idea is that you'll have either class in the morning then a break then an afternoon class and again that's going to be kind of scattered throughout the week because we have these 3 sections we have to find rooms for them as well. So that's in a nutshell that's kind of how the first semester works. If professor Long or Cameron you think I'm missing something. That's kind of the gist. I can't say oh you're only going to have classes on Monday's, Tuesday's. It doesn't work that way. It's about classroom availability and trying to coordinate hundreds of classes that take place on campus during the week. But that's kind of a brief overview.

>> Perfect. And thank you so much for that synopsis. There's so much more to share but that was like a perfect summary of that 1L or that first semester experience. Another very, I think a theme among the questions is for professor Long. How do students most often interact with faculty? Both in the academic sense but then maybe even beyond academics.

>> Great question. Again at Stetson you will find much more interaction between faculty and students than you would in a normal Law School. And normal being law schools that just aren't as good as Stetson. Yeah, there's cheerleading, sorry. Anyway what you will find is that almost all the first year professors actually in order to have at least some contact with you most will actually have a set time maybe after they've given you an interim assignment to go over the assignment with them. In your R & W class all professors will have at least one and usually more than one-on-one sessions with you anywhere from 10-20 minutes going over assignments, just talking about how you're feeling about the class. There's -- one of the things that Stetson professors pride themselves on is most of us have open office hours. In other words, if we're in our office and not under a big time crunch, come on in, we'll speak to you. Actually in the COVID world, the virtual office I discovered is almost more accessible than the real office. You don't have to go and walk over to the professor's office or get in your car and drive to campus. You click on the office link and you're there with the professor. It makes it really simple to meet and I've actually found -- by the way I'm teaching this year this semester from Utah. The reason being is I sold my house in Florida at the beginning of COVID and I wasn't able to buy a new house. I have no place to come back. Anyway so there's that opportunity for interaction with all your professors either through scheduled appointments or open office hours. And if there's one thing I would encourage you, I think we've said this several times, take advantage of those opportunities. Meet with your professors. A lot of professors also do social activities where you may or may not talk about classroom things. Some of it will be formal mentoring programs, some will be

informal mentoring. In our second semester of legal research and writing/environmental law class that we teach we always go on a camp out with students. So we go to the national preserve and go swamp walk and spend the night. This year of course Stetson nixed that because of COVID concerns but next year we will be back on the schedule hopefully with doing camp outs and sometimes other professors will meet students in their homes or somewhere on campus, at the cafe, even we had one professor that likes to go to a bar where he meets students and they talk there. So there's formal and informal ways you can and honestly should get to know your professors. There will be one or two professors you just click with and that is hopefully all of you will have that experience. There will be one or two professors that really become a mentor to you. They will take a personal interest in you, help you with your classes, with your career selection and progress and that's always a wonderful thing. And I think most students do actually develop those type of relationships with professors.

>> Very good and thank you so much for that as well and another question and this is specifically regarding our part-time perspective students. Very briefly professor Cameron do you have any particular advice for those of our viewers looking at our part-time program?

>> Yeah, so the part-time program I think of, you know, any of our programs obviously is the one where you really need -- if you are truly working, I mean it's designed for people that are working and have families they need to take care of. So they can't progress through Law School quite at the same speed as the regular program. That's the whole point. So if you're a true part-timer where you're

working and have family obligations having time management is huge. Because you've got to get through your work day then you've got to, you know, most human beings go home and put their feet up and watch TV. You've got to still be awake and go to class and pay attention for a few hours then you might even have to do some reading after you get home or on your lunch break the next day. So time management is huge I find for those folks. And so if you are not really good in that area, you know, that's the thing you want to get nailed down before you start because I find people that do really well are just amazing time managers and they find places in their schedule where they can get their reading in, where the baby is sleeping and they can do the reading then get prepared for class. Right? So that's probably the biggest tip I can give you then a lot of caffeine, I think, is probably the other thing you will want to pay attention to because it does make for long days. But I think just like with the regular program a lot is just staying mentally healthy. So, you know, you are taking on a lot but it is for a finite period of time and remembering the end game is going to be worth all that you're going through and keeping that kind of positive attitude, those are the people that succeed the most is the ones that really pay attention to the physical health and mental health while they're going through the process and not neglecting themselves in order to get through it in a successful manner.

>> And our next question is going to be from Samantha and you actually asked a lot of great questions so I'll tie them together. Can you briefly professor Feeley speak about the clinics and external program particularly with the 1L experience and how that plays a role in the future employment opportunities.

>> Well if it makes it easy as a 1L you can't do a clinical or externship. You

don't have to worry about it because it's not available. There are certain required courses that you have to take first like professional responsibility and/or evidence. So you can take it the summer after your first year or that following fall. So the nice thing is it takes it off your plate and gives you a chance to do research about the externships and clinics we have available so when it is time to apply you have all the information you need and those are actually fantastic ways to figure out if you really do want to practice in a particular area of law. Because it allows you to spend a semester working with a judge or working in let's say a state attorney or public defender's office or even doing in-house council for a corporation or business and really see how that works. To me it also passes as an interview for you if they like you that much maybe they'll offer you a job even if it's not long term maybe you will get a job after the externship or clinic is over and it allows you to determine do I want to do this type of work. Because I really see it from the inside and see how much work goes into it, I see the interaction with the clients and see how much time I'm going to spend in the courtroom or how little time I'm going to spend in the courtroom. Do I want to do that? So there's plenty of opportunities and as long as I think the goal is everyone who wants to do a clinic or internship should get to but if there are additional spots open we've had people who have done multiple. Not the same semester, maybe one semester they do a clinic and the following an externship so you might have opportunities to do more than one and test the waters about what you like and what you don't like.

>> Very good and another very common question that people continue to ask is kind of related to what we have spoken with professor Long before. Is the 1L

class schedule already set and scheduled for them or are they able to choose their classes. Professor Long.

>> Yeah for the first semester of your 1L year it's absolutely set in stone. And that is a nice thing. It's just one thing off your plate that you don't have to worry about. And professor Feeley already talked about what the exact classes are and it's structured so again it kind of builds on each other. It's a really good system. You will receive training in the areas of law that are most important and provide the best broad based foundation for your subsequent Law School career as well as your legal career. With that said we have a unique thing here at Stetson. During your second semester you actually get one choice and that choice is which legal writing class you will take. We have two types of legal writing classes here at Stetson. We have general legal writing classes and subject focused legal writing classes. I teach a second semester legal writing environmental law focus class. Professor Cameron sometimes, maybe always now teaches a research and writing/media law class. Professor Feeley actually teaches generally a general appellate type advocacy.

>> I've been doing elder law for the past 3-4 years.

>> I forgot about that. So all 3 of us actually teach a subject focus and you can bid for these classes and you hopefully will get one of your first or second choices. All of them actually still teach the same basic principles persuasive legal writing. You do the same type of persuasive legal memorandum, appellate brief type work. So you don't miss out on anything by doing subject focused. The advantage is you get to dip your toe into an area of law maybe that you think you might be interested in. I can't tell you how many people think environmental law, I'm



going to save the world then after a semester of heavily administrative law focused environmental law they think that's not exactly how I want to see the world. I will just keep recycling and they go in another area of law. But with that said that's a small choice you have but other than that your second semester is also set which is a really nice thing I think Stetson does a great job of providing a fantastic first year experience and gives you a little bit of opportunity to maybe make a little bit of choice during that second semester.

>> Thank you so much for that and we've covered so many topics and I know we are out of time but I would like to squeeze in one more question but before I do quickly address some of the other questions I'm seeing for advice for people have asked about study of law opportunities and additional specific questions about clinics and externships we encourage you to go to the website and look at those opportunities. We have so many and we don't have time to cover all of them but we definitely encourage you to explore those opportunities noting those will usually be achieved after the first year. Again as professor Feeley mentioned and professor Long the first year is built to focus on your 1L academic experience. So our last question and I'm going to professor Cameron to close this out for us and any other tips from professor Feeley and Long. What are some tips for the summer before Law School. To get ready for a successful 1L year, including any insight that you have about official Law School prep courses, the commercial prep courses to prepare one for Law School, any insight you have about that.

>> I honestly don't know enough about the prep course to give you good information about that. But in my experience, you know, at least here at Stetson we do such a good job of starting you from square one that it's not like we expect

you to come in with any advanced knowledge. So I'm sure any exposure helps because then you're learning something for the second time when you get to Law School, but I haven't found that, you know, people, you know, routinely say well I'm doing amazing because I took a prep course. So other than that I don't know a lot about those courses. I've had -- I think I mentioned this earlier I had a lot of students that say is there a particular book I should read and there are a lot of books out there about the first year experience that you can read through to kind of get a sense but every Law School is different and every person is different even as you hear here today. So other people's experience may not be yours. So if you're going to read some of those I would suggest reading several of them so you can get a varied idea of different experiences and, you know, what you can possibly expect. But really, you know, at least anecdotally from what I hear from students the best thing I think you can do and of course this is my personal opinion, is to have some fun, to enjoy your family, enjoy your friends, spend some time with them so that you can hit the ground running when the semester starts and really focus on you. This is a time in your life where you do need to be a little selfish. Right? This is an important thing that you are going through and so, you know, get out there and do those things for other people that make you feel good so that when you start Law School you can really work on yourself and get through the semester then you can go back to doing those things for other people. So at least from my perspective I think that's the best way to spend your time through the summer.

>> And I would just add if you know you're going to Law School and you get your list of courses order your books early and I would suggest going back to what

professor Long said. Write notes in hand. I would really think about do I want the E-book or want the hard copy. I would say get the hard copy. And stock up on your supplies. Make sure you have plenty of highlighters and pens and pencils because you will use them all the time so if you like a particular color that you like to take your notes in make sure you buy a box of those. Basically set yourself up for success, buy that nice planner and kind of get yourself just have everything ready a week before Law School so you're not panicking saying my books aren't coming until the end of week one and I will already be behind. Just get yourself organized.

>> My last tip I hardly endorse all of that is to come to Law School fresh like professor Cameron said. Don't come here having been so prepared reading so many things that you're tired on day one. Come ready to work hard and enjoy yourself at Law School. So if you do want to do some reading, read something that you enjoy. It would be great to have good reading -- read some readers that write in a concise of pros that you're going to be adopting in most of the legal writing world, highly descriptive style. Earnest Hemingway comes to mind for me. So read something you would enjoy reading that will be relaxing, at the same time get you into the idea of doing a lot of reading. So relax and come to Law School ready to work.

>> Wonderful advice throughout this entire hour and a half. So, so, so welcoming to hear such great advice so hopefully everyone has been able to enjoy. Thank you so much for your questions and again we have not been able to get to your question, please email us and we will post that in the chat and we look forward to engaging with you further.

>> Thank you Carmen and I just want to piggy-back on that question regarding what to do during the summer. And mention that last year, last summer we rolled out our first annual intro to practical skills training workshop. It was a two-week workshop offered to incoming students who basically wanted to, you know, strengthen their skills prior to starting Law School. Professor Kristen Adams and Brooke Bowman coordinated the workshop and taught and many of our professors also taught in the workshop so it was a pretty sort of community-wide curriculum. So watch for some news about that. We're in the early stages right now of confirming dates and we'll be announcing the intro to practical skills training workshop as soon as those dates are firmed up. And we'll let you know about it so that you can be the first to check it out. I want to thank professor Cameron, professor Feeley, professor Long for presenting today and answering questions. These are 3 of my favorites. So this was very fun and informative. I hope that it was helpful, the insight that you received from them and the best practices tips and advice will help you to be successful in Law School hopefully at Stetson but if not Stetson wherever it is that you choose to attend. I want to thank all of our students who posted questions. They were really terrific questions and as Carmen said there are a few we weren't able to address with the panel but we will follow up and take care of those questions following the session. Also wanted to just remind you again that we recorded the session. We will be providing you a link to it so if you registered for this workshop you will get an email from us shortly with a link to the recording so you can watch it again and Zoom in to specific responses that you want to hear again. We hope that you enjoyed the event and that you were able to learn a bit more about Stetson, about

the first year experience and how to be successful in your first year of Law School. We will continue to field questions from you, so as Carmen mentioned if you would like to reach out to us to ask a follow-up question or connect with one of our professors here today just email us at [lawadmit@law.Stetson.edu](mailto:lawadmit@law.Stetson.edu). Lastly a quick PSA. We have recently added a spring virtual open house event. It will be held on Thursday February 18th at noon. This event will feature a panel discussion with current law students. So if you've been waiting to hear from the student perspective this will be your chance. We'll have both a current full-time student panel and a current part-time law student panel. And we'll also include Q & A forum on the application process so watch your inbox for details and to register. That's it. So thanks again for joining us, we went a little over time. Thank you for hanging in there with us. We hope you enjoyed the session and enjoy the rest of your day and stay safe. Thank you!.