

Stetson Law School

April 14, 2020 - Tuesday Webinar

Q&A

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>>DARREN KETTLES: Welcome to the webinar. This is the third in a series of live streams that we will host for the admitted students to help them engage and learn more about Stetson Law.

My name is Darren Kettles. I am the Director of Admission here at Stetson. I am joined by Assistant Dean of Enrollment, Karla Davis-Jamison and Carmen Johnson, Associate Director of Admissions and Diversity Initiative.

Today is about you and help admitted students get answers to questions and get further understanding about the transitioning to law school this fall.

As many of you know, our deadline is tomorrow, April 15th. And for many of you have questions to get answered before you can make a decision. I want to give you a bit of information about the event. In today's event we welcome any and all of your questions. If you would like to begin typing your questions in the questions section in the "Go to Webinar Panel" on the screen. Remember your questions are on the minds of others, so ask anything that is on your mind. Questions can range from class schedules, student life at Stetson, clinical opportunities, areas of concentration, housing, and questions in general about the Tampa Bay area and the city of Gulf Port.

As a reminder, please mute your microphones when the presenters are speaking, so everyone can hear the responses. So if you want to, go ahead and start typing in your questions. This is an open forum. We are here to help you get anything on your mind answered. As you are aware we would normally try to do this at an on campus event. At this time this is the greatest option, and we are happy to be here. I hope you all will get a lot out of this. Thank you for your time and thank you for being with us. Let's get started.

>>DEAN KARLA DAVIS-JAMISON: Before we start taking questions and to give you students a few minutes to start typing those questions in, I figured I would take this opportunity to respond to the elephant in the room, so to speak -- regarding COVID-19 -- and how that may or may not affect how things will begin for us in fall 2020. I spoke with the dean a couple of days ago about the very topic. And wanted to get her official word on where we are, in terms of planning for fall and what we anticipate for fall. And she wanted me to make sure to tell you as admitted students that we are fully planning to continue operating in fall 2020 as we are currently doing now. We have switched to online learning, so right after our spring break faculty and students began teaching and learning through virtual platforms. And it is going surprisingly well. It is an adaptation process for us. But students are heavily engaged with faculty and the rest of the student community through the various virtual form platforms.

We continue to follow CDC federal and state guidelines to keep our community safe now and throughout the fall. If we are still regulated by restrictions, the plan would be to still start the fall on time. No delays. But the decision will be whether or not we are starting online or on premise. Our

hope is that we are starting on premise. We want to see you live and in person. So we are hoping and praying that that will be the case, but we will be prepared to start classes in either format. And to give you the quality education that we would normally provide on premise in an online format.

I wanted to make sure that we address that and to let you know that we are fully committed to letting you know as soon as we know. So as soon as any of those decisions are made regarding fall, you will be the first to know. And we'll keep you up to date between now and then and answer any questions that you have as we move forward through the next few months. But I wanted to let you know that we fully intend to welcome you in fall. Our orientation planning is under way, and we hope that we'll be together come orientation this fall. All right? Just wanted to address that.

So we can shift to questions now, as Darren suggested.

>>DARREN KETTLES: I see some questions coming in. I see some familiar names. It is great to see you here. Thanks for joining us.

I see a question: How is the balance between school and personal life? How is the student culture here at Stetson Law School? Carmen Johnson, our Associate Director, is a graduate of Stetson School of Law. Could you take a question and tell what you did and your experiences and how you transitioned and one of the things that you were un-sure of and how you found your way? Share about that.

>>CARMEN JOHNSON: Thanks for the question. I am looking forward to seeing you again soon. When it comes to the 1L, year that is one of the bigger transitions that people will focus on -- balancing law school and social life and other things going on under the circumstances. It is a great opportunity to figure out what is your best time management skills. That is the larger part of the 1L year that the students have to navigate. For me it is putting focus on studies and getting as integrated into the community as I could.

The big thing about Stetson Law School it is a big supportive community. There are some things that you can participate in and people that you can connect with as you figure those things out -- whether getting study group together, working with faculty members, open office hours to visit them -- that allows you to get settled. That first semester is is for you to buckle down and get embraced into the community. And the Tampa Bay Area allows for you to go into your interests and make sure that you have a well-balanced lifestyle, things of that nature. It is very supportive in that way.

>>DARREN KETTLES: I will add too for those students 1L year and Carmen shared that it was always sort of a kind of an on boarding process too. But we have academic success. It is a highly visible part of our campus. There could be something that you are struggling with. By all means reach out to everyone. That is the beauty of Stetson's culture. Everyone is there for the law students. You are not competing with undergraduate students. If you need something and need somewhere to go, these three faces on the screen are the contact faces. We are familiar with you and hopefully you are with us. By all means reach out. We will connect you with whoever you need to make sure that you are getting kind of the resources and any type of assistance on the way. It is a little bit of a stressful time, but remember everyone is stressed; right? This is new for many people. Embrace that. Hopefully when your butterflies that you are having is going to drive you to do good things and not get behind, which I am sure that Carmen can talk about. What about the reading and stuff? How did you approach that?

>>CARMEN JOHNSON: For the most part, when it comes to reading you can expect a lot of reading each night. It is manageable. You are 1L students, and the faculty understands that. You are new to that. We have specific faculty to focus on that. For most part the rule of thumb: For every hour you spend in class per week, you should spend two hours studying that week. I like to say three. You want to get settled and find your best vibe. That is where the study groups and support community at Stetson Law School allow you to do that. Academic Success -- they are an excellent resource as you work to get acquainted with reading and doing that great balance while getting ready for law school.

>>DEAN KARLA DAVIS-JAMISON: Looks like one of the questions we got was related to student organizations. How to -- how to learn about student organizations and to potentially join them. Our student organizations are wonderful. They are new student organizations every year that I am learning about. But our student organizations, the leaders have a fair, sort of a student organizations fair. I think it is held in early fall, typically. And that's a great way for you to learn about the various student organizations that are on campus. They set up -- it is a tabling-type fair, so you can go from table to table and talk to leaders and get more information about their specific organization and how it might fit with your interests or passions. So that's a great way to do it.

In the meantime, from now until that happens, our student organizations are listed on our website. So if you wanted to take the time now to just read through the different descriptions that are there and get a sense of the student organizations, you could do that beginning now and have a jump start on learning more about the student organization experience.

>>DARREN KETTLES: Dean Davis, I am noticing a few questions about students asking -- somebody is from out of the country and they are just kind of concerned about what you addressed already with COVID-19 and what's embracing our world right now. Some people asked: What are we doing to be accommodating to students? What if somebody really wanted to visit or somebody needs a payment plan in terms of paying a SEAT deposit? Do you want maybe address that right now what we with have been doing? And how we are working individually with students with their own challenges?

I think Stetson is a personalized culture. That is a big part of who we are. We don't want to blanket everything. Not everyone is in the same situation. What are your thoughts on that?

>>DEAN KARLA DAVIS-JAMISON: We are addressing concerns on an individual, case-by-case basis. So we do want to hear from you. If you have any concerns or challenges related to starting in the fall -- or I think you suggested even making deposit payments at this time because of perhaps financial disruptions in your lives -- you can certainly reach out to us. Any of the three of us, via e-mail or phone call, and we would be happy to work through that conversation with you to determine if we can make an extension or payment plan available to meet your needs.

In terms of visiting, we are happy to allow you to visit virtually. We've actually done a recent video. Darren Kettles, before we switched to online operation, took the time to quickly run around campus with a videographer to do a last-minute video for us to share with you, because we knew that we weren't going to be able to have you come to campus for open house. But we wanted to deliver something that allowed you to see is campus and get a feel for the campus. Hopefully sharing that very soon. We hope that helps you get a sense of how beautiful the Stetson Law School campus is. We are in Gulf Port t, Florida, a small community that loves Stetson. It is a beautiful campus, different from any other law campus I have seen. We are going to share that with you. We welcome you to video,

chat with us, or help you video chat with other offices. If you have questions for specific faculty or other parts of our campus -- say you are interested in speaking to someone from the Veteran's Law Institute -- we can help you with a video chat with Professor Simcox and the Veteran's Institute. We are helping to deliver all of the engagement that you would normally expect, but in a slightly different format for the sake of everyone's health and safety.

>>DARREN KETTLES: Yeah. That's great. We did that video. It is going to be -- it has been a fun process for me and for those involved too. Carla and Dean Davis and Carmen and I have been going over the video and trying to tweak it here and there. We wish we had a little more time, but we recognize in the interest of everyone and deadlines and people wanting to get the experience, we are going to get that out to you. And hopefully, as dean Davis says, we'll get that out to you shortly. Our plan is potentially in the morning. So anyway, hopefully you will enjoy that.

I was noticing another question. It might be something that Carmen can talk about too: What is the 1L schedule? What did it look like? How did you go about your week and how did you change as you went along? Did you tweak as you went along because it got easier for you? I am curious to get your perspective.

>>CARMEN JOHNSON: Yes. That is so important important in the 1L year, the ability to be adaptable. As you learn and going about your 1L year, each week the time that you spend towards studying and engaging and networking, that is very important in law school. That is how you can navigate to figure out what works best for you. The typical week, we ask you to block out Monday through Friday. There are some students that might not have classes on Friday. Those classes are randomly assigned in terms of the particular section that you are in. We basically break up each 1L class into sections, and you will be with that same section for the entirety of the first year. That is a great benefit as you build the comradery and connections while navigating law school. For Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., that is the full time program specifically. I know we have some part-time students watching today as well. Your schedule is going to be a little bit different. For part-time students we ask three days per week -- typically Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. That is in the evening from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m., approximately.

Class schedules are typically released in early August. We will get those to you as soon as possible. If you have questions about schedules or navigate what that might look like based on your personal circumstances, reach out to us. I posted the e-mail addresses in the chat room. Take those and we'll be happy to talk with you individually.

>>DARREN KETTLES: Talking about schedules. Those are released through the portal, aren't they Carmen? So the importance of being connected in the portal. Do you want do a shout out to your portal? Carmen does an amazing job managing that and filling it with great content. If you have something that you want in the portal, shoot us an e-mail and we'll gain that information to give you more insight. Because Carmen has been managing that for several years now. Fills it with great stuff.

And read the newsletters. Read those as well. She spends a lot of time on that. Talk about that, Carmen, about that schedule, when we can expect it maybe for the students.

>>CARMEN JOHNSON: Thanks for the student portal. Many of you are in the portal, and you have been introducing yourselves. If you haven't already, make sure that you sign in. You should have received a

few e-mails by now about the fall 2020 admitted student student group page. It is almost like Facebook, but a specific safe space to connect with one another. We post news items and things that are important for you as you learn more about Stetson and navigate your way to getting ready for the fall semester. In terms of the class schedules, we will post announcements as to when those will be available. I said early August. We are trying to get late July, depending on the circumstances. As we put those together, we will post that. You will also receive e-mails in terms of what the section is going to be, the list of the students you will be going through 1L together, and the schedules. We assign those randomly.

>>DEAN KARLA DAVIS-JAMISON: I just wanted to shift to another question here from Jonathon about financial aid and how to contact Financial Aid right now since we are not in person -- scheduling in-person meetings. Let you know that we are happy to schedule a counseling session with you for financial aid. We can do that via phone call or video chat. So you just want to call us at the financial aid line, (727)562-7813. Again (727)562-7813. Or e-mail at finaid@law.Stetson.edu. Jennifer Cobb, our Associate Director for Student Planning, and Heidi Gonzalez, are at the ready to assist with any questions that you have regarding the financial aid packages.

>>DARREN KETTLES: I am just looking up the next question in this feed. Thank you for your questions. Keep them coming. Tell me what you are concerned about. This is an open forum, as we talked about at the beginning. This is a conversation with you all. This is working out fine.

But the question regarding: What do students do when they are interested in many things when they are coming into law school? I will say a couple of things, but also ask Carmen. Carmen was a biology major in undergrad. That is a different major for law school. Not traditional. But obviously rocked it. It is one of those things that you never quite know. I hear this a lot. Are there concentrations and such?

So let me address that first. Concentrations we do have five. It is 88 credits to be conferred. As Carmen mentioned, first year classes are chosen for you. It is that time where you are going to hone in on maybe things that do have an interest for you. Hopefully meet faculty members and join student organizations and attend meetings to collaborate with other students on campus. As students come in on orientation day you are matched up to 3L students; you have a mentor. That is a nice thing to have, because they know what it is like to be in your shoes. My advice and -- I have talked to faculty about it as well -- is don't stress too much about what you are going to do at the end of your three years in law school. For the most part, I never see of anyone that doesn't really find their way. Most people find things -- either pre-law school or while in law school -- about things that really kind of interest them a great deal. And maybe sometimes what you came in isn't always what you end up doing. The beauty of having a JD, when you are licensed and barred you can practice any type of law that you like.

We have five concentrations at Stetson. Advocacy. So that you know, Stetson is the top advocacy school in the nation. It is a wonderful part the are curriculum with the skills training. And environmental law. The Institute for Biodiversity. We have that wonderful area to specialize in. We have international law, which of course branches out into a multitude of options. And social justice advocacy, which is the public interest law or things that you are passionate about standing up for others and things that make our world go around. And then elder law, which can open up to a lot of things: Wills, trusts, estate planning, consumer protection. Those are our concentrations.

For some people they do them and some people don't. Don't feel -- correct me if I am wrong -- I think more people choose like a general program, maybe, than they do a concentration; but I could be wrong. I know some people do them. And some people know they want to be a trial attorney. There is probably no better place to go to than Stetson for that. What did you do, Carmen? Did you know what you wanted to do?

>>CARMEN JOHNSON: I was open. I had ideas and inklings about what kind of area I wanted to practice. I had good mentors going into law school who talked about the 1L year experience and the nice mixture of classes that you take. I knew to take a breath -- like Darren said -- is take a breath and allow for that experience to unfold for you. Ask questions, and be able to make sure that you are getting integrated into the community itself. So a big part of the law school experience is going to involve, yes, your classes; but it is going to involve that whole world of networking connecting with other attorneys -- especially alumni, upper-level students and learning about the experiences that they have.

Two of my biggest resources is clinics and internship department. That allowed me to navigate, I interned with with several judges and USF and started higher education. That spring-boarded my law career, working with judges and working with attorneys. That allowed me to explore and find out interests that I didn't know I had. Of course with the 1L classes you can see them all listed on the website, and you will see that there are a variety of topics that you will be studying in the 1L experience. They are selected for you and organized for you so you can get the introduction to law and find what what your interests are. You may find out you are not interested in something, depending on the class. It is an important process.

>>DEAN KARLA DAVIS-JAMISON: Like a couple of questions now about housing. So I just wanted to quickly try to respond to that question or the group of questions. Housing, Stetson has a variety of different housing options. We have on-campus dorms. We have an apartment building -- Rose Apartments. I lived there for 6 weeks when I first moved here. And we also have, I don't know, probably 40 or 50 houses around the campus that are used for residential purposes for students, staff, and faculty. If you are interested in getting additional information right now about housing, I encourage you to visit our website. And under "Student Affairs" there is a housing section there. If you have a specific question regarding housing, you can reach out to our Assistant Director for Housing, Tracy Rich. She is fantastic. (Laughing). She is a super-woman of sorts. But reach out to Tracy at housing@law.stetson.edu. She can get you started looking at what your options are what the pricing scales look like for all of those options.

And of course, once you submitted your SEAT deposit you can actively then begin securing any Stetson housing that you are interested in. But yeah, I would definitely look at the website right now and reach out to Tracy Rich, as I said. She is the Assistant Director for Housing, and she is available at housing@law.Stetson.edu. She can tell you anything you want to know about housing that is Stetson owned and operated, as well as housing right around the Gulf Port/St. Pete community. She often has listings for rentals or properties for purchase right around the community that she can share and make available as well.

Does she also -- Carmen, Darren -- provide information in the orientation process regarding housing? I wasn't sure if that was something we should mention.

>>DARREN KETTLES: I think she has a small section in orientation. She has been with Stetson 20 years. She knows the area. She is a good resource. When I first started at Stetson some years ago, I was living in the city of Gulf Port. If you haven't visited that, it is a charming artist colony there. It is chicken running around sometimes. But on the water. An old fishing pier, several great restaurants, and art walks on the weekend. A fresh market on Tuesdays. It is a small resource close to campus, just to get away and break from the studies for a bit. Tracy is great. By all means, she is happy to field the questions.

>>CARMEN JOHNSON: I want to add something quickly. Tracy is going to be posting an off-campus housing list and updating it through the student portal. A lot of people find that of interest. Once we get a few more housing opportunities advertised, getting ready for the summer and August, that is when it is posted. Stay tuned.

>>DEAN KARLA DAVIS-JAMISON: I think we also reached out to Tracy about doing a video chat or live stream. We will potentially have that date confirmed very shortly. I think we were hoping for early May or so. So we'll get that shared with everyone as well.

Looks like there's a question here about the now May LSAT Flex test. And if you are planning to take that test, would you still be in time for available scholarships?

Great question. And we certainly commend all of you who have had to adjust our schedules because of the March and April LSAT. We know that was, I am sure, terribly stressful and filled with some frustration. But I hope that you are able to rebound and focus and do well if you are planning on the May LSAT Flex test.

In terms of scholarships after that test date, we are still in a position to make scholarship awards for registrants who take the May LSAT. We do encourage you though to further expedite your application, as much as possible, to submit your application prior to taking the test, if you can. So if you have not submitted your application and are planning to take the May LSAT, get the application in. Get that out of the way, and it allows us to process your application, have it ready for committee. Then as soon as your score is received we can quickly shift it into review. And that will help us to move the process a lot faster and get you considered for scholarships at that time. Great question.

>>DARREN KETTLES: Good. I see a question from Evan -- nice to see you on here -- from cold Dayton, Ohio. Good luck there. It is warm here today. It's been one of the warmer days here in the Tampa Bay Area. This question is about regard to course materials and supplies. Is there a place where he can find a lot of those needed items?

So I will tackle a little bit and maybe somebody else can jump in. In terms of you getting books and materials, until you have your class schedule you don't know what textbooks to buy. There are a lot of options now. Some people want to have their own brand new textbook. But some people are fine with using used, which was my world. But some people will give you books. You can find there could be some opportunities, if you can find the right book and the right edition of the book too. So I wouldn't worry too much about buying books at this point. I think that we need to wait on reading ahead, and there's really not an option. Everybody gets the class schedule at the same time.

In regard to other materials, it is the laptop. I want to make sure that everyone has a good and functioning laptop. That is going to serve you well in law school. You can do a PC. You can do an Apple

platform. All of those are fine. Our IT office on campus is part of the orientation, so you will get "laptop configuration" -- that is what we call it -- where you get Westlaw and LexisNexis and text taking software -- all of that. I think they still offer the Microsoft Office products. They did. Is that still true?

>>: Yes.

>>DARREN KETTLES: If you plan to buy any of those software materials, check with us first. I don't want you spending money on something that we are going to potentially provide for you. So anyone else have anything else to say about those materials? Did you find a different place, Carmen or Dean Davis? Do you know of another place -- I think online is a great option to get better values on books. Always better to save money on the textbooks, right?

>>DEAN KARLA DAVIS-JAMISON: I would say starting with our Stetson Law Bookstore, obviously first. And then if you want to price compare with other online book sellers or Amazon, I would encourage you to consider doing that.

>>CARMEN JOHNSON: I will add at the bookstore is helpful to start your search, because they have everything already organized per class and supplementary texts. If you are not familiar with supplementary texts, you have the primary case book that you are studying for a particular case that you are taking, but then there are also some approved, well-vetted supplementary books. It is not like Cliff's Note, but that is the best analogy that I can think of. It is helpful to try to navigate that class. Sometimes when you go to the other sellers first you don't know what to buy. The Stetson Bookstore provides good direction.

>>DEAN KARLA DAVIS-JAMISON: And they have cool Stetson Law gear. You need T-shirts and blankets and water bottles. All of the green stuff that you can have in your life. Looks like a question related to scholarships that I would like to tackle.

The question specifically is: If I come into the program with a partial merit scholarship, but perform very well in the first year, is there an opportunity to receive further scholarship funding in future years? That is a great question. The answer is "yes." We do have a process by which we review class rank. At the end of your first year our office works with the registrar's office to be informed on the class rank list for the incoming class. And based on that we then work with our Faculty Honors and Awards Committee and the dean's office in order to determine if we, 1, what type of funding do we have available? And how we then plan to award that funding to students who have performed extremely well during their first year? We are typically looking at always awarding students who perform in the top 5% of their class. In the past years we have also been able to have funding available for students who performed in the top 10% and 15%. But our promise is always to have funding available to award and recognize students who have achieved top 5%. As funding is available we extend to top 10 and 15%. I have been here for a year-and-a-half. Both times that I have been involved in that process we have been able to award students up to the top 15%. We automatically look at the scholarship that you have been awarded coming in the door -- your original scholarship and make adjustments based on the structure that is determined to be for that year. Then send you notification that "Good news. You are going to get more scholarship funding." And post that to your account for your next second year. Then once we make that increase, that increase stays with you for your second and your third. If you are a part-time student, for your fourth year as well. I wanted to make sure to respond to that. Great question.

>>DARREN KETTLES: So I am going down this and somebody's asking -- I don't know who the asker is: What are the opportunities for work outside of the Tampa Bay Area? What are some of the support for students that also face some struggles actually or personally? It is a two-pronged question. I am sure we can field that with our amazing panel here.

In terms of students that are wanting to maybe work outside of Tampa Bay, there is 11,000 plus alums. Stetson is the oldest and first law school in Florida. We have graduates and alums all over the country. Don't think that you can't put things in motion if you have a plan or intention to be and want to be in a particular area. I think what Stetson does really well is help personalize the process. You will get to know and will want to know what your interests are, especially in career and professional development. They have had a great run in recent years in terms of helping the students. You get to know them and they are going to want to know what your goals are and put things in motion for you. Don't think that you are going to be relegated. For a lot of people that are going to law school, we happen to think that being in a metropolitan area or interface withing the metro is a great benefit, when coming to clinics or internships. I don't know how things are going to unfold, in terms of the employment right now; but there are going to be challenges. Traditionally this is a robust area for that too. I would like to let career and professional development people talk about what they have been discovering and learning and how they are going to tackle that and create opportunities for our students.

Probably our largest alumni base would probably be outside the State of Florida law, in Georgia, but up and down the Eastern Seaboard. Texas, California. I am from Washington state area too. But we have a number of alums in Washington. We are kind of spare in North Dakota for some reason. I don't know what that is all about. But we pretty much have our alums in the state of the Union, but students don't stay in one place anymore. People move about. You should be able to create opportunities, and once you graduate lean on us again. You can forever come back and use the career and professional development office to help transition professionally and get involved with different bar associations.

The good thing about the area, there are so many counties in the area that border the Tampa Bay Metro. And think about opportunities that come with individual counties, but have different bar associations that you can get involved with. There are ends of court, and maybe Carmen can talk about that as a learning opportunity as well.

I just wanted to touch a little bit on the wellness and maybe have the rest of the panel talk about more regarding your question about getting jobs and getting opportunities in other places. But Stetson is a big proponent of wellness of our students, all the way from the dean all the way down. And we have an on campus counselor that is a full-time counselor on campus, to help our students with some of the challenges and pressures of going to law school. We are all in this together, and we are going to support you in this process. So if you need things, that's who we are. This is a community of support, and life happens. Don't think that you are going to be an anomaly when you are going through pressures. That is what part of going to law school and taking on such a big program like this will do. We have a good track record of getting our students through once they matriculate, and we don't anticipate having a problem with any and all of you.

>>DEAN KARLA DAVIS-JAMISON: I would add on the wellness topic and address one of the questions that I see here regarding intramural sports and whether 1Ls can join teams. The answer is "yes." We do have -- I think I see basketball, soccer, beach volleyball. I like beach volleyball (Laughing). So there are opportunities to get involved in some of the intramural supports. That is a great way to de-compress,

step away from the classroom and books and really breathe some fresh air and get physical and take care of your bodies. We also -- I don't know if we mentioned it already -- have an on-campus gym that students can access with a swipe card. And a pool. There's a swimming pool at the Student Center. So students can swim and work out in the gym. And then get involved in our intramural activities as ways of being active and involved. There is a running club. I think I see the running club is very active every day. I think they are running around 5:00 or 6:00 in the afternoon. All sorts of ways to get involved and to really take care of yourselves.

>>DARREN KETTLES: Good, good. Carmen, did you want to add anything to what we have just been addressing here, in terms of not only the wellness, but -- I am trying to look at the first part of that.

>>CARMEN JOHNSON: Job opportunities, outside of Tampa Bay and outside of Florida perhaps. One thing I want to add is our alumni base -- we have a mentoring program where get an alumni mentor. Our base is a wonderful resource that allows you to explore those areas of law. Not just areas of law, but geographical areas and legal markets where you can utilize the summers and take advantage of those things where you are connecting with the alumni and getting you integrated into the market. Again networking is a big thing that we emphasize at Stetson. I don't think we mentioned it, when it comes to the career and professional opportunities, we have the highest employment rate in the State of Florida, five years in a row. That alumni network in Florida and outside have been a big part and play a strong role in that. And the talented students as well.

>>DEAN KARLA DAVIS-JAMISON: Uh-huh. Looks like a question. I think this is an interesting one about the culture, sort of the student culture. Obviously there are misconceptions sometimes about how collaborative or competitive law schools can be. I think it varies based on the law school frankly. But the question is: What is the student culture like? Specifically is it collaborative or cut throat? I would venture to say it is very collaborative and not cut throat at Stetson Law. I experienced students as being caring to each other. They want to not only be successful themselves, but they want their classmates to be successful. I do see from my advantage point a lot of collaboration and we are in this together and how can I help you and how can you help me and tap into strengths that we may have that are different. Carmen, Darren, do you want to add anything to that part, to the student culture?

>>DARREN KETTLES: Yeah. Look, as law school admission officers we know each other within different law schools and have a professionally collaborative community. With that comes real differences, and I would like to think that we are pretty reflective of the culture of Stetson. There's no perfect law school, by any means. But attrition remains very low at Stetson. For a lot of people it becomes their first choice because they feel like somebody will care about them and take an interest in their life and help them to get to where they want to go. That is what I think is probably one of my most sort of stand-out things about Stetson. I am not saying that we are going to do everything perfectly, but I am saying that people are going to care about you and they are going to take an interest in your life and that we will be here for you. I am sure we can all attest, we have made connections with some students and follow their professional lives once they leave here. And those are the things that really kind of warm your heart, in a sense. Because it is like people's lives and this is a really big deal what you are doing. I don't want you to think that we are not going to be supportive of you. And every law school is different. That is part of your challenge, trying to determine where you think you can be happy and do your best work and have the best experience in a very challenging program. I think it is completely worthwhile. It is like the most amazing education with tremendous utility to it that allows you to transition from -- Carmen worked

when she first launched out of law school. She can talk about that too. Not the same thing that she is doing now. Got involved in incredible leadership all throughout her professional leadership, in terms of FAWL -- the Florida Association for Women Lawyers -- did I get that right, Carmen?

>>CARMEN JOHNSON: (INDISCERNIBLE). Yes. Please look it up. It is a wonderful organization.

>>DARREN KETTLES: Just an example of what people will do. I think a lot of times it is a confidence thing for you when you graduate from law school. It is very powerful. You will understand things and the world in different ways. But I do think the utility is tremendous. But if you are in the culture and the right environment and you were driven by the right things, not the wrong things, and have done your homework and you picked up on all of the things that you know are going to work well for you, you could be in the right place and you will thrive. That is that we want for all of you.

>>CARMEN JOHNSON: I did want to add, briefly, just a quick anecdote. During my 1L experience I had to take a week away from class for a personal emergency, a death in the family. Administration was very supportive making sure that I had the resources to do that. As my classmates heard what was happening, it was moving how many sent me the class notes throughout the week. Their precious notes. They are very stingy about their notes sometimes. That was not the case in my experience. They all sent their notes. It was supportive and moving thing. I was not expecting that at all. I think that is a good example of the spirit at Stetson when it comes to supporting one another. You are going to be future colleagues. They are going to be the people that you graduate with and then also the people that you are going to end up probably practicing around and networking with and being able to lean on each other as attorneys. That is the type of community that we cultivate here.

>>DARREN KETTLES: Were you going to take another question, Dean Davis?

>>DEAN KARLA DAVIS-JAMISON: If you have one.

>>DARREN KETTLES: I did see one. Talks about working well at law school. And students, do they start working the summer after the 1L year? We get this question a lot regarding working. And as a full-time student you just want to make sure that you have the ability to immerse yourself in this from the getgo. You don't want to -- I have helped people and heard prominent attorneys tell me: A legal education -- there's a fly around here -- a legal education is more like a marble cake. While you are building on things are intertwined. You don't want to find yourself in a position where you have taken on way too much responsibility. Not that you are incapable to do the work, but not the time to do to the level that you are able to perform. I think -- Carmen can attest to -- once you are in the 2L and 3L year, there is a different feel and sense. But that 1L year, our real goal is to make sure that you are focused, especially as a full-time student. You are working and the program is designed for working professional students. As a full-time student that is a full-time job. You need to fully commit to that to perform at the levels that you would want anybody to perform at when they are first beginning a new job or new program to this level. So I highly recommend that you all consider that. We don't really advocate for anybody working in the 1L year of law school. If anybody has specific questions, reach out to us individually regarding that.

But the second part of that question was about the summer after the 1L year, what does that look like for students? Carmen may want to share what she did after the 1L year. Once you sort of get that under your belt, I think there is a certain readiness that you are maybe anticipating. You want to start

applying what you learned and getting some work experience that can maybe help solidify and build your confidence as a growing professional. I would recommend you reach out -- if anyone wants to, we are going to be holding a clinic and externships event. That might give you a good opportunity to see what students are doing, what that process looks like for you after your 1L year. But a lot of people start working on those kinds of things maybe later into their second semester of the 1L year and trying to secure those opportunities during that summer. Some are paid, some are mostly unpaid, I would think. But maybe, Carmen, do you want talk about that for a sec, if you have some thoughts?

>>CARMEN JOHNSON: There are a lot of opportunities in NASA. That is a very big part of our career and professional development and clinical and -- offices. Help you get integrated in learning what those first summer opportunities -- maybe whether it is with large law firms, government entities, business, or corporations. We have some great internships in our general counsel program and with HSN, things like that. Those are a lot of opportunities that you are able to pursue personally.

I did an internship called "Andy Williams." And she a judge, who eventually swore me into the bar. You are able to start developing those relationships and networking opportunities even during the first summer. Sometimes we always have a rule of thumb: When you do an internship or experience, if you end up not enjoying it as much as you thought you would, that is just as valuable as finding an internship that you love. That is helping you navigate through the legal market and understanding what your strengths are, what your interests are. All part of that practical experience and that learning process.

>>DEAN KARLA DAVIS-JAMISON: I wanted to respond to a couple of questions. And also sort of officially announce that we have about five minutes left. I wanted to encourage you to get your question in, if you haven't.

The first question is easy one: Someone wanted us to repeat the financial aid number. (727)562-7813, to contact our financial aid counselors. So definitely wanted to mention that again.

The other question was related to if you increase your -- take the June LSAT and increase your score, would there be an opportunity to be reconsidered for additional scholarship funding? We can certainly take that to committee, so yes. If you take the June LSAT -- if you are planning to retake the LSAT post-admission and you improve your score and wanted our committee to take into consideration that increased score, just write to us and let us know that you would like the committee to take a second look at your scholarship offer and see if there is any opportunity to increase that funding.

Then the last question: Looks like there was a question about the April 15th deposit deadline. And a question in terms of clarification, because some of you have a later deposit deadline. This particular case -- I have lost who asked the question. It was Victoria. If you were admitted earlier in the cycle, the SEAT deposit deadline is April 15th. For those of you who have been admitted within the last several weeks, we have moved that deposit deadline out. You are right. Everyone doesn't have the same deposit deadline. We talk in terms of April 15th. That is the first, and usually the largest, deposit deadline. But for those of you who were admitted, as I said, in March or April, you likely have a deposit deadline in the month of May. Sorry to create any panic with that. You should follow the deposit deadline as stated in your admit letter. So the date that is referenced in your admit letter is your deposit deadline date. Just wanted to clarify that so there wasn't any confusion. We haven't moved it up on you (Laughing).

We want to take one or two more questions. We are at 12:58. We want to be mindful of time.

>>DARREN KETTLES: It is nice to have all of you. Thanks for staying in there. Hopefully you find this helpful. We like to do this in person, but this is turning out well. I know we are addressing a lot of questions and needs on your part.

Somebody asked about having time leading up to law school and just things that they can do that would help prepare them for law school. When we did our first webinar we had a couple of faculty members -- and this was professor Adams. She followed up with a student, too. And maybe we can post that in the portal, Carmen, her response? It was quite, good regarding preparations. A lot of faculty talk about just enjoying your summer before law school. The idea that you have to read every single pre-law book out there -- and she referenced the book "1L." That was probably written several years ago. Law school has changed over time. It is not the same as it was maybe 10 to 15 years ago. So reading some of these older books don't give a good accurate assessment of what law school is now. But there are Ted Talks on things too. But reading your favorite legal autobiography, those can be great. Does anyone else have recollection of what Dean Adams talked about when addressing that question? Any thoughts?

>>CARMEN JOHNSON: I think you covered it well, unless Dean Davis has anything to add.

>>DEAN KARLA DAVIS-JAMISON: I was trying to go back in my memory. Of course I am old, but I think you covered everything that she indicated. I think the only other thing to add to that is: Relax, if you can, and enjoy the break, the time off, the space to think and reflect and plan for your future. Because once you start law school, it's full speed ahead for a couple of years. You definitely want to take care of yourselves prior to the start of fall classes. Read something that you enjoy reading. Maybe read a couple of fiction books that you haven't had a chance to read yet. To just shift your mind and take some time for yourselves before you begin school in the fall. Yep.

>>CARMEN JOHNSON: The last thing I will add -- excuse me, Darren. Leading up to orientation, during the summer, we have an online orientation that is going to include a great powerful list of books that you can read, getting ready for law school. These are optional books that you can reference as part of bibliography. And videos about some of the things to expect as you start law school from the very beginning. A lot of people find the online orientation very, very helpful. That information will be posted in the Admitted Student Portal beginning in June. But in the meantime, if anyone really wants to homework in advance and really want to know, I am happy to send you the book bibliography. They are recommended. Don't have to read any of these things. I am happy to send that to you now. It is a simple PDF we can shoot over to you.

>>DARREN KETTLES: Good, good. I just want to address I know we didn't get to every question. There were some questions on here that might be just better if you just e-mail us directly, because they might have been personal. There was a lot of stuff even about the COVID-19-related stuff, and I don't know if Dean Davis maybe wants to reiterate more on that before we close out. As of now, our plan is to have everyone report to campus for orientation, to begin classes in the fall. But just like you, we are following state and federal guidelines regarding this. And we just want to make sure that we are safe. That is the most important thing: Safety and health of our community. Was there anything else, Dean Davis, you want to say about that too? For those people who have specific questions, some people are (INDISCERNIBLE) (lag) (screen froze)

>>DEAN KARLA DAVIS-JAMISON: Darren, I would be happy to jump in there. We encourage you if you have specific questions that are related to maybe medical conditions that you have that you are concerned about, related to the start of class and COVID-19 and how that may affect your ability to get started right away. We encourage you to just reach out to us, and we'll take your questions sort of case by case and work through solutions together with you. So we do encourage you to do that.

As Darren said, our plan is to welcome you for orientation and start of classes this fall. The dean is fully committed to responding to whatever our regulations are at that time from CDC, federal and state policies and to make that information available to you as quickly as it comes to us. But we -- right now, we are moving forward as though we'll be greeting you and welcoming you to Tampa Bay in the fall. And we'll keep you posted as we know more regarding what that will actually look like come August. But right now we are planning ahead. We are certainly planning ahead.

So I just want to -- I guess I am going to go ahead and take the lead, unless anyone else had some closing comments. (shaking heads). Okay. And thank you for joining us today. We hope this was helpful. As Darren said, if we didn't get to your specific question -- there were a few specific questions that we encourage you to reach out to one of us to handle on a one-on-one basis. Otherwise we did record this session. If you want to take a look at the session again, we will make that link available to you shortly so you can take another look.

We also want to just mention that we will have some upcoming live streams for you. We hope you are enjoying them. We enjoy pulling them together for you. We should have a date and link for you in the next day or so regarding upcoming live streams starting next week. As Darren mentioned earlier, we are trying to pull together clinics and externships live stream at the moment.

And also working with the Stetson Law Alumni Association to pull together a chat with alumni in the coming weeks. We hope to have that one delivered to you the week of the 27th.

Then we are also working on Career and Professional Development live stream, a Financial Aid live stream and some opportunity to connect with Tracy Rich, that superhero I mentioned earlier, from housing. Watch the invitations for invitations to upcoming events. If you have questions in the meantime, reach out to us. We are here to help. We hope you enjoyed today. Stay healthy and stay safe.

(End session)

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