

Good afternoon, all. I hope each of you and your families are safe.

These are extraordinary times. Many in our community will remember the days after 9/11, when the nation faced a mix of shock, uncertainty, and disruption. The coronavirus pandemic is, I fear, reminiscent of that time, and it will have a profound, persistent, pervasive, and punishing impact on us, our community, our nation, and our world. It will take all of us working together as a community and helping each other to overcome the effects of this pandemic.

The economic, social, emotional, and personal reverberations of this pandemic are dramatic and substantial – but they will hit each individual differently, and some more substantially than others. It will demand empathy from all of us – and a willingness to consider the interests of others just as much as our own interests. South Texas College of Law Houston should be proud of its reputation for fostering a supportive and caring community. Now is the time for all of us come together to make that community real.

There will be more updates over the next four days, but I wanted to provide you with three quick notes:

1. **We are extending the period that classes will be online through at least Sunday, April 5** – that is, for the first two weeks after spring break. We will make a decision whether there will be a further extension of on-line classes next week.
2. **The library has compiled a list of resources and books – including casebooks – that are available for free to students.** It is attached.
3. **Remember that there will be no access to campus from tomorrow through Sunday – March 19-22.** We will be making a decision over the next few days about whether the building will be open next week.

Please heed the recommendations from the CDC and those in the know regarding social distancing, hand washing, and other measures to limit the spread of coronavirus. If no one we know has been affected by COVID-19, all of this may seem remote and unnecessary. If you or someone you love is stricken, however, it becomes all too real. Please do your part to help protect our larger community.

As always, please send any questions to health@stcl.edu.

And, be safe.

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