

Happy Friday, all.

It's hard to believe that this is Update #20. One month ago today (Tuesday, March 17), while the school was on spring break, we announced that we were going to be closing campus as a precautionary measure. I expected that we would be operating remotely for two weeks -- maybe three -- four at the outside. Instead, 31 days have gone by, and I can't tell you when next we will be in the building.

This whole event has been one for the ages. Think about the numbers: Some 20 million individuals have filed for unemployment in the last three weeks -- that is 1 in every 17 Americans. \$349 billion in funding for small businesses was swept up in just 9 days -- banks were processing more in loans in a day than they usually process in a year. Airlines have cut up to 90 percent of their routes. And, the price of gas is the lowest it has been in some 20 years.

There is still a lot that we don't know -- and may not know for a while. But, we are making plans for all of the eventualities. My motto: Plan for the worst; hope for the best. At some time -- preferably sooner rather than later -- we will be back on campus. And, in the meantime, we will continue to educate. We will continue to serve. We will continue to be a community.

In short, despite the numbers and the challenges and the uncertainty, **we will figure out a way to get things done**. Because that's what we in the legal profession do.

I will look forward to seeing you at 4.30 today. Click [HERE](#) to join the Zoom call.

Two updates for today:

1. **Attached is information from the Financial Aid Office** on
 - how South Texas can assist those students who face financial challenges and hardships relating to the coronavirus pandemic; and
 - the CARES Act -- and what it means for those with loans.

The emergency fund that we have is modest -- but we hope that it will be able to provide some assistance to those most in need right now.

2. **Our Library is creating an archive of how we are surviving in the age of coronavirus.** You are "making it work in the age of COVID-19" and we want to hear your stories.

The college has established a dedicated webpage — www.stcl.edu/stories — to collect your photos, brief videos, and written submissions of how you are overcoming challenges, altering routines, and creating a new “normal” as you balance distance learning, studying, working from home, parenting, caring for loved ones, socializing, and more. Please share your stories.

And, please tag your social media posts with **#STCLTogetherApart** to spread the word of our united community!

I look forward to seeing you at 4.30.

All the best, and be safe!

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