Welcome Letter from the Editor

Christina Luk ’21
Editor-in-Chief

Hello and thank you for picking up the Virginia Law Weekly! We are the Law School’s one and only student newspaper and you are in for a treat. Inside these pages you will find the heart and soul of the UVA Law community. As Editor-in-Chief, it’s my privilege to introduce you to what we’re all about and to entice you into our ranks.

In the first half of this year, welcome letters have tended to be pretty upbeat and funny—but nothing about this year has been ordinary. I mean, we started the year with an entire continent on fire and no one really expected it to ramp up from there. COVID-19 has forced us all online, impacted our communities, and tested our resilience, kindness, and care for each other. The events of this summer unfolded like a never-before-seen nightmare: Disease, death, police brutality, protests, and, of course, the ever-ramping up of election. We are bucking in for the second half of an already crazy year.

What an incredible time to attend law school. So much has changed. A look around the Law School reveals a different space. There are stickers on the floor and tabletop cameras and plexiglass have been installed in every classroom, and a thousand hand sanitizing stations litter the halls. Folks are wearing masks (or they had better be!) and many of us are online this semester.

The start of the year brings everything rushing back—the excitement, the nostalgia, the learning curve of whether the snack office will still provide snacks. Old and new students alike, we’re grappling with social isolation, missing people closest to us, and deciding on the next stage in our legal career. We’re all trying to figure things out. Now is your chance to help us—and we will help you—find your path and to support you at every step along it.

To say that we begin this school year at a challenging moment is an understatement. The unprecedented COVID-19 global pandemic continues, and it has ushered in an economic crisis unprecedented in its own right. We are in the middle of a national reckoning with racial injustice. A hotly contested election fast approaches.

As we navigate these challenges together, this year will certainly differ from any that has come before. In your first week of classes, you have already seen many ways in which that is the case. You wear masks, take some or all of your courses online, keep your distance from one another, and watch your professors through Plexiglass. You monitor your health and worry about both your own health and that of others. You are being asked to fulfill obligations to each other and this community that no class before you has had to contemplate.

So much remains the same, however. This is your first year of law school, and that means it is the start of an exciting intellectual, personal, and professional journey for each other and this community that no class before you has had to contemplate.

Risa L. Goluboff ’90
Dean of UVA Law

To help you begin to take advantage of those opportunities and to find your way around the Law School, I mean that in the literal sense: Note, for example, that there are two Caplin Reading Rooms—the one in the Library and the one off Scott Commons—as well as both a Caplin Pavilion and a Caplin Auditorium. (Mortimer Caplin ’40 was an alumnus, a member of the faculty, and a loyal and generous donor.) I mean it in a figurative sense as well. Our world-class faculty is dedicated to initiating you into the mysteries of the law and bringing their innovative research into their instruction as they do so. Outside of the classroom, fellow students, faculty, and staff offer countless ways for you to connect with each other and dive into our community, both virtually and in small groups. We are here to help you navigate the intellectual challenges ahead of you and identify the aspects of your law school—law school—areas of study, service projects, political causes, student organizations, extracurricular activities, research opportunities, career paths—that give you a sense of purpose and belonging and enable you to thrive. We are here to help you find your path and to support you at every step along it.

It will not always be easy, for the reasons made (in)famous in popular culture and mythology—required classes and cold calls, oral arguments and journal tryouts and job searches. But it will not be the worst. Each year will prepare you not only for the rest of law school, but for the amazing, varied, as yet unknown careers that you will each make your own.

You will spend hours each week with your new classmates, over screens and otherwise. Take advantage of opportunities to connect and engage with each other. As I said during orientation, the legal profession is dedicated to testing ideas with argument and persuasion. Lawyers both ask difficult questions and must hear difficult answers. It is not always easy to speak so that others can listen or listen even when the message is hard to bear. It may be even harder to do those things this year, when we are coping with a new normal that feels anything but engaging in important and difficult conversations about race, and witnessing and participating in that most central of our democratic institutions: voting.

I am confident that we are up to the task. We are a community that cares deeply about each other and makes dialogue across difference a hallmark. We come from different races, religions, nationalities, ethnicities, and cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. We have had different life experiences and live different identities. We hold different beliefs, attitudes, and interests, and subscribe to a wide range of political views. We each have our own unique hopes and dreams. We bridge these differences with a shared commitment to this community, a shared aspiration that our differences serve as a source of strength to help us into our ranks.

Adam T. Lipton ’21
Executive Editor

Advice on How to Crush 1L:.............................................2
Learn about the Head Peer Advisors.........................2
The Debate over Lowering Tuition..............................3
Virginia Law Review’s New Masthead...............................6

Welcome Class of 2023

Shared Challenges Bond Us

Dean Goluboff

Thumbs up to people who don’t cover their masks. Put that huge thing away, Squidward. You can take it out when a 7-11 jet needs to make an emergency landing.

Thumbs up to the reduced presence of students at the Law School this semester. That means there’ll be more pizza, Take It Away, and Bellair leftover lunches for ANG, right?

Thumbs down to not having Dandelin this year, ANG invites students to submit footage of their wild, off-grounds parties in violation of University public health guidelines. ANG requests Legacy’s on-campus and off-campus events to be in line with students at ANG because ANG still needs blackmail material for those gunners who decide to run for public office someday.

Thumbs up to Chick-fil-A opening in Barracks Road. Now, ANG doesn’t have to fight an interest in Fed Soc to curb the competition. Chick-fil-A open side of the classroom, fellow students, faculty, and staff offer endless ways for you to connect with each other and dive into our community, both virtually and in small groups. We are here to help you navigate the intellectual challenges ahead of you and identify the aspects of your law school—law school—areas of study, service projects, political causes, student organizations, extracurricular activities, research opportunities, career paths—that give you a sense of purpose and belonging and enable you to thrive. We are here to help you find your path and to support you at every step along it.

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of humility and strength, empathy and intellectual stimulation. The community of trust and belonging to which we each contribute takes real dedication. It takes work, and it is worth every ounce of such effort. It is essential to all we do and to becoming not just the exceptional lawyers you are all here to become. The strength in our nation’s history calls out for exceptional lawyers. Lawyers will lead our families, our communities, our institutions, our businesses, and our communities through the many challenges we face in ways that comport with the core values of our Constitution and our profession. You will follow in the footsteps of a learned profession committed to justice and the rule of law. You will become those lawyers.

As you run through what can seem the gauntlet of 1L year, you will gain new skills, new experiences, new perspectives, and new intellectual resources. You will also make new friends and new mentors, and have new experiences that will enrich and grow you. You will become members of this community. Through it all, you will be creating the same humanity that is at the core of UVA Law and that, more than anything, is a truly magnificently equal as it always has. You will follow in the footsteps of a learned profession committed to justice and the rule of law. You will become those lawyers.

Like Moses with his Ten Commandments, I am once again coming down from the Mount of Law to give you my Law School 1. Trust no one. 2. Shut up. So am I. 3. Buy the 1L of a Ride, which means “wise beyond your years.”

3. Buy the 1L of a Ride

Supra

Note 2.

Note 2. Mountain top of debt to provide you with the most needed advice and encouragement. It is a truly magical and personal place, and the people you meet now will likely become lifelong champions to your success. Friends. Success. And hope. However, this journey is perilous, and it is crucial to know the way for you, as many have done for me.

1. Trust no one.

You are in law school, not trust school. That can be dealt with in Trusts & Estates should you choose to figure out what that is. Law school is a place where you will discover power and its exertion over others. As such, I suggest you do so with care. I will not claim in your section, that will re- ally know you and, hopefully, hear you as well.

2. Complain about anything and everything whenever possible.

So you start law school, gladly to Spartans (my professors will prob- ably “fact” check me but he wants to be a pick): so why shouldn’t you be a gadfly to everyone around you? Furthermore, no one is going to do the same thing that you are, and the playing field is definitely not equal when the test time is at the last minute of the class. No, you are the only one who has to bear the severe consequences of such burdens, and it is your duty to complain over Zoom, in your Grade, and to the highest act of complaint is a soothing balm to the ears of any future lawyer, and there is no way they will understand your struggle unless you complain.

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Sofia and Suitman? Well, they've been relegated to the influencer blackhole where they belong.

You may ask, why does the distribution of a podcast matter in a legal sense? Intellectual property is a rapidly rising area of litigation in our current media-conscious environment. Media companies provide the initial exposure to their talent, but the personalities often outstrip that exposure through developing followings on social media. As such, the personalities want ownership of the intellectual property to further capitalize on their brand, without relying on a company as a middleman.

As Alex showed through this saga, negotiating in good faith is the proper way to find a middle ground. For the sake of Daddy Gang, let’s hope Call Her Daddy and Barstool Sports have a long, successful partnership. In the way this situation ultimately played out, left Daddy Gang almost as satisfied they would be receiving a “Gluck 9000.” Gang Gang.

Law Students Super Grateful for Tuition Discount

The UVA Law Board of Lords convened in late August to discuss the possibility of reducing tuition in light of the obvious financial impact that COVID-19 has had on the University and its students. The board members asked him to look into their request, and Giuliani took the time to discuss his position on the matter.

During the meeting, Several board members pressed him to elaborate on the potential decrease in revenue and the effect it would have on the school’s endowment. Giuliani assured them that the school’s endowment was not at risk, and that the school had a plan in place to mitigate the financial impact of the pandemic.

He also mentioned that the school had already taken steps to reduce expenses, including canceling or limiting non-essential travel and remote learning initiatives.

“We are doing everything we can to ensure the safety of our students and faculty,” Giuliani said. “We are also taking steps to reduce costs and increase revenue.”

Giuliani noted that the school had already cut some non-essential expenses and was looking into other ways to reduce costs.

“We are also exploring opportunities to increase revenue, such as through fundraising and partnerships,” he added.

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The issue is not whether the previous case was correctly decided; the issue is whether we want to re-read the previous case. As a general rule, we do not.

K. Kordana: “One of the more annoying features of DC is the people you meet at parties.”

A. Coughlin: “What happens when you get your lawyer? Your lawyer is going to say ‘SHUT YOUR MOUTH’ and hand you a nice business card that says ‘SHUT YOUR MOUTH.’”

M. Collins: “Traynor was an absolute genius. Whether a good genius or an evil genius, we have to wait for the end of the semester to see.”

B. Bammaz: “Did you find the readings confusing? Well, bad news... this is basically the rest of the semester.”

G. Gilbert: “There's a partisan debate in law school, with one side saying ‘we NEVER use legislative history’ and the other side saying ‘WE ALWAYS use it’ — it’s all a charade.”

Heard a good professor quote? Email editor@lawweekly.org
Virginia Law Weekly

Head PAs continued from page 2

We’ll be doing our flagship events, including Women in Public Service, Women in Big Law, and our Student-Faculty Dinner Series, virtually this year. We’re planning to hold regular community building events (organized by VLW’s VP, Donna Faye Imadi ’22) and professional development events. The events will be on Monday or Wednesday, and we’ll be reaching out to people with different schedules can participate. In a virtual world, we’re relying on our social media key. VLW board members are very passionate about building community and making sure everyone stays connected.

The Board hopes to expand inclusion and aliyahb with VLW. We’re gathering resources for VLW’s website, and we’ll be doing our best to support a non-profit that supports women of color. We’re also brainstorming ways to get everyone involved in service programming, working on a spring public service event. And we’re hoping to keep the works in a virtual office hour with the Founder and CEO of From the Front, Niki Khoshzaban. PracticePro partners with top law firms to offer coaching, re- career planning, and training for diverse PAs.

I am grateful for the women at VLW’s Executive Board, their creativity, and their enthusiasm! They are all hardworking, conscientious, and talented.

Sounds like you have a great year planned for VLW! Let’s back up a little bit and learn more about you. Where are you from?

I’m from Silver Spring, Maryland. I grew up in DC area, and I’ve lived all over the East Coast—DC, New York, Boston.

In addition to traveling around the States, you’ve also been around the world. What are your favorite places to travel?

I would say Jamaica, Italy, and Spain. Jamaica, because of my mom’s heritage, and I have a lot of great memories with family there. Italy, because my family is originally from Italy, and I lived with a host family and loved them. Spain, same scenario, stayed with a host family and really bonded with them. They called me their American daughter.

So, when did you start law school?

I thought that I wanted to do a PhD actually. But I considered law school, and I ended up doing it.

What kind of impact do you hope to have as a lawyer?

I’ve been saying since 1L that I want to work at a firm, but I want to do as much pro bono as possible. I want to help as many people I can help, but I hope to help as many people as I can. I want to work for survivors of domestic violence, which I was able to do a bit this summer.

I especially want to help other people of color because the industry is not built for us, and we have to push for it. But not just about my career. There are so many people in the legal industry. It’s important to think about our collective future.

Let’s do a lightning round!

Favorite food?

That’s a hard one. I’m a foodie, so I have a lot of things I enjoy on anything. Also, mediterra-

Favorite place to chill?

The BLSA office. I enjoy instead of on what ev-

Favorite place to do volunteer work?

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**Dicta Returns**

The Virginia Law Weekly is pleased to announce that the Dicta column, a staple of the Law Weekly for many decades, will be returning to the paper. Dicta will feature overviews of, musings about, and recent developments in Law School professors’ scholarship, as well as their views about current events and happenings in the law—all in 800 words or less. The Law Weekly is excited to reintroduce Dicta and hopes that it will provide an outlet for professors to share their research and thoughts with the student body (and Law School community more broadly), a vehicle for students to learn more about the Law School’s faculty, and a way for students to gain exposure to interesting legal topics not already covered in the Law School’s 1L civil procedure classes.

Professors interested in submitting a piece are invited to contact the Professor Liaison Editor, Leah Deskins (ld4ew@virginia.edu).