MEMORANDUM

To: First Year (1L) Students in the Juris Doctor Program
From: Professors Maryann Brown and Alice Eakin
Orientation Coordinators
Re: Orientation 2021 Introduction
Date: July 1, 2021

Welcome to Delaware Law! This memorandum provides introductory information about Orientation 2021, which begins on Tuesday, August 17th, and concludes on Thursday, August 19th. Additional information about Orientation will be provided via your Delaware Law email and posted to the Orientation web page in the coming weeks.

Orientation Timing

You will each be assigned an Orientation section that corresponds to the section to which you will be assigned for your fall classes. Accordingly, all evening students will be in Orientation section W, and day students will be assigned to Orientation section A, B, or C. The detailed schedules for each section will be provided in early August. Preliminarily we would note that each of the three days of Orientation will include up to four different sessions covering a range of topics, including wellness, professionalism, case briefing, and law school essay exams, among others. Day students’ sessions will either be in the morning or afternoon each day (although on Thursday, August 19th, all day students’ sessions will be held in the afternoon). Evening students’ sessions will run from approximately 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm each night. On the final day (Thursday), we hope you can join us between 4:30 – 6:30 for the annual Orientation picnic!

Required Preparation

Harvard Zero-L: Harvard Law School has created an online curriculum called Zero-L, a program designed specifically to prepare students for key aspects of their first year of law school. This unique online program consists of a series of interactive recordings and lessons that you can complete at your own pace prior to Orientation. During the week of July 5th, you’ll receive an email from Harvard (HLS-Online) with a link that will take you to these lessons. Keep your eyes open for an email from Professors Brown and Eakin with instructions and more information about this program in the coming days.

Delaware Law Engages: As part of Delaware Law School’s Strategic Plan for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, each year - through a program called “Delaware Law Engages” - a book or other medium is selected as required reading or watching for Orientation and the 1L curriculum. This year, the
book Choosing Equality: Essays and Narratives on the Desegregation Experience by Robert L. Hayman and Leland Ware has been selected as the focus of Delaware Law Engages. One of your Orientation sessions this year will introduce you to the book and its subject: the impact of Brown v. The Board of Education and the desegregation experience in Delaware – one of the four states whose segregated schools led to the famous Supreme Court opinion in 1954. In addition to introducing this book at Orientation, DLS will sponsor programming centered around Choosing Equality throughout the year, and faculty, administrators, and student leaders will engage the student body in group discussions. Faculty may also incorporate readings from the book into their required class assignments. Students can purchase this book through the Widener Book Store. Books may be purchased online by entering the following ISBN number into the ISBN search box at the top of the store’s web page: #9780271034348. Your required reading from this book for Orientation is pages 1 – 17.

Orientation Reading Supplement: A packet of required course readings for Orientation 2021 is now available on the Law School’s Orientation web site. You should complete the readings prior to the Orientation sessions on August 18th, the second day of Orientation. The readings will supplement material covered in the Harvard Zero-L program and provide necessary context for several of your Orientation sessions.

Optional Resources for New Law Students

If you are interested in exploring additional resources, you’ll find there are numerous books and online programs designed to help law students navigate their 1L year and beyond. Here are just some of the resources you might consider:

- Law School Toolbox (online resource)
- Peter Wendel, Deconstructing Legal Analysis: a 1L Primer, Aspen Publishers (2009)

If you have any questions

Feel free to contact Associate Dean Eakin at aeeakin@widener.edu or Professor Brown at mbrown@widener.edu if you have any questions about Orientation. We look forward to meeting you in August and working with you throughout the year!