

Widener University

Delaware Law School

To: First Year (1L) Students in the Juris Doctor Program
From: Professors Maryann Brown and Alice Eakin, Orientation Coordinators
Re: Orientation 2024 Multicultural Lawyering and Orientation Reading Supplement Assignments
Date: July 17, 2024

This memorandum provides your final [Orientation](#) assignments which should be completed prior to the start of Orientation on August 13th. Please note that these assignments are in addition to the *JDEdge* online program assignments discussed in the Memorandum dated June 24, 2024, and posted to the Orientation web page.

In addition to *JDEdge* assignments, the following assignments should be completed before Orientation:

- I. **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, we will continue to use the book, Multicultural Lawyering: Navigating the Culture of the Law, the Lawyer, and the Client by Kimberly E. O'Leary and Mable Martin-Scott, Carolina Academic Press (2021), as the focus of Delaware Law Engages. One of your sessions during 1L Orientation this year will introduce you to the book and various issues, including racism, bias, and cross-cultural competency; issues that the American Bar Association (ABA) requires all law schools cover pursuant to ABA standard 303(c).

The Multicultural Lawyering book includes a mix of policy, legal history, professionalism, and lawyering skills. It explores multiculturalism, the reasons behind calls for diversity in the legal profession, and the culture of the law. It also examines implicit bias and how to best navigate one's own culture while interacting with legal systems. Further, it provides guidance on how to best represent clients with a particular focus on understanding and translating a client's goals, values, and culture into legal system values and culture, while remaining cognizant of one's own values and culture. In addition to introducing this book at Orientation, Delaware Law School plans to sponsor programming centered around Multicultural Lawyering throughout the year where faculty, administrators, alumni, attorneys, and student leaders will seek to engage the student body in group discussions. Faculty may also incorporate readings from the book into their required assignments. **Multicultural Lawyering should be purchased from online booksellers or directly from the publisher, [Carolina Academic Press](#).** The ISBN numbers are: ISBN-13: 978-1531020415; ISBN-10: 1531020410.

Your assignment from Multicultural Lawyering will be to read Chapter Four on pp. **133-162**, “**Addressing One’s Own Implicit (and Explicit) Bias.**” **Suggested:** if you have time, also read pp. **51-58** (starting on p. 51, with the “Excerpts from: Debra Chopp, “Addressing Cultural Bias in the Legal Profession,” to the top paragraph on p. 58).

- II. **Orientation Reading Supplement.** The third and final component of Orientation preparation is to read the Orientation Reading Supplement (all pages) attached to this email. The readings will complement material covered in *JDEdge* and provide necessary context for several of your Orientation sessions.

Your Orientation schedules will be posted to your Orientation Canvas page in early August. Please check your Orientation Canvas page at that time for detailed information about your Orientation sessions.

In the meantime, feel free to contact Associate Dean Eakin at aeekin@widener.edu or Professor Brown at mbrown@widener.edu if you have any questions about Orientation or these assignments. We look forward to meeting you next month!