

Below are updates and tips from the American Bar Association Law Student Division Council (“LSD”) regarding the many aspects of law school and law students’ lives being affected by COVID-19.

Grading Policies:

The LSD is compiling a list of current grading policies at all law schools. Be sure to consult the [list](#) periodically to keep up with which schools have chosen to keep letter grades, convert all courses to pass/fail, or a combination of the options.

If your school has not made a decision regarding grading policies for the current semester, consider voicing your concerns and opinions of your colleagues to your school’s dean and administration.

Summer Jobs and Post-Graduate Employment:

If you have concerns regarding summer employment or a post-graduate job you have lined up, do not hesitate to reach out to the employer and inquire about your job status. If you are searching for employment, feel free to contact offices where you have outstanding applications and inquire if these offices still plan to hire and what the status of your application is.

July Bar Exam and Emergency Diploma Privilege:

The National Conference of Bar Examiners (“NCBE”) announced on March 26 that it will announce a decision whether or not to administer the July exam on or around May 5. A complete article outlining the NCBE’s timeline can be found [here](#).

The American Bar Association’s Board of Governors on April 7 approved a [resolution](#) urging states to adopt emergency rules authorizing limited practice with lawyer supervision for recent law school graduates if the July exam is cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Ohio State University published an [article](#) outlining the several options states are considering regarding the administration of the July exam. This article is a great resource for those students advocating for a July exam, diploma privilege, or other alternatives.

Mental Health During Online Learning:

Remember to reach out to classmates and colleagues outside of online learning in order to maintain a sense of normalcy. Communicate with friends and loved ones regularly and do not allow yourself to become completely socially isolated.

Encourage your school’s administration to continue weekly update meetings, coffee hours with the dean, and other programming via online platforms. Several schools have been willing to create a virtual edition of these programs, and it is proving very beneficial for students.

The LSD Council wishes you good health and valuable learning during this unprecedented time.