Dear Bowen Alum:

We hope that you and your loved ones are safe and well.

This is clearly not a normal time in the country or the state—or at Bowen. The halls are empty, but our students, faculty, and staff are still working. Bowen students and faculty have made the leap to online classes like the professionals they are all. But I’m still concerned with the welfare of our students outside of their class work.

Like many Americas, Bowen students rely on full and part-time jobs, including internships, to make ends meet. In those of you who have provided our students with those jobs opportunities, thank you. Unfortunately, both full-time and part-time students are seeing layoffs or cutbacks in their payrolls or in our law school’s income stream in their dual roles as the professionals they are all. This adds a layer of stress on top of their studies and the shift to an online learning environment.

In addition, many students set for summer internships are concerned as to whether that position will still be available.

I’m asking for help on two fronts.

First, if your firm was planning to have a Bowen student as a summer clerk, please reach out to Assistant Dean Daisy Snyder and let her know how you expect the position to change. You can reach Daisy at daisy.snyder@ualr.edu. I would encourage each of you to keep your clerk’s if at all possible, even if it means reducing hours. Our students are looking forward to summer work for not just financial support, but also for the experience you provide.

Second, consider a monetary donation. We have a Student Emergency Fund. As of now, we can assist students experiencing hardship by giving them temporary loans to help with living expenses. It has to be a loan to avoid jeopardizing their financial aid eligibility.

You can donate to the emergency fund or to the food pantry by contacting Assistant Dean Wanda Hoover by emailing wghoover@ualr.edu or by calling 501-690-1159.

We also stock a food pantry here at the law school. It is open Tuesdays and Thursdays each week so students can anonymously gather supplies.

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The classroom and halls at Bowen may be empty, but our hearts are not. Thank you for all you continue to do for our students.

Dean Biriner