



January 12, 2021

Dear Incoming Students,

On behalf of the Drake Law community, it is my honor to welcome you to the Law School. You are part of an outstanding group, who have all demonstrated the capacity for excellent academic work, along with the traits of character and leadership we believe will make you successful in the legal profession. You are also making history as a member of Drake Law's inaugural Spring Start class. We are proud of our tradition of providing quality legal education and excited to offer you the opportunity to start your classes mid-year. During your time at Drake Law, I hope you take full advantage of the exceptional opportunities for service, leadership and practical experience presented to you.

You are beginning law school in the midst of a pandemic, which we all hope will be over soon. As a result, your encounters with many of the Drake Law community – including faculty, staff, alumni, and fellow students – may be online or from a social distance, with faces covered. Despite those barriers, this *is* a community and we will not allow these challenges to prevent you from feeling a part of it. Together, we will get through this challenge and return to a sense of normalcy. In the meantime, however, we are all learning valuable skills in how to achieve our goals in a distance format; skills which all lawyers are using now and will continue to use even after the virus wanes.

I hope you are as excited as we are about getting started! The students, faculty, staff and friends of the Drake Law School community welcome you and look forward to getting to know you.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jerry L. Anderson".

Jerry L. Anderson  
*Dean and Calkins Distinguished Professor of Law*