Dear Class of 2014,

Welcome back and congratulations on entering your final semester of law school! The end is in site, and this email contains information related to the end of law school: specifically Commencement and admission to the CA State Bar.

Commencement (Key Dates and Action Items):

- **Order your cap and gown at a discounted price now until Jan 31**

Now is the time to order your graduation regalia – caps and gowns, diploma frames and invitations, etc. Place your cap and gown rental order now and get the early bird discounted price of $65. If you place your cap and gown rental order after Jan 31, the price will be $85. This is also the website where you order announcements, diploma frames, rings, etc. click here to order www.herffjones.com/college/uchastings. For questions or concerns, contact scholarp@uchastings.edu

- **March 19, 2014 – Grad To Do Day (Mandatory Event)**

Drop in any time between 8:30am – 4:30pm to complete your tasks, Dining Commons. This is your chance to get many graduation-related tasks done at once. You can also take a photo in a cap and gown to send with your announcements, and we hold a raffle with great prizes! Those of you away for the spring semester (doing a clinic, externship, study abroad, etc. and therefore not able to come to campus on Grad To Do Day) will receive detailed information about how to complete Grad To Do Day tasks by email after March 19.

- **May 10, 2014 – 133rd Commencement Ceremony**

Commencement- Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, 99 Grove Street, ceremony starts at 3pm, grads must arrive by 2pm at the latest. We are thrilled to be returning to the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium and to have Commencement on a Saturday! The number of tickets and other details is discussed below.
**How long is the ceremony?**
About 2 hours.

**How Many tickets will I get?**
Admission to the Commencement Ceremony is free but by ticket only. The number of tickets is based on the size of the venue. Each student eligible to participate in the ceremony gets ten (10) guest tickets. If you know you need less or you know you will not attend Commencement, please let us know at Grad To Do Day so we can give your tickets to other students via lottery.

**Will more tickets become available?**
Yes. You can request more tickets. That information will be available closer to Grad To Do Day, so please think about exactly how many tickets you need now.

**Who can participate in this Commencement Ceremony?**
December 2013, May 2014, and December 2014 graduates can participate.

**Further Information about Commencement:** Can be found on the Commencement [webpage](#). This webpage will be updated regularly as more information becomes available. Please let your friends and family know about it.

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**The CA State Bar (Key Dates and Action Items):**

Students applying to take the bar in another state should refer to the ABA’s [Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements](#) to determine the rules and requirements for that state.

Students taking the CA State Bar Exam should review the checklist with estimated costs here: [http://uchastings.edu/about/admin-offices/records/bar_info/Bar-Exam-Checklist/index.php](http://uchastings.edu/about/admin-offices/records/bar_info/Bar-Exam-Checklist/index.php)

- **January 22 and 23, 2014 – LiveScan Fingerprinting Available on Campus**

  9:30am-5pm, Dobbs Atrium. [Sign up in Student Services for an appointment now.](#) Make sure you also have a government issued id and cash or check to pay for the fingerprints. Your fingerprints are valid for 90 days, so make sure to submit your moral character application while your fingerprints are valid (i.e. within 90 days of getting your fingerprints).* I recommend that students get their fingerprints done first before submitting the moral character application online. I think students should be working on the moral character application, but just do not hit submit until the fingerprints are completed and you have the piece of paper you need to submit. The reason I suggest this approach is that fingerprints cost $25 and are valid for 90 days. This means that you should submit your moral character application during the 90 days your fingerprints are valid. If you miss this window, then you can always go get another set of fingerprints for another $25. If you submit your moral character application first (which costs approx. $500), you have a much shorter window to get your fingerprints submitted to the state bar. If for any reason you can’t get those fingerprints in on time, the state bar can consider your moral character application abandoned and then you would have to resubmit your moral character application and repay another $500. If you know you’ll get your fingerprints submitted within the short timeframe after submitting your moral character application, than either way works.

- **Complete and Submit the Moral Character Application Now**

  All applicants to the State Bar must submit the moral character application. The [State Bar recommends applicants file 8 to 10 months](#) prior to the date at which they wish to be admitted to the bar. So if you plan to graduate in May 2014 and take the July 2014 CA bar exam, you want to be considered in good standing BEFORE the July bar exam results come out in November 2014. Therefore, you should really submit your application no later than the end of January 2014. You may complete the moral character application at the following link on the California State Bar website [http://www.calbarxap.com/Applications/CalBar/California_Bar_Moral_Character/default.asp](http://www.calbarxap.com/Applications/CalBar/California_Bar_Moral_Character/default.asp)

- **MPRE Exam is on March 29, 2014; timely registration is by February 4, 2014**

  The Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE) is a two hour multiple choice exam administered by the National Conference of Bar Examiners. It is required for admission to the California State Bar as well as almost every other jurisdiction. The [next MPRE date is March 29, 2014](#) (regular registration deadline is February 4, 2014 $80 and the late registration deadline is February 20, 2014 $160) Exam information and registration may be found at the following website: [http://www.ncbex.org/multistate-tests/MPRE/](http://www.ncbex.org/multistate-tests/MPRE/)
• **March 1, 2014 – Registration Opens to Take the July CA Bar Exam**

*(Timely Registration is March 1 - April 1, 2014)* It is best to sign up as early as you can to hopefully get the test location you would like. Please note that an [application to Register as a Law Student](#) with the Committee of Bar Examiners must be filed before any examination application is submitted. Many of you probably registered with the State Bar as a 1L, and you only register once. A registered student may be able to check his or her file using the ‘[Check Your Admissions Status](#)’ feature. For registration and other information, please see the following [website](#). Double check that you have completed all required steps for the exam using this [checklist with costs](#).

• **How can I start to prepare for the Bar Exam this semester?**

Stay tuned for information from Dean Field about workshops this semester to help you prepare for the bar.

• **If you need an Accommodation for the CA Bar, Petition for Testing Accommodations now!**

This is a petition process, not an application process. Students must prove that they fall within the protections of the American Disabilities Act. The burden of proof is on the student, and students must meet the level of proof required in order to be accommodated. Please [plan ahead](#). The petition process can take a very long time. Should you have questions, the Director of the Disability Resource Program, Lisa Noshay Petro ([noshaye@uchastings.edu](mailto:noshaye@uchastings.edu)), can help counsel you on the petition process as well as on appeals. [http://admissions.calbar.ca.gov/Examinations/TestingAccommodations.aspx](http://admissions.calbar.ca.gov/Examinations/TestingAccommodations.aspx).

Thanks,
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