

William & Mary Law School

William & Mary Law School Scholarship Repository

Law School Personal Reflections on COVID-19

Law School Experiences of the COVID-19
Pandemic

Fall 2020

Mechelle King '21: Reflections on the Fall 2020 Semester

Mechelle King

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.law.wm.edu/covidwriting>



Part of the [Legal Education Commons](#), and the [Virus Diseases Commons](#)

Repository Citation

King, Mechelle, "Mechelle King '21: Reflections on the Fall 2020 Semester" (2020). *Law School Personal Reflections on COVID-19*. 7.

<https://scholarship.law.wm.edu/covidwriting/7>

Copyright c 2020 by the authors. This article is brought to you by the William & Mary Law School Scholarship Repository.

<https://scholarship.law.wm.edu/covidwriting>



Mechelle King '21

Reflections on the Fall 2020 Semester

Can you please share some reflections on this past semester?

This semester was at once the most challenging but ultimately the most fulfilling. I was already starting the school year feeling burned out, so I really embraced the opportunities that brought me joy to keep me going. Helping with the "No Transition, No Justice" Symposium, a program of Professor Warren's Center for Comparative Legal Studies and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding, was one of those opportunities where I could pause the grind of day-to-day law school life, with its never-ending reading driven by a fear of getting stumped on a cold-call, to work on a subject that was so timely given what was happening in our country at the time. And then being able to sit back on the day of the symposium to hear about finding the capacity to forgive from Albie Sachs, wrestle with how we reconcile truth and an individual's own experiences from Yasmin Sooka, and receive encouragement from Walter Riley to use our time in law school to find ways to take on the power structures that perpetuate injustice--it was a reminder that as difficult as it is being in law school right now, I am receiving my legal training at just the right moment.

How did you keep yourself healthy and grounded?

During my 2L year, I started taking advantage of the free fitness classes offered at the Bee McLeod Recreation Center, which was essential for me to have an area of my life that was disciplined and regimented. Thankfully, I found a way to replicate that discipline at home with a discounted Les Mills subscription so I can keep doing Body Combat, one of the classes I loved at the Rec Center, but then I started incorporating yoga into my daily routine to force myself to have at least 30 minutes where my brain isn't spinning about the work ahead of me. I miss having the break in my day that driving to and from the Rec Center gave me, so I also try to take a daily walk around my neighborhood to get some fresh air. Of course, all of these routines fell apart in the weeks leading up to finals, but I was able to jump right back into them once things got back to "normal."

What are your hopes for spring semester and beyond?

I go into every semester hoping I will develop a better system for managing my time or studying or typing up my class notes and it never happens. So my hope for spring is to let go of beating myself up for not being better at any number of things I feel like I should be doing and just

enjoy the last semester I have of law school. As a non-traditional student, it's really important to me to not take for granted this opportunity to devote three years of my life to just learning something completely new and unfamiliar. This experience is something I am incredibly grateful for--sleep deprivation and all--and I want to spend it looking forward to each day I have to learn something new. Beyond spring, I hope to be able to travel somewhere new, but that will all depend on how far along the world is in getting COVID under control.