Now is a good time to take stock of where you are with your budget.

- After you have budgeted for January rent, food, and holiday spending (gifts, travel, etc.), do you still have significant funds left from your Fall semester credit refund? Would you like to return the excess funds and save money on interest and fees? There is still time to return any fall semester loan funds and not have any interest or fee charges on the returned amount. **The deadline is fast approaching – December 13 is the deadline for making this decision.** If you want to return any portion of your fall loan funds, send an email to the Financial Aid Office authorizing us to return your Direct Graduate PLUS, Direct Unsubsidized, or Yale Loan and we take care of everything else. You must indicate the exact amount you wish to return. Email the office at financialaid.law@yale.edu with your request or stop by the office (M13) to discuss with a counselor.

Don’t get the Winter Break Blues...Plan Ahead

- Your next financial aid refund will not be available until after the first week of the spring term.
- A few friendly reminders to ease the stress:
  - (1) set goals for holiday spending (remember, holiday shopping and gift giving are not a part of the educational cost of living budget)
  - (2) make a list
  - (3) think of alternatives to store-brought gifts (i.e. give a loved one a coupon for 1 hour of free legal service...available after you pass the bar, of course!).

MAX by AccessLex

- **AccessLex held its drawing for the fall semester on December 1**. Unfortunately, no one from YLS won the $5,000 scholarship for the fall semester. Four YLS students did win $25 Amazon Gift Cards, which was awesome news. There is still an opportunity to win the scholarship during the spring semester drawing, just continue participating in MAX activities and you could be the next big winner.
- **MAX Spring semester online modules will vary depending on your year in law school.**
  - **1Ls** – the focus will be on credit and the importance of credit in law school and professional journeys, along with support to "stay on track" and modify financial plans and personal goals. The modules will include: Keeping Your Budget on Track, Monitoring Your Credit, Using Credit, and Summer Financial Planning.
  - **2Ls** – the focus will help students look at how current life situations affect tax obligations and approaches. The modules will include: Personal Tax Strategy, Debt-to-Income Ratio, Big Purchases, and Reviewing Finances.
  - **3Ls** – the focus will be on loan repayment, insurance, retirement, and estate planning. These lessons provide foundational knowledge for students to plan and set successful financial strategies after they graduate. Modules will include: The Road to Zero: A
Strategic Approach to Student Loan Repayment, Covering Risk with Insurance, Retirement and Estate Planning, and Financial Planning for Graduation and Beyond.

- **MAX January Financial Wellness Workshops**
  - **Tuesday, January 21, 12:10-1:10pm, SLB, Room 128, The Road to Zero: A Strategic Approach to Student Loan Repayment** – Student loan repayment can feel overwhelming, but you can chart a path to a debt-free future. Covering all of the essential details, including repayment plan options, consolidation, loan forgiveness and more, this workshop will provide the information and next steps you need to get you on the road to zero student debt. Lunch will be provided. RSVP [here](#).
  
  - **Tuesday, January 21, 5:10–6:10pm, SLB, Room 128, Strategies for Financing the Cost of Your Bar Study** – Costs associated with sitting for the Bar can add up, especially when you are not working yet! This session will help you estimate your expenses, talk through things to consider, and provide you with resources to create your strategic plan for managing these costs. Dinner will be provided. RSVP [here](#).

**ATTENTION 3Ls - loan repayment information**

- It is time to start thinking about student loan repayment. We will provide resources to help you navigate the student loan repayment process, starting with a workshop to be held on **Tuesday, January 21**. We will also offer individual loan counseling sessions beginning in February. More information will be shared in January regarding the one-on-one individual loan counseling sessions with our veteran consultant, Bill Mangini.
- It is not too early to set up an online account with your federal loan servicer to get updated loan statements. Don't know who your servicer is? Log into the National Student Loan Database at [https://nslds.ed.gov/nslds/nslds_SA/](https://nslds.ed.gov/nslds/nslds_SA/) to access your account information. You will need your FSA ID and password to access the system.

**IMPORTANT - The Financial Aid Office will be closed on Monday, December 9 and Tuesday, December 10**

- The financial aid staff will be attending a two-day training event on Monday, December 9 and Tuesday, December 10. While the office is closed, we will respond to all email inquiries during that time. We will reopen on Wednesday, December 11, 9:00am.

Happy Reading Week and Best of Luck with Exams. We wish you a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season! Jackie, Christine & Roselyn