Welcome back to Yale Law School and to the first of our 2019-2020 Monthly Financial Aid Alerts! For those new to this, we send this email out the beginning of each month with all the important information to pay attention to for that month. We try to keep each email short and to the point. So please, take a few minutes to read these important alerts.

- **September Financial Wellness Lunch Workshops:**
  - **“Financial Planning for Law School Students”** – From developing a simple spending plan to outlining your 3-year financial plan, smart money strategies lay the foundation for every law student’s personal and professional success story. Learn to apply core concepts of personal finance to make confident decisions about money and better achieve your short and long-term goals. Law school is an investment – make the most of yours!
    - **When:** Thursday, September 5, 12:10 – 1:10 p.m.
    - **Where:** Room 129
    - **Lunch will be provided. RSVP required. Please click here to RSVP.**
  - **“Psychology of Financial Decision Making”** – Everyone approaches money matters differently. Knowing not only how you handle your finances, but why, can hold the key to achieving your financial goals. This workshop focuses on identifying your individual strengths and weaknesses, and will prepare you to balance emotion and logic when making personal finance decision.
    - **When:** Thursday, September 24, 12:10 – 1:10 pm.
    - **Where:** Room 129
    - **Lunch will be provided. RSVP required. Click here to RSVP.**

- **Financial Aid Credit Refunds** – Most credit refunds have been issued. If you were expecting a refund and do not see a credit on your student account or have not received the funds in your bank account, check your financial aid requirements on SIS and contact our office for assistance. In addition to signing the required Federal Direct Unsubsidized Promissory Note and Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan, as well as the Federal Direct Entrance Counseling, you must sign-up for direct deposit and request the credit refund on your SIS account.

- **Speaking of Credit** – Do you have a Credit Freeze on your credit? Did you know that a credit check is performed for the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan? Yes, it’s true. This means that the Department of Education will pull a credit report before approving the loan application. If, however, the borrower has a credit freeze on their credit, the application will not be approved. Please keep this in mind when requesting the Graduate PLUS Loan as the freeze could delay the disbursement of the loan funds. Once the credit check is performed, and the loan is approved, the approval will be good for 180 days.
    - **We begin processing federal loans shortly after July 1, and process throughout the academic year.**
If you are requesting the loan during the summer months (i.e. after you receive your financial aid award letter), it is important to lift the credit freeze for at least two months (July and August), to allow ample time for our office and Central Financial Services to process the loan application.

If you are requesting a GradPLUS Loan during the academic year, it is important to keep the credit freeze lifted for at least 30 days.

Lastly, once the credit check is performed and the loan is approved, the borrower can reinstate the credit freeze. If you are uncomfortable lifting the freeze for the amount of time we’ve suggested, please contact a member of our office for additional assistance.

- **Technology, Suit and Clerkship Interview Travel Loans**
  - If you purchased a new computer over the summer, you can take advantage of our technology loan (up to $3,000) which allows additional COAP eligible loan borrowing to reimburse you for the expense.
  - Did you get a new suit for FIP? If yes, submit your receipts (up to $500) to receive reimbursement through a COAP eligible Suit Loan (in the form of a Yale Loan).
  - If you are a 2L or 3L and you incurred costs for travel related to documented clerkship interviews, you can be reimbursed with a COAP eligible loan (up to a maximum of $2,000 during your enrollment). For any of the loans, receipts should be submitted along with a budget revision form.

- **Laptop Purchase Program**
  - Need a new laptop and haven’t already borrowed to cover the cost of one? Don’t have the funds to purchase the laptop up front? It is not too late to purchase a laptop through Yale’s IT department. Simply request the laptop through IT, complete the necessary forms and IT will order the laptop and charge the expense to your student account. If you apply for a loan to cover the cost, the loan will be processed and applied directly to your student account to cover the cost. Please click here for more details.

- **The MAX program**
  - We hope you are already using this FREE resource – but if you aren’t, simply start today by registering at AccessLex.org/MAXonline! Or, stop by the Financial Aid Office to ask any questions you might have. As a reminder, the MAX program:
    - Teaches personal finance in a way that leverages the skills law school attracts and fosters;
    - Takes a multi-format approach – including interactive online lessons, webinars, in-person workshops and one-on-one counseling – that lets you define your own path;
    - Delivers information in quick and easy to understand components to fit into your demanding schedule; and
    - Offers scholarship incentives to motivate you to stay on task and on schedule – AccessLex will award $200,000 through MAX Scholarship drawings during the 2019-2020 academic year!
- Take advantage of this opportunity to maximize your financial capability and make the most of your law school investment. And remember, the more lessons you complete, the better your chance of winning a MAX by AccessLex Scholarship!

- **3Ls, it is approximately 425 days until your loans go into repayment** – Are you ready? Don’t worry…we will be offering several workshops on loan repayment options, the mechanics of COAP, the value of refinancing your loans, and our individual personalized loan counseling sessions again this spring. If you want to schedule an early loan counseling session this fall, email our office.

*Please do not hesitate to reach out to us at any time during the year with questions, suggestions, or concerns related to financial aid (or just to grab chocolate from our bottomless candy bowl). You can find us in M13 weekdays from 9:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. or call 203-432-1688 or email financialaid.law@yale.edu.*