COVID-19 Hardship During the Academic Year
If you experience any financial hardship during the academic year related to COVID-19, please email the Financial Aid Office. The Financial Aid Office is able to provide support for a wide range of unexpected expenses related to COVID-19, and encourages you to reach out as early as possible, even if you have only partial information or a potential future request. The Financial Aid Office will work closely with you to understand the relevant details, and ensure that you have provided the necessary documentation (receipts, itemized statements, estimates, or other documents). The request will be evaluated by a committee consisting of Dean Joseph Crosby, Dean Miriam Ingber, and Jaqueline Outlaw, Financial Aid Director. All requests are reviewed and resolved as quickly as possible. All information provided is treated as strictly confidential and is not shared outside of the committee and the Financial Aid Office.

If you are facing a COVID-19-related financial hardship that requires immediate attention, please email Dean Joe Crosby, Dean Miriam Ingber, and Jackie Outlaw, with a description of your situation, an explanation of its urgency, and any relevant documentation attached. Please use the subject line “Urgent COVID-19 Financial Request.” These requests will be evaluated on an expedited basis.

SPIF
Yale Law School is fully committed to the SPIF program during the summer of 2020 for 1L and 2L students despite the disruptions caused by COVID-19. We are aware that some employers have altered or may alter your schedule to allow for remote work, or reduce your hours or the numbers of weeks worked because of COVID-19. The Financial Aid Office will base your SPIF award on your pre-COVID-19 plans, and will not decrease your award as a result of any changes made by your employer due to COVID-19. If you submitted an employer letter prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, your award will be based on the terms of employment set out in that letter. If you did not submit an employer letter prior to the outbreak, you should submit this form documenting your pre-COVID-19 plans and an employer letter. Your SPIF funding will be based on your pre-COVID-19 plans.

If, however, your prospective employer eliminates your position because of COVID-19 we will need to reevaluate, although we assure you that you will not be left without summer funding. If this occurs, we encourage you to reach out to a member of Career Development Office for assistance finding a different summer job opportunity. You should also reach out to the Financial Aid Office so that we can discuss next steps.

Summer Employment Income
If you are earning an income this summer, we recognize that some employers have altered or may alter your schedule to reduce your hours of the number of weeks worked because of COVID-19. If that is the case, your student contribution for next year will be based on your actual income, even if it is lower than what you expected to earn prior to COVID-19.

COVID-19 Hardship During the Summer
The Financial Aid Office is unable to provide financial aid (either loans or scholarship) outside of the academic year. However, if you experience, or anticipate that you may experience,
unexpected expenses during the summer related to COVID-19, you should still reach out to the Financial Aid Office because there are still ways that we can be helpful.

If you are earning income during the summer, those unexpected expenses can be taken into account when your student contribution is being calculated for next year. If you are utilizing SPIF this summer, the Financial Aid Office will work with you one-on-one to determine if there is anything that can be done to assist.

Please note that you can always update the information provided on your FAAST application for next year to let the Financial Aid Office know of a change in circumstances—including any unexpected expenses due to COVID-19—by emailing the Financial Aid Office.

Bar Loans
We recognize that many bar examinations have been delayed. We have confirmed with the private lenders who provide bar loans that these loans will still be available to help bridge the gap between graduation and the start of post-graduate employment. In order for the loan to be COAP eligible, students interested in a bar loan needed to apply before the end of the academic term. Given the uncertainty caused by COVID-19 this year, we are lifting the $10,000 maximum COAP eligibility for the bar loan. The entire amount of any bar loan taken out this year will be COAP eligible.

COAP & Unemployment
If you are a COAP participant and you have become unemployed due to COVID-19, the Law School will allow up to three one-month extensions of the standard three month unemployment benefit (for a total of six months maximum). To receive the additional award, the participant

- must be enrolled in COAP at the time they become unemployed;
- have loans that are in repayment; and
- must submit an unemployment form confirming that they are unemployed due to COVID-19 and actively seeking employment each month (for up to three months).

If the participant is approved for an additional award, the loan payment will be made directly to the Student Loan Office at Yale University.