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June 2, 2020

Statement of UCI Law Dean L. Song Richardson Regarding Mandatory Credit/No Credit Grading
Policy for Spring 2020

After extensive consultation with our students, faculty, and senior administrators, I decided that spring semester 2020 law school courses for all J.D. and LL.M. students would be graded on a mandatory credit/no credit basis.

Why did UCI Law adopt this policy? The COVID-19 virus upended the lives of the entire UCI Law community, including our students. We recognized the unprecedented nature of the events unfolding in our state, our country, and around the world. Well beyond a transition to a new online learning environment, our students faced unforeseen additional challenges such as moving off campus in the middle of a semester, caring for children whose schools had closed, caring for friends and family members, and personal and family financial insecurity. I concluded that a mandatory credit/no credit policy was the most equitable and compassionate policy under these extraordinary circumstances.

Given that many employers often use grades as important criteria in making hiring decisions, our faculty is eager to support efforts to hire UCI Law students by providing individualized assessments of student performance in their spring 2020 courses through references, letters of recommendation, or other means. Our Career Development Office is ready to work with you and our students. Please contact Jasminde Deol, Assistant Dean for Career Development (jdeol@law.uci.edu) with any questions.

All of us at UCI Law are extremely grateful for the opportunities and support you have given and continue to give to our amazing students.

Please stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Song Richardson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

L. Song Richardson