To: Admitted LLM Students of the Fall 2016 Entering Class

From: Adi Altshuler, Director of International Programs

RE: Welcome Message

Congratulations on your acceptance to the LLM Program at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law. I am very pleased to welcome you to our LLM Program and can promise you an exciting and rewarding year of study. Northwestern Law prides itself on the extensive support it provides to international students, so we would first like to introduce you to the team that will guide you throughout your time here:

Adi Altshuler, Director of International Programs: I am the director of the LLM program and will work closely with you on your curricular choices and provide academic advising throughout the year.

Natalie Bautista, Associate Director, LLM International, Career Strategy Center: Natalie is your dedicated career advisor and provides training and workshops throughout the year to assist you in your US job search.

Nell Novara, Assistant Director of International and Area Studies: Nell is our ESL professional and holds workshops and coordinates programming designed to enhance your English communication skills.

Kat Rokhlin, Program Assistant: Kat is the first point of contact for questions related to life and academics at Northwestern Law School.

One of the other unique features of our program is our emphasis on the intersection of business and law. Northwestern Law pioneered the curricular aspects of teaching business and quantitative skills as part of our legal curriculum and we continue to offer a variety of business enterprise courses taught by our renowned faculty. Many courses in our curriculum are also geared at developing lawyering skills such as preparing transactional documents, drafting contracts, and enhancing negotiation and mediation skills.

A final aspect our program I’d like to highlight is our close-knit international learning community. Here at Northwestern Law, LLM students are fully integrated with JD students both in and out of the classroom. An LLM representative is elected to the Student Bar Association, the student governing organization, and all LLM students are able to participate in more than 40 student organizations.

Although many of your questions will be answered below, you might like to communicate with some of our current LLM and LLM/K students in order to get a student perspective on our graduate programs and Northwestern in general. You are encouraged to contact these students, whether from your home country or not, to find out how they are enjoying their studies, life at Northwestern, and Chicago. They would be happy to speak with you and answer any questions you may have. Please email kat.rokhlin@law.northwestern.edu for a list of students and contact information.
1. **Orientation.** Orientation begins on Monday, August 22, 2016, at the Law School. Orientation is mandatory and contains a good deal of introductory material and necessary administrative information. It is also an excellent opportunity for you to get to know your classmates and to familiarize yourself with the Law School and the surrounding area before classes begin. More information about orientation will be provided to you later in the spring, and you can refer to the Northwestern Law School Orientation website once it becomes updated, in summer 2016. You should make your travel arrangements so that you will arrive in Chicago in time for orientation on August 22nd.

2. **Program Curriculum.** LLM students must take at least 20 law credit hours to earn the LLM degree. There are two mandatory courses in the program, *Common Law Reasoning* and one of the following courses: *American Jurisprudence*, *American Legal Studies: Constitutional Law*, and *American Legal Studies: Civil Procedure*. With the exception of these two courses, LLM students are free to design their own programs of study from the Law School’s many upper-level courses and seminars, including commercial, corporate, international, and constitutional law. In most courses, LLM students are completely integrated with American JD students. Students may refer to the Northwestern Law School Course Catalog or current course listings (available on the Registration and Records website) to get ideas about which courses to take. A written thesis is not required, but students with well-defined topics may pursue individual research projects.

3. **Bar Examinations.** While many of our graduates successfully take a bar examination at the conclusion of the program, the LLM program is not a bar-preparation course and is not intended to qualify foreign lawyers to practice law in the United States. Although some states – most notably New York—do permit qualified LLM graduates to sit for their bar examinations, many states do not. For more information about bar examination requirements and procedures, you should review the Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements from the National Conference of Bar Examiners and American Bar Association. The ABA website is [http://www.abanet.org](http://www.abanet.org). For more information about the New York bar admission, visit the New York bar website at [http://www.nybarexam.org](http://www.nybarexam.org).

If you plan to take a bar exam, you also should plan on enrolling in a private bar-review course after you complete the LLM program. These courses are offered by private companies over a several week period beginning in the summer after you graduate and before the bar exam.

4. **Career Services.** LLM students have access to the Law School's Career Strategy Center and its resources. A full-time advisor is available for all LLM students to assist with job searches. The Career Center also organizes workshops discussing the job search process and provides personal career advising as appropriate. Our students have been eligible to participate in the annual International Student Interview Program (ISIP) held in New York and the annual UCLA LLM. Interview Program held at UCLA School of Law. While a job cannot be guaranteed, the Career Strategy Center will help you gain the tools for identifying and competing for appropriate positions.

5. **English as a Second Language (ESL).** LLM students greatly benefit from our extensive English as a Second Language (ESL) program. Our students find that their English language skills improve during the time that they are here, their anxiety about their ability to comprehend decreases, and their coursework becomes more manageable. Numerous ESL programs and services, such as workshops, discussion groups, language learning software, and private writing tutors, provide opportunities for students to continue to perfect their language skills while pursuing their degree. More information can be found on the ESL Services website.
6. **Legal English and Foundations (LEAF)**. This program was developed by the Law School to help prospective international students improve their legal English skills and acclimate to the US-style classroom before the start of their studies. The program is not mandatory, but it is highly recommended for incoming students. The program takes place from July 18 to August 12, 2016 and is taught by Northwestern Law faculty and ESL experts. In addition, we schedule many events and outings to help you get to know Chicago and its legal community. More information is available on the LEAF Program website.

7. **Spouse & Family Resources**. The Law School is committed to providing support to students’ families. LLM spouses, partners and significant others are encouraged to visit our spouse and family resource page, which gives more details about programming and resources within Northwestern and the city of Chicago. More information is available on the Resources for Families of International Students website.

I hope that the information contained in this letter is helpful to you. You can learn more about the Law School by visiting the Northwestern Pritzker School of Law website. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or Ms. Kat Rokhlin at the Student Services Office by phone at 312-503-0795, by fax at 312-503-0625 or by email at kat.rokhlin@law.northwestern.edu. I look forward to meeting you this summer in our LEAF program or at orientation.

Sincerely yours,

Adi Altshuler
Director of International Programs