

## UCLA ILEC 2020 Conference Cancelled

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

Dear Legal Ethics Community:

It is with enormous regret that I write with the news that ILEC 2020, planned for July 23-25, 2020 in Los Angeles, will be cancelled due to COVID-19. This difficult decision was made in close consultation with the International Association of Legal Ethics, whose board unanimously agreed cancellation was necessary. Although we were initially hopeful that the conference was far enough off that it was plausible to contemplate following through, as our colleagues here and around the world confront an unimaginable crisis that has exposed our societies to harm, shut down universities, and barred international travel, it has created such massive uncertainty and safety concerns that it is inconceivable that we could hold a meaningful event. Indeed, as California is now under a state-wide lockdown order and UCLA has cancelled system-wide events (including graduation) through June, it is not even certain that our facilities would be available as planned. For these reasons, we very unfortunately will not be able to convene.

We are all processing loss and disappointment caused by this unprecedented event and, as the one privileged to host this amazing conference, I am personally saddened by the missed opportunity to see and learn from all of the incredible members of our special community. However, as we seek to deal with the immediate need for safety and health, I am hopeful that our community will emerge stronger and our next opportunity for gathering will be all the more special and appreciated. Indeed, the International Association of Legal Ethics' board is already making plans for conferences to be held over the next two years, news of which will be forthcoming.

For those of you who have already registered and made travel plans, we are acutely aware that this will cause significant disruption and inconvenience, and we are deeply sorry. **All registration fees will be automatically refunded to the credit card used to make the payment and we will begin processing refunds immediately.** Please note, however, that issuing refunds may take longer than usual, given our university closure. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions you may have.

**Similarly, the UCLA Luskin Center Conference hotel will automatically cancel all hotel reservations.** You need not do anything on your end to cancel your hotel stay at Luskin, although of course you will have to cancel other hotels that you might have reserved outside of UCLA.

For those of you who have already purchased a plane ticket, you may be entitled to a voucher or even a full refund of the ticket price without a cancellation fee. Please contact your airline and make sure you ask directly about refunds in light of COVID-19.

The theme for this year's conference was "Lawyers in Divided Times." This crisis, which has thrown so many of our personal lives into disarray, has also revealed the true depth of our social division: impacting the most vulnerable among us in profound and perhaps irreversible ways. As we all contemplate what it will mean to be ethical lawyers in the post-COVID-19 world, may we use this time of isolation to consider our collective role in rebuilding societies in which access to life's necessities—health and economic security—is not so unequal.

Wishing you all safety,

Scott Cummings

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