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Dear Incoming Students:

On behalf of the staff of Academic Technologies I would like to welcome you to Duke Law. The following letter is intended to provide you with some initial information about technology and our law school. The law school has made a strong commitment to technology, from making power for laptops available in all classrooms and throughout the building, to videoconferencing and recording capability in class rooms and study rooms alike; from the big screen in Star Commons to the Digital Initiatives Lab in the library.

Although we do not require that you own a notebook computer, we anticipate that most of you will bring one, or will purchase or pick up one shortly after your arrival. Your participation in the law school community will benefit greatly from your having a *recent-model* notebook available to you.

At our optional computer configuration session during orientation, we can guide you through configuring your computer to operate on our network. We will also provide you with links to download most of the software you will need. I also encourage you to get a head start on this process. If you are able to do so, please visit our website at <http://law.duke.edu/actech>, beginning Monday, August 5. Click on the "New Students" link, and you will find information and downloads to get your computer set up for use in the law school. You will need to use your NetID and password for parts of this process.

If you have not yet purchased a computer, please review our Computer Recommendations page (<http://law.duke.edu/actech/incomingstudents/>). Because of the price and the special support that the Duke Technology Center offers, including accidental damage coverage, we strongly recommend the Dell and Apple student bundles at Duke Stores. You can visit the store's site at <http://www.dukestores.duke.edu/cpustore/> or phone them at 919-684-8956.

If you are bringing or buying an Apple MacBook computer, we recommend that you install Windows on your notebook (our recommended solution is VMWare Fusion, which is available for free download at Duke, but other options include Apple's Bootcamp, Oracle's VirtualBox, and Parallels Desktop). Please note that there is some software in use at the law school that provides little or no support for the Macintosh (and Linux) operating systems. Our exam software is, however, fully Mac compatible.

Duke University has a site license with Microsoft that provides free or inexpensive access to Microsoft software such as Windows 7 or 8, as well as Office for Windows and for Macintosh.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email to [wayne.miller@law.duke.edu](mailto:wayne.miller@law.duke.edu) or by phone, 919-613-7243. You may also contact the help desk ([helpdesk@law.duke.edu](mailto:helpdesk@law.duke.edu) or 919-613-7072). I look forward to meeting you in a few weeks.