William P. (Bill) Johnson, St Louis University School of Law

**When International Travel Disappears: Recognizing the Critical Importance of – and Making a Meaningful Commitment to – International Education for Law Students Even When it’s Hard**

Prior to becoming a law professor, the speaker was engaged in a rewarding international business law practice, which he was able to do specifically because of the international opportunities the speaker had in law school.

As a law professor and law school dean, he now focuses on finding or creating opportunities for other law students to have interesting and worthwhile international experiences while still in law school. The pandemic has made that even more challenging than it already was, by seriously hampering the law school’s ability to place students in international internships, to operate the law school’s summer law program abroad, and to bring to campus international lawyers and law professors, whether as speakers, researchers, or visiting professors.

His talk will describe the mobilization of resources that he and his colleagues have undertaken to create meaningful international opportunities even when international travel was not possible, as they recognized the critical importance for law students to be able to obtain or deepen understanding of the world outside U.S. national borders. The talk will also highlight a silver lining of the pandemic: those innovations that will continue long after this pandemic is behind us.