Hello, folks!

Welcome to the last week of classes! I know it’s sad when things end, so savour this last week of exciting learning about US courts.

So what’s up this week?

First, we’ll meet online (I hope you can make it!) via Zoom on Monday at 2:30. I’ll post the link on Canvas. We will welcome a special guest: Magistrate district court judge Quinn from Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, will join us to provide us with a first-hand perspective of being a state judge.

Fun fact: 15 years ago, Judge Quinn’s predecessor married me and my wife (year, who else) in Ardmore, PA. The world is small.

Just a quick note: If you find that you cannot connect to Zoom by computer, you can also call in. Let me know if you need any technical help with these things.

I hope you enjoyed the little debate with me about judicial appointments. You are welcome to continue it! Here is what I hoped to achieve: The different appointment systems are surprisingly similar. For example, the federal system and the merit system have quite some similarities. In the discussion, I was able to mention quite a number of these similarities. For example, the president also has a committee of lawyers (for example in the Department of Justice) and political officials that vet judicial candidates and make recommendations about who should be appointed. Judges are also vetted by the Senate: There are Judiciary Committee hearings, lengthy questionnaires that candidates have to answer, as well as evaluations provided by the American Bar Association.

On Monday, I will post the final exam questions. I will also continue grading—you should see more and more of your grades filled in on Canvas. I am also working on a number of short lectures on different approaches to interpreting the Constitution. Those will go online at some point during the first half of the week. Watch the Canvas Modules for this weeks activities!

See you on Monday at 2:30!