Dear **[Media Outlet Name]**,

I hope this email finds you safe and well. My name is **[Your Name]**, and I am a **[School Year]** law student at **[Law School Name]**. I wanted to send along a suggestion for a story related to the legal profession in the context of COVID-19. I am happy to help put together a piece under 1,000 words, if that would be helpful to you.

In the last week, law students across the country have been mobilizing to fight for diploma privilege, or automatic admission to the state bar upon law school graduation. Organizers have put together a potential of nearly 1,000 signatures, urging the State Bar of California to adopt emergency licensing. On Monday, March 30, students, practitioners, law school Deans, California Supreme Court justices, and many more tuned into a phone call with the Committee of Bar Examiners. Over 50 members of the public gave public comment during the call, the most comments of any recent meeting. After public comment, media outlets began to follow the story (e.g., an ABA Journal piece can be found here).

In the coming months, there will be an immense need for lawyers, as people continue to feel the physical, social, and economic impact of COVID-19. Many courts across the country have also shut down, meaning there is an immense backlog of cases in the legal system. Holding, or postponing, the bar will have a devastating impact on clients and students, alike.

I've included below key points related to the campaign:

On Friday, March 27, the New York Court of Appeals announced its decision to postpone the New York Bar Exam until Fall 2020, a decision that harms clients and puts law students at a grave risk of harm. On March 30, 2020, Massachusetts followed suit. Law students across the country are organizing NOW to urge jurisdictions to stray from postponement and, instead, enact diploma privilege, which grants admission to the bar upon graduation from an approved law school.

The reasons for diploma privilege are simple. We are entering what will be one of the worst recessions--or depressions--in recent history. In the coming weeks and months, businesses, families, and individuals will need legal services now more than ever. People will be facing eviction, loan default, unemployment, among a tide of other issues that will need representation. Those communities most vulnerable and traditionally marginalized will be hit hardest. Postponing the Bar Exam will delay members of the classes of 2019 and 2020 from entering the legal profession and serving clients. Diploma privilege allows for immediate licensure.

At the same time, requiring students to physically sit for the Bar Exam places students, test administrators, and families at risk of infection. In California, for example, the Bar Exam largely takes place in city convention centers, with some centers holding over 1,500 test takers. It is irresponsible to mandate that students sit for a long exam, unprotected, in massive crowds. Students who are immunocompromised, or at a particular risk of infection/infecting, will likely forego the exam entirely. The result is an unfair and disproportionate licensing process for law students.

For more information on the movement for diploma privilege in California, please see the petition and letter here: https://bit.ly/3boKAP0

Suggested tweet:
@StateBarCA, support an emergency diploma privilege for law students applying for admission to the California bar. #DiplomaPrivilegeNow. Sign here: https://bit.ly/3boKAP0.

Should you have any questions, please just let me know. My phone number is **[Phone Number]**.

Thank you, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Respectfully,
[Your Name]