

Good morning Class of 2010, faculty, staff, and all of our families and friends who are here today.

Three years ago, we sat in Room 201 for orientation, where we were told law school would be unlike any experience we have ever had. We were told that it would be challenging, that it would change us, and that we would learn to think like a lawyer. Our first year, we had no idea what that process would entail. We learned hundreds of legal rules and valuable lessons that aided in our survival in law school.

For example, we learned that volunteering information in class would minimize the likelihood of getting called on to brief a case.

We learned that if you needed something, anything, you should go talk to Julie, in Student Services.

We learned to never book brief in Professor Delman's Torts class.

We learned how awesome the new school downtown is going to be...and that our class will never know how awesome it is.

We learned the meaning of legal concepts such as mens rea, res ipsa loquitur, res judicata, and everyone's favorite, the rule against perpetuities.

After we were caught off guard by a strict liability torts exam, about a tiger, we learned to always be prepared for the worst case scenario.

We learned that the characters on shows like Law and Order, Boston Legal, and The Practice violate the rules of criminal procedure and introduce inadmissible prejudicial evidence.

We learned that the highly technical, legal answer is always, "maybe" or "it depends," and we learned that there is always an exception or an exception to an exception. Except, when there is an exception.

We learned from each other, we helped each other, and we developed friendships that will last a lifetime.

As most of you know, this process of learning to think like a lawyer, wasn't easy. We have devoted the last three years of our lives to get here today. We have struggled through days

that very often did not contain enough hours in which to accomplish everything required of us. We have stressed, cried, lost sleep, and at times thought the struggle wasn't worth it. We have spent hundreds of hours studying, reading, researching, and writing, while trying to maintain our personal lives at the same time. During the course of law school, some of us planned weddings, celebrated engagements, and welcomed new additions to our families. Dan Hall took care of his two small children, worked, and went to law school full time, while his wife was in Afghanistan, serving our country. We have sacrificed time with our families that we will never get back.

With a J.D. following each of our names after today, it is easy to forget the difficulties we overcame and the sacrifices we made. However, we will not forget the people who made graduation from law school possible. In addition to student loans, we owe enormous debts of gratitude to all of you whose contributions have enabled each of us to be here today. Thank you to our professors and advisors for demanding excellence, guiding us, and inspiring us. Thank you to our families and friends. We know we haven't been the most pleasant people to be around the last three years – thank you for putting up with us.

I would like to personally thank everyone that is here today, for me - my brothers, Jason and Jeremy and his wife, Kelly; my boyfriend, Travis; his mom, Penny, and sister, Kristi; and most of all, thank you to my parents. For those of you who don't know me, I grew up on cattle ranch in small town in eastern Oregon. When I say small, I mean population 800, and a grand total of three attorneys and one stop light in the county. Despite the geographical limitations, my parents ensured that I had every opportunity to succeed. They taught me perseverance, integrity, and to work hard through the way they live their own lives. Today would not be possible without their guidance, love, and support. I would also like to thank the Honorable William V. Gallo for the amazing experience of working in his chambers and for reminding me that life is a

learning process through a series of challenges and triumphs. Today, we have mastered the art of being a law student and have completed the first stage of learning to think like a lawyer. As we close this chapter of our lives, we begin our next challenge – the bar exam and ultimately our careers as new attorneys.

All of you are here because you are, in some way, responsible for each of us receiving a diploma today and your contributions will lead to our future success. Thank you for being here, for teaching us, for loving and supporting us, for believing in us, and for helping us achieve our dreams!

Congratulations and good luck to the Class of 2010!