

**TJSL COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS:**

**“RECALIBRATION IS A GOOD THING  
FOR LAWYERS”**

**BARRY E. HILL,**

**VISITING SCHOLAR**

**ENVIRONMENTAL LAW INSTITUTE**

**SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2012**

**THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH FOR THAT  
KIND INTRODUCTION!!!!**

**GENERAL RECOGNITION**

**DEAN HASL, ASSOCIATE DEAN BYRNES,  
DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AND STAFF,  
PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, FAMILY AND  
FRIENDS,  
AND, MOST ESPECIALLY, THE 2012  
GRADUATING CLASS OF THE THOMAS  
JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF LAW.**

**WELCOME TO THE PROFESSION!!!**

**THANK YOU ALL FOR ALLOWING ME TO  
SHARE THIS VERY SPECIAL DAY WITH  
YOU.**

**BODY**

**I AM TRULY HONORED TO BE YOUR  
COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER AND TO  
OFFER, HOPEFULLY, SOME WORDS OF  
WISDOM IN MY REMARKS. I WOULD LIKE  
TO SHARE WITH YOU 2 LESSONS THAT I'VE  
LEARNED FROM BEING A MEMBER OF THE  
BAR FOR MORE THAN 35 YEARS.**

**BUT BEFORE I BEGIN MY PREPARED  
REMARKS, I WANT TO MAKE CLEAR THAT**

**TODAY, I AM SHARING WITH YOU  
INFORMATION THAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO  
CONSIDER: NOT ADVICE. I USUALLY TRY  
NOT TO GIVE ADVICE UNLESS  
SPECIFICALLY ASKED. IT HAS BEEN SAID  
THAT 75% OF PEOPLE DON'T WANT  
ADVICE, 20% MAY CONSIDER IT, AND  
ONLY 5% WILL ACCEPT THE ADVICE  
AND ACT ON IT. SO, PLEASE VIEW MY  
WORDS AS SIMPLY SHARING  
INFORMATION. INFORMATION, YES:  
ADVICE, NO.**

**THE TITLE OF MY ADDRESS TODAY IS:  
“RECALIBRATION IS A GOOD THING  
FOR LAWYERS.”**

**“CALIBRATE” IS A FAVORITE WORD OF  
MATHEMATICIANS, SCIENTISTS,  
ENGINEERS, AND CARPENTERS. ITS FIRST  
MEANINGS, ACCORDING TO WEBSTER’S,  
ARE “TO MEASURE,” “TO GAUGE,” “TO  
ASSESS.” “RECALIBRATION,” THEREFORE,  
IS “TO REASSESS,” “TO RECOMPUTE,” “TO  
RECALCULATE.”**

**I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT WE AS LAWYERS  
MUST CONTINUALLY SUBJECT  
OURSELVES TO A PROCESS OF  
RECALIBRATION THROUGHOUT OUR  
CAREERS.**

**THE FIRST AREA OF RECALIBRATION THAT  
I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU TODAY  
HAS TO DO WITH REASSESSING OUR  
INDIVIDUAL MEASURES OF SUCCESS IN  
OUR LEGAL CAREERS. THE SECOND AREA  
OF RECALIBRATION HAS TO DO WITH  
REASSESSING OUR CONCEPT OF GIVING  
BACK AS LAWYERS TO OTHERS – PRO**

**BONO PUBLICO (“FOR THE GOOD OF THE PUBLIC”).**

**WITH RESPECT TO OUR INDIVIDUAL MEASURES OF SUCCESS, LET’S TALK A LITTLE ABOUT SOMETHING THAT’S ON MOST OF YOUR MINDS, I’M SURE....GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT.**

**UNDOUBTEDLY, CLASS OF 2012, YOU HAVE THE DISTINCT CHALLENGE OF FACING UNPRECEDENTED HEADWINDS AS YOU ENTER THE CURRENT JOB MARKET.**

**WE CAN CONGRATULATE YOU ON A LOT OF THINGS....HARD WORK; TOILING FOR HOURS IN OBSCURITY RESEARCHING AND STUDYING IN THE LAW LIBRARY; YOUR COMMITMENT TO REACHING A GOAL; SACRIFICING GOD KNOWS HOW MANY YEARS TO BE AWARDED YOUR LAW DEGREES. YOU'VE MADE IT THROUGH FIRST YEAR CLASSES AND EXAMS (PARTICULARLY PROFESSOR SLOMANSON'S CIVIL PROCEDURE CLASS), THE SOCRATIC METHOD, LAW REVIEW, MOOT COURT, EXTERNSHIPS AND STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS, CLINICAL**

**PROGRAMS, ELECTIVE SEMINARS AND CLASSES, AND SUMMER JOBS.**

**BUT I HAVE TO SAY TIMING IS NOT ONE OF YOUR BETTER QUALITIES. IN THE INIMITABLE WORDS OF A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY PHILOSOPHER TEENAGER, “YO MAN, YA TIMING REALLY SUCKS!!!!”**

**LAWYERS, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MODERN HISTORY, ARE BEING SWEEPED UP IN THIS ECONOMIC MAELSTROM, EVIDENCED BY LAYOFFS OF ASSOCIATES AND PARTNERS ALIKE IN SMALL AND**

**LARGE LAW FIRMS...AND THE REDUCED  
OR DELAYED HIRING OF RECENT  
GRADUATES BY PRIVATE AND PUBLIC  
SECTOR EMPLOYERS.**

**NO DOUBT, YOU'RE FACING STIFF  
HEADWINDS - BUT I KNOW THAT YOU WILL  
NOT BE DETERRED FROM ACHIEVING  
YOUR DREAMS. YOU'VE COME THIS FAR.  
HENRY DAVID THOREAU (POET,  
ABOLISHIONIST, AUTHOR) ONCE SAID  
THAT YOU SHOULD: "GO CONFIDENTLY IN  
THE DIRECTION OF YOUR DREAMS. LIVE  
THE LIFE THAT YOU HAVE IMAGINED."**

**DEFEAT IS NEVER A BITTER BREW UNTIL ONE AGREES TO SWALLOW IT. IN OTHER WORDS, DEFEAT IS NEVER FINAL UNTIL YOU AGREE TO ACCEPT IT. SO, DO NOT ACCEPT IT!!!!**

**YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF THE ECONOMIC WINDS, BUT YOU CAN ADJUST YOUR SAILS.**

**THE LESSON LEARNED, I BELIEVE, IS THAT RECALIBRATION IS NOT ONLY IMPORTANT**

**BUT NECESSARY, ESPECIALLY IN  
DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES.**

**AND, RECENT LAW SCHOOL GRADUATES,  
AS WELL AS EXPERIENCED LAWYERS,  
MUST ALSO BE ENGAGED IN THE  
PROCESS OF RECALIBRATION.**

**THE RECALIBRATION THAT IS GOING ON  
IS NOT JUST ABOUT THE ARITHMETIC  
OF MONEY AND EARNINGS; IT'S ABOUT  
THE FAR SUBTLER CALCULUS OF  
WORTH. MEASURING SUCCESS BASED  
SOLEY ON THE AMOUNT OF MONEY**

**EARNED CAN BE A DANGEROUS TRAP.  
(DICKSTEIN EXAMPLE)**

**I SUBMIT TO YOU THAT SUCCESS THAT IS  
BASED ON WHAT YOU HAVE RATHER THAN  
ON WHO YOU ARE IS REALLY NOT  
SUCCESS AT ALL.**

**MY MESSAGE TO YOU TODAY IS THAT IT IS  
IMPORTANT TO RECALIBRATE YOUR  
AMBITIONS AND YOUR GOALS AND YOUR  
MEASURES OF SUCCESS, AS WELL AS THE  
WAY IN WHICH YOU BUILD YOUR  
CAREERS.**

**BE CREATIVE WITH BUILDING YOUR CAREERS; EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS; AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, NETWORK, NETWORK, NETWORK!!!!!!**

**IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO NOT VIEW NETWORKING IN A NEGATIVE LIGHT. IT IS NOT PANDERING OR CRONYISM. INSTEAD, VIEW NETWORKING AS COMMUNICATING WITH LEADERS IN YOUR CHOSEN FIELDS, MEET WITH THEM, VOLUNTEER WITH THEM, ATTEND CAREER EVENTS, AND PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES WITH THE**

**YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION. PRESS THE FLESH!!!**

**AS YOU GO ABOUT PRESSING THE FLESH, DO NOT GET CAUGHT UP IN THE BAR PASSAGE RATE OF A PREVIOUS CLASS OR WHAT'S BEEN WRITTEN ON "ABOVE THE LAW.COM." YOU HAD ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH THE PAST. YOU LOOK FORWARD AND MOVE FORWARD. (SBA PRESIDENT MARTY STRATTE) YOUR SUCCESS IS ENTIRELY UP TO YOU. REMEMBER: CONSTANCY OF PURPOSE ACHIEVES THE IMPOSSIBLE!!!**

**CLOSELY RELATED TO THIS  
RECALIBRATION OF ONE'S MEASURE OF  
SUCCESS IS THE RECALIBRATION OF  
ONE'S CONCEPT OF GIVING BACK AS  
LAWYERS TO OUR COMMUNITIES.**

**I WAS REALLY IMPRESSED WITH THE  
WRITE-UP ON THOMAS JEFFERSON'S PRO  
BONO CLINICAL PROGRAM WEB SITE. I  
WAS GLAD TO SEE OF THE PROGRAM'S  
EMPHASIS ON PROVIDING LEGAL  
SERVICES TO COMMUNITY-BASED  
ORGANIZATIONS.**

**SO, BASED ON THAT WEB SITE, I DECIDED THAT THE SIMPLE MESSAGE THAT I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU TODAY IS THAT: YOU SHOULD NEVER EVER FORGET WHERE YOU CAME FROM, AND WHO YOU ARE. AND, AS A RESULT OF NEVER FORGETTING WHERE YOU CAME FROM AND WHO YOU ARE, YOU HAVE, I BELIEVE, A SPECIAL OBLIGATION TO REACH BACK AND TO HELP SOMEBODY ELSE.**

**YES: IT IS YOUR GRADUATION. BUT SOMEONE HAS HELPED YOU IN GETTING YOU TO THIS DAY. YOU DID NOT DO THIS ON YOUR OWN. YOUR PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER LOVED ONES; YOUR TEACHERS; YOUR GUIDANCE COUNSELORS; YOUR COACHES; AND OTHERS WHO HAVE HAD POSITIVE IMPACTS ON YOUR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT. THANK YOUR VILLAGE FOR ITS SUPPORT; THANK THOSE PEOPLE ON WHOSE SHOULDERS YOU PROUDLY STAND ON TODAY. GIVE THEM A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE!!!**

**NOW, SINCE SOMEONE HAS HELPED YOU,  
YOU MUST RECOGNIZE THAT YOU MUST  
DO THE SAME FOR OTHERS.**

**YOU MUST HELP SOMEONE ELSE BY  
GIVING YOUR TIME, YOUR INTELLECT, AND  
YOUR ENERGY. IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT:  
“SERVICE TO OTHERS IS THE RENT THAT  
WE PAY FOR THE SPACE WE OCCUPY ON  
THIS EARTH.” THINK ABOUT IT!!!**

**AS LAWYERS WE SHOULD ENDEAVOR TO  
LIVE OUR LIVES IN A MANNER**

**CONSISTENT WITH THE WORDS OF  
MAHATMA GANDHI : “THE BEST WAY TO  
FIND YOURSELF IS TO LOSE YOURSELF  
IN SERVICE TO OTHERS.”**

**TODAY, I CHALLENGE EACH AND EVERY  
GRADUATE OF THIS WONDERFUL LAW  
SCHOOL TO STAND UP. TO STAND UP.**

**STAND UP BY GIVING BACK. DONATE  
TIME TO CAUSES THAT YOU CARE ABOUT.  
IT SHARPENS YOUR PROFESSIONAL  
SKILLS; IT HELPS BUILD A NETWORK; AND  
IT CAN HELP IN LANDING A JOB.**

**STAND UP.**

**ENDING**

**STAND UP BY CHALLENGING YOURSELVES  
BY DECIDING NOW HOW YOU COULD  
POSSIBLY HELP OTHERS BECAUSE IT IS  
NOT ABOUT WHAT YOU HAVE OR WHAT  
YOU ACCUMULATE AFTER GRADUATION  
BUT WHAT YOU GIVE BACK THAT MAKES  
THE DIFFERENCE.**

**STAND UP FOR THE POOR, THE LESS  
FORTUNATE, AND THOSE WHO CANNOT  
AFFORD DECENT HOUSING OR HEALTH**

**INSURANCE. CONTINUE THE WORK OF YOUR PRO BONO CLINIC AFTER YOU GRADUATE.**

**SAN DIEGO IS A MILITARY TOWN. SO, STAND UP TO THOSE WHO TREAT WAR LIKE A GAME OF POLITICAL CHESS WITHOUT REGARD FOR THE HUMANITY OF THOSE WHO ARE CALLED UPON TO FIGHT IN OUR ALL-VOLUNTEER ARMED FORCES.**

**I UNDERSTAND THAT THE VETERANS CLINIC IS INCREDIBLY POPULAR AND FULFILLING FOR MANY OF YOU. SO, STAND**

**UP FOR OUR MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN WHO RETURN HOME WITH PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WOUNDS RESULTING FROM THE HORRORS OF COMBAT (3 SUICIDES A DAY). ASSURE THEM OF THE CARE THEY REQUIRE TO BECOME WHOLE TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE.**

**STAND UP TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT FULLY GRASPED THE DANGERS TO HUMANITY OF GLOBAL WARMING/CLIMATE CHANGE. THE MOST COLLOSAL**

**ENVIRONMENTAL DISTURBANCE IN  
MODERN HUMAN HISTORY IS UNDERWAY.**

**STAND UP AND GIVE OF YOURSELVES IN  
THE TRADITION OF THE PROVERB OF THE  
DAKOTA INDIANS: “WHO SERVES HIS  
FELLOWS IS THE GREATEST OF ALL.”**

**STAND UP BECAUSE, BUT FOR THE GRACE  
OF GOD, YOU, YOU, YOU, AND YOU ARE  
ONE OF THEM.**

**STAND UP. STAND UP.**

**STAND UP AND REMEMBER.**

**STAND UP AND APPRECIATE.**

**STAND UP AND CELEBRATE.**

**STAND UP. STAND UP. STAND UP.**

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND  
CONGRATULATIONS ONCE AGAIN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**