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David Getches, Dean, Univ. of Colo. Law School,  
Welcome to the Class of 2013 (Aug. 16, 2010).

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**Welcome to the Class of 2013**  
**Dean David Getches**  
**Monday, August 16, 2010**

On behalf of the faculty and administration, I am delighted to welcome you, the Class of 2013, to the University of Colorado Law School.

This morning I will share with you some interesting facts about who you are – your qualities as individuals that led Colorado Law to want you to be part of this community. Then, I want to talk about what you are getting yourselves into – the legal profession and what it demands of you. That theme is foreshadowed by the title on your orientation schedule brochure: “Professionalism, Civility, and Inclusiveness.”

The 180 people of your class comprise our largest class ever. More than half of you ranked in the top 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of all LSAT takers in the nation. And a quarter of you had an undergraduate GPA of 3.75 or above. In spite of sharing the coincidence of high grades and test scores, you are a robustly diverse class. You come from 39 states and Canada and from 109 colleges and universities.

With 22% of the class having racial or ethnic identities other than white, and nearly half female, the class is considerably more diverse in these respects than the legal profession as a whole – which reports less than 13% minorities and 34% females. But I am uneasy touting these statistics – comparing Colorado Law to the profession as a whole. First, they look backward, rather than toward demographic trends in our country or the demands and needs for legal services. We should wonder whether we are keeping pace with *those* trends. The other problem I have is with counting racial – or any other kind of diversity – as an accomplishment in itself. Let me explain.

**About Inclusion**

A few years ago, the then dean at DU and I started the Deans’ Diversity Council, enlisting and challenging legal employers in Colorado to work on the problem of how to recruit and retain diverse lawyers in their firms, companies, and agencies. We succeeded in garnering the support of most of the big employers. Then we formed a non-profit and called it Colorado Campaign for Inclusive Excellence (CCIE), reflecting the notion that *including, not just counting*, people who may be minorities, women, gays and lesbians, and others should be the goal.

Today, more than 60 firms and others support and participate in the training and other inclusiveness programs of CCIE. It has become a national model and is directed by our alumna, Kathleen Nalty.

If you don’t quite understand the significance of the ideal of inclusion, think about how *you* are different from others, and how those differences may have separated you from other people. In pre-teen and teen years, kids try very hard to be the same and clamor to identify with dress, hairstyle, neighborhood, ethnicity, or some similarity that will help them belong to a group. Later, we learn that the ways we are *different* can be an attraction to other individuals and among those within a group – a source of strength. By now, you are proud of how you have become distinguished from the crowd based on who you are – where you are from, what you have accomplished, what you have overcome, what you believe. And you may have learned that by seeking out and embracing the differences of others you become richer yourself – not because you become like them but because you are in a community where you learn from one another and gain and give mutual support.

This is a lesson for law firms, but also for law schools, communities, and society. It might even be a lesson for the US Congress where a sophomoric preoccupation with what political club they are in seems to trump the concern for accomplishing what is good for the country. Don’t get me started on that. In every group one could find a reason to divide when in most cases the productive and satisfying effort is to find a way to work together to pursue common goals, and enjoy and benefit from it.

You will hear more about inclusiveness as a value later in the orientation program. You will hear how Colorado Law students led the way in seeking out greater diversity and recognized the importance of conscious inclusion. For now, let me go beyond the interesting statistics I recited and share some of the qualities that do distinguish each of you as individuals – the multiple kinds of diversity you bring to this community – and that can make it an exciting community to be in.

**The Diverse Class of 2013**

Of course, many people in the class – about 40% – came here directly after graduating from college. But, with a median age of 24 and an age range from 21-49, most of the class took different paths. About 15 earned one or more graduate degree, several worked or accumulated other life experience, and many pursued other careers. Jobs have included teaching in rural and urban settings and even in Viet Nam, China, and Russia. Government

employment has included the US Departments of Agriculture and Housing and Urban Development, the CIA, the White House, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and the members and committees of the US Senate and House of Representatives.

Journalistic interests run deep and wide, with many editors, writers, translators, interns. The class includes a radio talk show host, a sports commentator, intern on the production team for The Newshour with Jim Lehrer, and one for Fox News, a public information officer for Nebraska Dept. of Natural Resources, a press assistant for a US Senator, a blogger.

Given our school's signature strength in the field, it should not be surprising that environmental interests of this year's class members are documented in their past work. This has included working for Sierra Club, Last Ocean Project, Energy Gateway Project, and a NEPA Environmental Specialist.

Human rights work has included working with child soldiers in Uganda, the Montana Human Rights Bureau, and World Relief India.

Some, of course, have done work in the legal field in offices ranging from the American Arbitration Association to the state Court of Appeals.

Among some of the other interesting jobs held by your classmates are: Professional photographer, real estate agent, oil company roustabout in Alaska, massage therapist, Yoga Instructor, whitewater kayak instructor, theater performer, irrigation technician, Wilderness First Responder EMT, and professional poker player.

We have a good number of athletes in the class, many who were on college teams in track and field, cross country, synchronized skating, swimming and diving, rugby, tennis, lacrosse, ski racing, crew, volleyball, ice hockey. Many more list individual sports activities ranging from lots of rock climbers, to a Junior Olympic gymnast and a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree Black Belt Jiu Jitsu Instructor.

Some have turned a sports interest into more than an avocation, with one person interning with the New England Patriots and another working with the US Anti-Doping Agency.

We can hope that our student talent show benefits from the musical accomplishments of this class that includes many pianists, choir members, and violinists, a saxophone player whose band recorded 2 albums, some guitarists, and an opera singer. Perhaps the individual who worked at Disney can help, too.

Like your predecessors in the 2L and 3L classes, many have served the country in the US Army, Air Force, and Marines with tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. Hmmm, no Navy people this year. But we have one who served with the Finnish Defense Force.

Your class's commitment to public service – a major commitment of our present student body – is widespread. You have given hours and years of work to non-profit organizations and churches. Service is a common theme, but within it, great diversity. The most volunteering has been for Habitat for Humanity and Americorps, and many were involved in post-Katrina relief. You also have a good number of political campaigners – often on different sides of the same campaigns.

Other work ranges from a soup kitchen volunteer in DC to missionaries serving in countries from Mexico to El Salvador to Uruguay to Belize to Japan to China. And the diversity of organizations includes Big Brothers Big Sisters, Cub Scouts, Engineers Without Borders, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Lutheran Volunteer Corps, CASA, and America Reads.

This diverse group of classmates will provide you with intellectual stimulation, good conversation, fun, and lasting friendships and professional associations.

I have the privilege of traveling around the country and meeting with our alums. They remember their classmates, now leading lawyers, judges, business people, national and state officials. This school was where Governor Ritter and many of his predecessors began. And Attorney General Suthers, Congressman Ed Perlmutter, and most of the judges in Colorado went here. I have no doubt that in this room there are several future judges, a future governor or legislator, and certainly many great lawyers, community leaders, and successful business people.

Even more telling than facts and statistics about your class are the reasons that you expressed for coming to law school in the personal statements accompanying your applications. Inspiration may have come from a grandparent or a father or mother who is a lawyer. Or business experience, or working in a nonprofit organization. Some came into contact with the legal system and, determined to work from the inside out. Many of you came determined to use legal training to improve the natural environment. Some are biologists, some are from farm and ranch families, many are moved by the wonders of nature enjoyed in recreation.

### **Do you know what you're getting into?**

What are you getting into? Everyone knows that law school is demanding. But what about this profession for a life's work? A legal education opens doors and so it can be a wise career choice. Yet it needs to be more than a strategic choice, a way to a good job. This is a powerful profession that can make a difference for people, and *that*

needs to be appreciated. Second, it IS a profession, and what it takes to be part of the special culture of the legal profession needs to be understood.

You have parents, relatives, or friends who are lawyers, or have worked in the courts or in the legal profession you may have a pretty good idea of what lawyers do and the difference they can make in our society. But I will bet someone here has a relative who is a doctor who is appalled at the idea of having a lawyer in the family. Do you have a friend with a repertoire of tasteless lawyer jokes? Do you wonder what inspired all the snide comments from talk-radio hosts? There surely *is* evidence that some who call themselves lawyers let down clients who need good counsel, or even lie, cheat, and steal.

In fact, among the 1.2 million lawyers in the US, only a handful of lawyers misbehave. And when they do, it is news, and they are publically derided, criticized, and often lose their license to practice. It can and does make news when a lawyer transgresses. We rarely read headlines that a used car salesman or roofing contractor lied or did shoddy work. There is public outrage when a lawyer does these things. And properly so, because more is expected of a lawyer whose duty is to respect and improve the legal system, not impede or debase it with incompetence or dishonorable conduct.

So why are lawyers subject to higher standards? For one thing the great power of the profession gives a lawyer a role in society that enables her or him to use good training, preparation, and access to courts and other high places, to protect people from the gravest consequences the system – and to mobilize what it takes to fulfill people’s dreams. It is an awesome responsibility to use power in a way that serves the greater good.

For centuries, the legal profession has enjoyed privilege in our society and in those that preceded it. A distinct culture of the legal profession has developed. This is something that others, and perhaps even you as you set out on this journey do not fully understand. I want to take the next few minutes to share with you some thoughts about what makes this a profession, and makes this profession distinctive.

### **The culture of the legal profession**

As lawyers we are part of a culture – our own culture, with its definable attitudes and values. We have an ethos all our own. The dictionary defines ethos as: “the distinguishing character, sentiment, moral nature, or guiding beliefs of a person, group, or institution.” What distinguishes the culture of the legal profession – the ethos of lawyering – are: *a commitment to the rule of law* and certain character traits that can be collected under the rubric of *professionalism*. Professionalism includes at least two components:

- A dedication to service to others and to society
- Adherence to accepted norms of conduct that must be followed in letter and in spirit. Those norms include certain codified rules and subtler ideals, such as integrity and civility.

#### ***Commitment to the rule of law***

A value that lawyers share, or should share, is a commitment to the rule of law. It is a value that you may not yet have fully formed. We do not attempt or pretend to impart a full set of values in law school. You came here, we hope, with most of the basic equipment – lessons from parents, kindergarten, Sunday school, Scouting, study of history and philosophy, life experience. You should strive to reinforce those values that you brought here.

But there is one value we do want you to cultivate while here. And that is a belief in the importance of the rule of law. A belief that is strong enough to stand up for the rule of law. You will hear more about that this morning from Judges Carparelli and Krieger.

What’s this all about? We are the problem solvers, the peacemakers. We find solutions to family problems, business objectives, and even national and international conflict. We do this within a framework of accepted norms and rules. We also help build that framework – to make the laws in legislatures and administrative agencies. Then we ensure that the rules are followed. And when someone’s liberty or property is at stake, we insist that the government itself follow the rules. When the established rules do not yield answers, when issues seem intractable and our negotiating skills run out, we can open the doors of the courts lead a client through the last resort: trial. And that last resort is still an orderly, peaceful process. Though the results usually do not please everyone they are accepted respectfully.

Not everyone in society accepts the outcomes respectfully. Losing parties are disappointed, of course. Politicians and uninformed members of the public attack the courts. Not pausing to wonder whether a court’s ruling was driven by what a legislature said and, if the court merely applied or interpreted that law, many people simply blame the courts. Consider Colorado, where there is a “Clear the Bench” movement this year campaigning to vote out members of our state Supreme Court whose decisions are objectionable to some politically motivated people. They think: If you don’t like court decisions attack the judges, vote them out – as if they were a legislative body making policy decisions.

Many states – 39 of them – still have a primitive system where judges are elected in the first place. This puts the judges in the position of politicians, pandering for votes. Not surprisingly, it tempts special interests to “buy” judges, and some lawyers to play into their hands and become compliant judges. Last year, the US Supreme Court found in the *Caperton* case that, when a coal company executive raised over \$3.5 million for the campaign to elect a judge to the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, and then that judge became the swing vote in relieving the same coal company of \$50 million dollar judgment, the plaintiffs in the case were denied due process of law.

In the last decade, more than \$200 million in campaign contributions have poured in to judicial elections. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, joining the voice of former Justice O’Connor who spoke about the issue in this very room, calls the problem one of the most serious facing our legal system. But the raucous campaigning goes on and unpopular decisions of courts lead to the ouster of judges by members of the public who fall for bombastic ads that are run by disappointed litigants or political ideologues with lots of money. They argue against activist judges, but what they really want is judges who will be *their* activists.

Colorado has a system called the merit system where judicial aspirants are carefully vetted and considered by nonpartisan committees. A short list of competent and acceptable candidates is recommended, and then one is appointed by the Governor to serve. At the end of their terms they are held up to a vote whether they should be retained and the public then has information on their performance from a nonpartisan compilation of surveys. No campaigning or electioneering. This has produced an excellent judiciary for Colorado, with rarely a need for discipline or voting out a judge. Still, we have endured repeated attacks from know-nothing ideologues who focus on outcomes they do not like. They would prefer biased courts, biased in their favor.

The judiciary is, indeed, under attack and with it the rule of law. Without a strong and independent judiciary monied interests, politically influential parties, corrupt business and government officials, and the government itself can violate their lawful duties and abuse individual rights and liberties. Without a strong and independent judiciary the rule of law is endangered. We have seen the consequences in many countries such as Pakistan where lawyers have taken to the streets to defend the rule of law and champion an independent judiciary.

And consider China. Although on paper it has made great progress enacting laws that create a rule of law veneer, guarantees of free speech and human rights are virtually unenforceable in court.

You may have read recent news accounts of how executives in a foreign iron ore company were arrested in China for communicating information that allegedly led to increasing steel prices – “commercial secrets” that worked to the disadvantage of the government.

Also this summer the Sichuan Provincial Higher People’s Court upheld a five-year sentence, with three years of deprivation of political rights, of Tan Zuoren an environmental activist and writer convicted of “inciting subversion of state power.” Liu Xianbin, a democracy activist and writer, was formally arrested on suspicion of inciting subversion of state power for activities assisting parents of the 5000 children killed in the 2008 earthquake. Gheyret Niyaz a 51-year-old Uyghur journalist, was tried for “endangering state security,” and sentenced to 15 years’ imprisonment. On July 22, a court in Fujian Province heard (without issuing a ruling) the case of lawyer Lin Hongnan, who is challenging a government decision to stop him from practicing law for one year on what Lin calls a trumped up charge arising out of his representation of political activists 8 years ago.

And this month the American Bar Association awarded its International Human Rights Award to Gao Zisheng. Once described by Chinese officials as one of China’s ten best lawyers, Mr. Gao was a dedicated Christian who assisted China’s poor and marginalized but he met the wrath of Chinese state security once he began defending the rights of persecuted Falun Gong practitioners. The government took away his license to practice and he was charged with subversion and sentenced to house arrest. Then, when he wrote a letter to the U.S. Congress to explain the human rights situation he was arrested and reportedly tortured for a period of almost 60 days.

The U.S. has sometimes registered objections to Chinese abuses. Last August, under pressure from the Obama Administration, the Chinese court system released Xu Zhiyong, a respected legal scholar who was a leader in advancing the rule of law in China and a fierce defender of human rights, who had been incarcerated on “tax evasion” charges. He had founded a nonprofit legal center called the Open Constitution Initiative which was closed down by the government after it represented migrant workers, death row inmates, and parents of babies poisoned by tainted milk. At least 20 other lawyers have been disbarred for taking politically tinged cases and one recently was beaten and persecuted after he exposed abuses in China’s birth-control program such as forced abortions.

Tyrannical regimes in other countries, and sometimes politicians in our own country, abuse or strain the limits of their power. And it is then that the rule of law is profoundly important. But our own government is not itself above allegations that it has failed to maintain the rule of law.

Our courts, including the US Supreme Court, have had to draw the line against incursions on the rule of law in a number of cases involving the Guantanamo imprisonment of hundreds of individuals for years without trials or even charges against them. Some of our graduates have donated their time to take up this cause. These lawyers

continue in the tradition of John Adams who, before helping draft the Declaration of Independence and Constitution, defended the British soldiers who were charged with killing colonists in the Boston Massacre.

It is not a partisan matter for lawyers to work to right injustices perpetrated in the name of national security. Some of the blatant affronts to the Constitution and human decency and over-reaching of Executive power that were begun over nine years ago continue today in an administration that decries departures from the rule of law in China.

The Founders embedded certain rights and liberties in our Constitution with the bitterness of government oppression fresh in their minds as recited in the Declaration of Independence. The hysteria in the aftermath of a terrorist attack nine years ago incited fear – achieving the goal of every terrorist. And fear led to political demagoguery. Torture, incarceration without criminal charges, and abuse of human rights have been undertaken by the American government and approved by people in the highest places.

History may mark this as a period of great excesses against the rule of law in our own country. But fortunately, we do have the courts. The Supreme Court found that the federal government had violated the United States Constitution when it imprisoned suspects at Guantanamo and denied them the right of habeas corpus – to have a court review the legality of their incarceration – a right guaranteed to all who come under the power of the US. The writ of habeas corpus was guaranteed in our Constitution (and in the Magna Carta since 1215). In one case, Justice Scalia described the protection of the Great Writ as “the very core of liberty.”<sup>1</sup> The Supreme Court in *Boumediene v. Bush* said: “The laws and Constitution are designed to survive, and remain in force, in extraordinary times. Liberty and security can be reconciled; and in our system, they are reconciled within the framework of law. The Framers decided that habeas corpus, a right of first importance, must be a part of that framework, part of that law.”

### ***Professionalism***

I will turn now to another hallmark of lawyers’ cultural ethos, professionalism.

Professionalism is based first on a lifetime **commitment to service**. Our privilege as lawyers, our power to make the system work, is not about our being superior beings. It is not about status or self-satisfaction of being attorneys, but the opposite; it is about serving others – pouring all we have into pursuing the legitimate goals and protecting the rights of others. The culture of law as a profession demands that we lawyers serve others and give them the best of our competence, skills, and values.

It’s our job as faculty members while you are here in law school to work with you to develop keen analytical skills and to lay the groundwork for lifelong perfection of practical skills. It will be your obligation to continue developing those skills and to use them well.

Our ideal of service extends to every client and to all of society. We serve to the fullest of our abilities whether a client can pay handsome fees that make us feel like we are valuable and doing important work, or whether the client cannot pay anything but we know the outcome determines matters like whether the client goes to jail, or keeps a home. It is all important to those we serve. When a client comes to a lawyer, it is usually a gravely serious event: the formation of a business; a family break-up; a hurtful accident; a broken promise; an opportunity for a business to succeed – or fail; a question of whether someone loses her liberty – or life; and, more often than you might think, whether the government itself is held accountable under the law.

We serve all of society in the sense that every case advances the rule of law in some way, small or large. Problems are solved and differences are resolved peacefully, and so everyone is better off. Drawing on what I saw in some of the personal statements that accompanied your applications are inspiring words on the power and promise of what a lawyer can do.

One person here who is a single mother saw her business collapse, and then she had to seek housing and other support for low-income parents. She writes, “I understand first-hand how advocacy helps those at the lower end of the economic spectrum. The care others have shown has helped me to improve my circumstances. I want to help others in return through a career in law.”

Another writes: “I come from a small, rural, agriculturally based town where a majority of the community is poor, underprivileged, and struggles to become educated. Many of my childhood friends started families at young ages and consider it a daily battle just to make ends meet. It is my goal to eventually return to my hometown . . . and practice law. I would love the opportunity to reach out to the community, to represent an underrepresented minority group, and provide a positive, living example of work-ethic, compassion, and the importance of further education to the younger residents . . . .”

One person in this class says that her father’s “experiences with injustice . . . motivated me to practice law.” His mother had been imprisoned in Cuba by Castro and then he “dealt with injustices of a repressive government, coped with the consequences of a country’s broken legal system, and faced discrimination as an immigrant. . . .”

Many others express the ideal that lawyers can, through their service make a difference. Several relate this hope to their regard for the environment. One says that her work before law school made her realize that advocacy

can “give water a voice.” Another sums up the breadth of aspirations of her classmates in choosing law as a career, saying: “I have seen how the law impacts society and shapes the world we live in, from the environment and natural resources in the Trinity Alps Wilderness to the treatment of AIDS patients in South Africa. I want to be part of the transformation of tomorrow.”

These dreams can be realized through representation of clients, but also by using the problem solving and leadership abilities of lawyers to serve communities, organizations, and the nation. Lawyers are disproportionately called on to volunteer, to step out and serve as public officials, to help solve the problems of their communities and lead organizations that are trying to make things better.

Finally, professionalism in the ethos of lawyers is marked by **high standards of conduct** that are widely shared. You will learn in law school about the Rules of Professional Responsibility. Lawyers are punished severely when they transgress the rules that mark out their responsibilities. But this is merely a codification of technical rules that must not be transgressed – the outer limits. They are not to be parsed and cleverly avoided but should be given a wide berth.

Your lodestar comes from a higher plane than those rules. You brought with you a moral compass that should be bolstered and firmly calibrated to guide you toward ethical behavior – toward what is “right,” not just what is plainly “not wrong” under the “rules”.

On Wednesday, we will watch the movie *The Thin Blue Line*. You will hear the prosecutor say that he once was told that a bad prosecutor can convict a guilty man but it takes a good prosecutor to convict an innocent man. What do you think of that?

Moreover, you will not be a good professional unless you are civil to all around you. Not all lawyers behave with civility. You have seen in action the bombastic and flamboyant lawyers that make good TV. In real life, these types do their clients no favors being arrogant or unreasonable. At the very least, their obstreperousness or lack of courtesy will come back to haunt them in karmic fashion.

Civility is simply applying those lessons we learned as children at the knees of mothers and teachers – common courtesy, compassion, the golden rule. One lawyer’s word to another is to be trusted. Rude conduct in and out of court is never appropriate. Moreover, lawyers are expected to cooperate as a case is being prepared. Although a lawyer need not develop the case of his or her opposing counsel, cases are to be won or lost based on substantive rights and not cagey tactics. You will hear examples in the session that follows and in law school about transgressions of the bounds of civility. But ultimately, your childhood lessons have already taught you how to behave and they apply more, not less, in the culture of the legal profession.

Of course clients expect zealous representation, and the word, until recently was part of the lawyer’s oath in most states. But for some lawyers, zealousness in client representation seemed inconsistent with civility, and a lawyer who was a nice person seemed weak.

But civility for a lawyer is a strength, not a weakness. The most valuable contribution lawyers make to society is solving problems. This requires bringing other people along to a solution. Success in problem solving techniques – negotiation, persuasion, and conflict resolution – lies in the ability to influence the attitudes and actions of other people. Lawyer Abraham Lincoln said: “As a peacemaker the lawyer has a superior opportunity of being a good man. There will still be business enough.”

### **You now join the Culture of the Legal Profession**

Your legal career, your commitment to the higher standards of professionalism that mark the legal profession, begins now. Later this morning, Judge Marcia Krieger will administer the lawyer’s oath to you. Of course, you are not lawyers yet, but you can and should live the oath so far as it is applicable.

While you are here in law school, however, you will follow our own student-administered Honor Code that you will hear about this morning from student leaders including SBA President David Pigott and Chair Jacey Roche, and from Vice Dean Matthew.

We are proud of the Honor Code; it is about honor, and not about technical violations. So it should be broadly applied to brook no tolerance of unprofessionalism. This means that you must steer widely away from any conduct that would bring you into its web – dishonesty, plagiarism, dishonoring yourself or the school. Conduct that violates the Honor Code transgresses our standards, offends our culture.

The most fundamental rule you need to know about the Honor Code – and about professional responsibility – is that if you have any doubt about an act, don’t do it. You are required to know what plagiarism is, for instance; if you are in doubt it is your responsibility to find out. If it seems wrong, don’t even think about doing it. If another’s actions seem wrong, report them. Self-policing of the profession starts here.

We will be tough and unforgiving of violations. We will do all we can to ensure that someone who has behaved unprofessionally in law school never has a chance to practice law. Our mission, here and in the profession,

is to pursue a higher calling. As Justice Cardozo said, “not honesty alone, but the punctilio of honor the most sensitive, is then the standard of behavior.”

### **Conclusion**

You now take on the mantle of a professional. You make a cultural transformation. The three years that you will spend here will also be mind-expanding and satisfying. You will be well prepared for a variety of jobs and to serve as leaders and problem-solvers – service that is sorely needed by people in this country and abroad, needed by our communities and nation.

It is true that the job market is tight right now. Besides having confidence that over these three years it will improve, I *know*, as you must, that problem solving will always be needed, that you will be needed more than ever with the knowledge, skills, and the ethos you will assimilate in these three years.

You have some incredibly talented and spirited colleagues around you. So I will not rehearse the ominous welcome of law deans of yesteryear who said: “look to the left, look to the right; at least one of those people won’t be here in three years.” It is just no longer true. If you look around you, you will be seeing the people you will be with at graduation, and many who will be your professional colleagues and friends forever. You are in this together. And we, the faculty, are in it with you. Speaking for the whole faculty, whom I will introduce in this room Wednesday morning, we are delighted to have you with us. You are our reason for being here.

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