

>> ALL RISE.

HEAR YE, HEAR YE, HEAR YE, THE
SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA IS NOW
IN SESSION.

ALL WHO HAVE CAUSE TO PLEA, DRAW
NEAR.

GIVE ATTENTION, YOU SHALL BE
HEARD.

GOD SAVE THESE UNITED STATES,
THE GREAT STATE OF FLORIDA AND
THIS HONORABLE COURT.

[BACKGROUND SOUNDS]

>> LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE
SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA.
PLEASE BE SEATED.

>> GOOD AFTERNOON.

ON BEHALF OF THE FLORIDA SUPREME
COURT, IT IS MY HONOR TO WELCOME
YOU FOR THIS INDUCTION CEREMONY
FOR NEW MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA
BAR.

THIS CEREMONY IS A TIME OF
CELEBRATION FOR EACH OF YOUR
INDUCTEES, YOUR FAMILIES, YOUR
FRIENDS AND EVERYONE WHO HELPED
YOU OVERCOME CHALLENGES ALONG
THE WAY TO THIS PROUD OCCASION.
I AM PROUD TO BE A LAWYER
BECAUSE THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY
OF THIS GREAT NATION, IT HAS
BEEN THE AMERICAN LAWYER WHO HAS
BEEN THERE EVERY STEP ALONG THE
WAY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR
DEMOCRACY.

FOR STARTERS, 25 SIGNERS OF THE
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WERE
LAWYERS, 23 SIGNERS OF THE
CONSTITUTION OF UNITED STATES
WERE LAWYERS.

IT WAS A LAWYER WHO WROTE THE
LANDMARK DECISION OF MARBURY V.
MADISON AS A JUDGE WHICH
ESTABLISHED THE PRINCIPLE OF
JUDICIAL REVIEW OF ACTS OF
CONGRESS AND THE EXECUTIVE.

IT WAS A LAWYER, WHO AS
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
SIGNED THE EMANCIPATION
PROCLAMATION, AND IT WAS THIS
VERY SAME LAWYER WHO DID NOT
REST UNTIL THE 13TH AMENDMENT
ABOLISHING SLAVERY WAS RATIFIED
IN 1865.

IT WAS A GROUP OF GREAT LAWYERS

WHO PRESENTED BROWN V. BOARD OF
EDUCATION TO THE UNITED STATES
SUPREME COURT AND THEN
COURAGEOUSLY LITIGATED CASE
AFTER CASE TO MAKE SURE THE
COURT'S RULINGS WERE ENFORCED.
AND LET'S NOT FORGET JUDGES WHO,
OBVIOUSLY, WERE LAWYERS WHO--
AT GREAT RISK TO THEIR LIVES--
ISSUED THEIR HISTORIC RULINGS
ENFORCING THE BROWN DECISION.
THE EXAMPLES GO ON AND ON.
SO AS YOU CAN SEE, WE-- THE
AMERICAN LAWYER-- HAVE
PARTICIPATED IN A CRUCIAL WAY IN
THE ESTABLISHMENT AND
DEVELOPMENT OF THIS GREATEST OF
ALL DEMOCRACIES SINCE ITS
BEGINNING.
THIS IS WHY I AM SO PROUD TO BE
A LAWYER.
AND THIS IS WHY IT IS IMPORTANT
THAT YOU FEEL PROUD ABOUT
BECOMING A LAWYER.
WHAT YOU DO OR WHAT YOU WILL DO
AS A LAWYER IS IMPORTANT.
NOT JUST IMPORTANT TO YOUR
CLIENTS' INTERESTS, BUT ALSO TO
THE PRESERVATION AND ADVANCEMENT
OF OUR CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM.
EACH TIME YOU WILL WALK INTO A
COURTROOM WITH A CASE, YOU'RE
NOT JUST REPRESENTING A CLIENT,
YOU ARE REAFFIRMING OUR PRECIOUS
RIGHT TO DUE PROCESS.
WHAT YOU DO AND WHAT YOU WILL DO
IS IMPORTANT.
THE TORCH IS NOW BEING PASSED TO
YOU, AND REGARDLESS OF YOUR
POLITICAL BELIEFS, RELIGIOUS
BELIEFS OR ECONOMIC BACKGROUND,
YOU WILL CONTINUE TO SAFEGUARD
THE CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLES
THAT HAVE MADE OUR DEMOCRACY
POSSIBLE.
I WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO OUR
BELOVED PROFESSION.
AT THIS TIME, IT IS MY HONOR TO
CALL UPON MELISSA VANSICKLE,
BOARD OF THE FLORIDA BAR, FOR
SOME REMARKS.
>> MR. CHIEF JUSTICE AND MEMBERS
OF THE COURT, DISTINGUISHED
GUESTS AND FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF

FLORIDA'S NEWEST LAWYERS, ON BEHALF OF THE OVER 100,000 MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA BAR AND ON BEHALF OF THE FLORIDA BAR BOARD OF GOVERNORS, IT IS MY GREATEST HONOR TO WELCOME THE NEWEST MEMBERS TO OUR NOBLE PROFESSION.

FIRST, I CONGRATULATE YOU CANDIDATES THAT ARE HERE TODAY FOR ADMISSION TO THE FLORIDA BAR.

I KNOW THAT THIS IS THE CULMINATION OF YEARS OF HARD WORK, AND YOU DESERVE TO CELEBRATE THIS MILESTONE IN YOUR CAREER.

YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO ACCEPT YOUR OATH TO THE PROFESSION IN OUR HIGHEST COURT, THE SUPREME COURT.

ALWAYS LET THIS MOMENT BE A REMINDER FOR YOU OF HOW IMPORTANT IT WILL BE FOR YOU AS A LAWYER TO HELP YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS UNDERSTAND AND SUPPORT OUR SYSTEM OF LAWS.

IN A PROFESSION THAT IS BECOMING MORE COMPETITIVE WITH EACH NEW MEMBER, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU ALWAYS REMIND YOURSELF OF OUR CREATIVE PROFESSIONALISM.

ALWAYS LET YOUR VOICE AND YOUR ACTIONS PROMOTE WHAT IS JUST AND FAIR.

I CAN'T TELL YOU THAT IT WILL BE EASY OR WITHOUT CHALLENGE.

FOR INSTANCE, SOME OF YOU HAVE ALREADY FOUND A JOB AND WILL BE ADJUSTING TO WORK LIFE.

SOME OF YOU MAY STILL BE LOOKING FOR YOUR FIRST JOB.

BUT I ENCOURAGE YOU RATHER THAN FOCUSING ON JUST IN THIS CURRENT MOMENT, YOU REMEMBER THAT A FULFILLING LEGAL CAREER IS A JOURNEY.

IT'S A MARATHON AND NOT A SPRINT.

ALSO REMEMBER THAT FULFILLMENT IS BASED ON MORE THAN JUST PERSONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT.

YOU WILL FIND JOY IN SERVICE TO OTHERS AND TO YOUR COMMUNITY.

GIVING BACK TO THOSE IN YOUR
COMMUNITY SHOULD BE ONE OF YOUR
HIGHEST PRIORITIES THROUGHOUT
YOUR CAREER.

I ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONSIDER
ORGANIZATIONS IN YOUR COMMUNITY
THAT WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH
NETWORKING, FELLOWSHIP AND
LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.
IT WILL BE A CHALLENGE TO FIND
TIME TO DEVOTE TO COMMUNITY AND
BAR ORGANIZATIONS WITH THE
DEMANDS OF YOUR JOB AND YOUR
FAMILY, BUT I'M CERTAIN THAT YOU
WILL REAP THE REWARDS.

AS WITH ALL COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT, YOU ONLY GET OUT
WHAT YOU PUT IN.

THE MORE TIME AND EFFORT THAT
YOU COMMIT, THE MORE YOU STAND
TO GAIN.

IN CLOSING, I ASK YOU TO
REMEMBER THREE THINGS.

THE FIRST IS THAT YOU HAVE
EARNED THE PRIVILEGE TO BE A
LAWYER.

UPHOLD THIS PRIVILEGE WITH GRACE
AND WITH PROFESSIONALISM.

OUR PROFESSION DEPENDS ON IT.

SECOND, GIVE BACK.

MANY PEOPLE HELPED YOU GET TO
WHERE YOU ARE RIGHT NOW IN THIS
MOMENT.

PAY THAT FORWARD BY HELPING
SOMEBODY THAT'S LESS FORTUNATE
THAN YOU.

AND FINALLY, REMEMBER THAT YOU
GET OUT OF YOUR PROFESSION WHAT
YOU PUT INTO IT.

STRIVE TO BETTER YOURSELF AND
YOUR CAREER BY GETTING AND
STAYING INVOLVED IN YOUR
COMMUNITY.

ON BEHALF OF THE FLORIDA BAR AND
THE FLORIDA BAR BOARD OF
GOVERNORS, I WELCOME YOU TO THE
LEGAL PROFESSION AND SINCERELY
WISH YOU SUCCESS IN YOUR LEGAL
CAREER.

THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

>> OKAY.

AT THIS TIME IT IS MY HONOR TO
CALL ON RICHARD COLLINS,

PRESIDENT OF THE TALLAHASSEE BAR ASSOCIATION, FOR SOME REMARKS.

>> MR. CHIEF JUSTICE AND MEMBERS OF THE COURT, HONORED GUESTS AND ESPECIALLY OUR NEW INDUCTEES TO BE HERE AND THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY, WE'RE GLAD TO BE WITH YOU TODAY.

I'M HERE TO WELCOME YOU INTO THIS ORGANIZATION OF, LIKE THE JUSTICE MENTIONED, APPROXIMATELY 100,000-- I THINK MELISSA TALKED ABOUT IT, OVER 100,000 MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA BAR. AND YOU SHOULDN'T BE FRIGHTENED BY THAT, BECAUSE THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR ONE MORE GOOD MEMBER.

[LAUGHTER]

WE HOPE YOU WILL GROW AND PROSPER IN YOUR DEVELOPMENT AND CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE AND BE A GOOD MEMBER OF THIS ORGANIZATION.

I'M HERE ON BEHALF OF THE TALLAHASSEE BAR ASSOCIATION, AND I HOPE THAT WE CAN GIVE YOU SOME THOUGHTS AND SUGGESTIONS OF WHAT MIGHT HELP YOU DOWN THIS PATH. WE HAVE A MEMBERSHIP OF APPROXIMATELY 750 MEMBERS OF OUR ORGANIZATION.

LAST NIGHT WE MET HERE ON THE FSU CAMPUS AND HAD A FISH FRY WHICH WAS PRETTY DARN GOOD.

I DON'T KNOW IF ANY OF Y'ALL MADE IT THERE OR NOT, BUT WE ALSO HAD APPROXIMATELY 87 NEW FSU LAW STUDENTS WHO JOINED THE TALLAHASSEE BAR ASSOCIATION. SO IT'S AMAZING HOW THIS COLLABORATION SEEMS TO BE GROWING, AND EVERYONE IS PROSPERING FROM IT.

THIS MONTH IN 1973, 43 YEARS AGO, I SAT IN THE SAME SEATS YOU ARE IN TODAY AND TOOK MY OATH TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE FLORIDA BAR.

THINGS HAVE CHANGED A LOT IN THAT TIME FRAME.

THE PRACTICE HAS CHANGED.

TO A LARGE EXTENT, WE DIDN'T HAVE THIS TECHNOLOGY.

I CAN REMEMBER WELL WE STILL HAD

TYPEWRITERS, AND WE HAD-- WE DIDN'T HAVE ALL THIS-- I REMEMBER WE GOT A COPY MACHINE, THAT WAS A BIG THING. FAX MACHINE, THIS WAS A REALLY BIG DEAL.

SO IT'S REALLY CHANGED. AND BY THE WAY, THE FLORIDA BAR NOW-- AND, MELISSA, CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG-- THE BAR ASSOCIATION HAS ADDED THREE CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS TOWARD YOUR CERTIFICATION FOR TECHNOLOGY.

IT CAN BE WITHOUT COST.

IT HAS CHANGED.

WE DIDN'T HAVE E-FILING BACK THEN.

SOME OF US LAWYERS STILL STRUGGLE WITH THAT, AND THANK GOD WE'VE GOT A GOOD PARALEGAL OR LEGAL ASSISTANT, WE CAN HAVE THEM DO THE E-FILING.

EVERY COURT IS DIFFERENT.

I THINK THE DISTRICT COURTS OF APPEAL ARE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT, SO IT IS SOMEWHAT CHALLENGING. SO THAT'S BEEN A MAJOR CHANGE. AND ONE OF THE BIG THINGS ABOUT INTERNET AND TECHNOLOGY IS WE USED TO THROW THE BOOKS AT SOMEBODY.

YOU CAN'T THROW THE INTERNET AT SOMEBODY, SO IT'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT NOWADAYS.

[LAUGHTER]

BUT, YOU KNOW, IT'S-- THE, I GUESS, BENEFITS OR LEXUS/NEXUS AND OTHER ASSETS THAT ARE AVAILABLE FOR US FOR DOING OUR RESEARCH AND PULLING THE KEY CASES THAT NEED TO BE THERE.

SO THE LAW HAS CHANGED IN THAT REGARD, AND TECHNOLOGY I THINK IN THE LONG RUN WILL CERTAINLY BE A BENEFIT TO US AND BEING ABLE TO CARRY OUR-- I MEAN, INSTEAD OF A WHOLE BOX OF CASES, I'VE GOT MY LAPTOP AND EVERYTHING ON A FILE THERE. IT'S JUST TOTALLY DIFFERENT. I STILL STRUGGLE WITH IT. ANOTHER THING IS THAT WE'RE

SEEING MORE AND MORE ESPECIALLY
AREAS OF PRACTICE, WHEN I CAME
OUT, EVERYBODY JUST SORT OF WENT
INTO A GENERAL PRACTICE.

YOU TOOK WHATEVER CAME IN,
WHATEVER WORK NEEDED TO BE DONE,
BUT NOWADAYS WE SEE THERE BEING
MORE DEFINED SPECIALTIES;
TAXATION AND THIS OR THAT AND
EMPLOYMENT LAW AND WHAT NOT.
SO THAT IS ANOTHER AREA WHERE
WE'RE SEEING THE LAW CHANGE.
THERE'S MORE AND MORE FOCUSING
INTO MORE SPECIALTY AREAS OF THE
PRACTICE.

AND ALONG WITH THAT HAS COME
BOARD CERTIFICATION.
LAWYERS, AFTER GAINING THE
NECESSARY SKILLS AND YEARS IN
PRACTICE, NOW CAN SIT FOR AND
BECOME BOARD CERTIFIED IN A
PARTICULAR AREA.

THE FLORIDA BAR OFFERS BOARD
CERTIFICATION, AND THERE ARE
OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THAT ALSO
OFFER BOARD CERTIFICATION.
SO THAT'S A DIFFERENT THING.
ADVERTISING IS DIFFERENT TODAY
THAN IT WAS BACK IN THE OLD
DAYS.

THE FLORIDA BAR, I KNOW, IS
CONTINUALLY TRYING TO MANAGE
WHAT LAWYERS CAN DO THROUGH THE
ADVERTISING, YOU KNOW, I TURN ON
THE RADIO AND I MUST HEAR I
CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MANY
COMMERCIALS FOR BILLY BO AND HIS
AND HER LAW FIRMS AND ALL THAT
STUFF.

SO WE'RE BOMBARDED WITH A LOT OF
ADVERTISING, AND IT'S REALLY
BEEN QUITE A CHANGE IN THE
PRACTICE.

WE HAVE DIFFERENT TYPES OF
REFERRAL SERVICE, WE HAVE THINGS
LIKE THAT WHICH THE BAR IS
HAVING TO GET VERY, VERY ACTIVE
IN CONTROLLING.

AND TO THE BEST THEY CAN.
RIGHT NOW WHAT IS YOUR NEXT
STEP?

AS MELISSA MENTIONED, SOME OF
YOU MAY WELL HAVE ALREADY GOT A
JOB, AND SOME OF YOU HAVE, ARE

STILL IN THE WORKS OF TRYING TO
FIND A PRACTICE.
WELL, YOU'VE GOT SEVERAL AREAS.
OBVIOUSLY, YOU'VE GOT THE
PRIVATE SECTOR WHICH WOULD BE
PRIMARILY LAW FIRMS THAT ARE OUT
IN THE COMMUNITY AND PRACTICE.
YOU'VE GOT EMPLOYMENT WITH
CORPORATE ENTITIES, IBM,
DIFFERENT CORPORATE ENTITIES,
AND OBVIOUSLY WE HAVE GOVERNMENT
LAWYERS.

IN TALLAHASSEE WE HAVE A
SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT
LAWYERS WHO WORK FOR THE STATE
OF FLORIDA, THE COUNTY, CITY,
WHAT NOT, DIFFERENT GOVERNMENTAL
ENTITIES.

SO THERE'S, YOU KNOW, THERE'S
VARIOUS PHASES OF GOVERNMENT
WHERE THE PRACTICE COMBINES.
BUT THE KEY THING IS TO FIND AN
AREA THAT FITS YOU THE BEST.
AND I'LL GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE.
WHEN I WENT TO UNDERGRADUATE
SCHOOL, I HAD THE DECISION THAT
I WAS GOING TO BE A DOCTOR, SO I
STARTED OUT IN PRE-MED.
I REALLY ENJOYED GOING THROUGH
THE COURSES, AND THEN I GOT A
CALL FROM THE HEAD FOOTBALL
COACH AT THE COLLEGE, AND HE
SAID, YOU KNOW, THOSE
LABORATORIES YOU'RE GOING TO IN
THE AFTERNOON ARE INTERFERING
WITH YOUR REAL REASON FOR BEING
HERE.

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE OUT ON THE
PRACTICE FIELD RATHER THAN SOME
LAB.

SO I HAD TO CHANGE MY MAJOR FROM
PRE-MED, AND I DECIDED THAT'S
WHEN I WOULD GO INTO THE
PRACTICE OF LAW, AND I FOCUSED
AND WENT THAT WAY.

BUT GUESS WHAT?

ALL THAT I LEARNED IN THAT AREA
DIDN'T GO TO WASTE.

MY PARTNER AND I BECAME GENERAL
COUNSEL WITH THE FLORIDA
PATIENTS COMPENSATION FUND, AND
WE BECAME VERY INVOLVED IN
HELPING-- AT THAT POINT ALL THE
MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CARRIERS IN

THE STATE OF FLORIDA HAD LEFT,
AND THERE WAS NOT A WAY FOR
DOCTORS TO BE INSURED OR
HOSPITALS.

SO WE GOT INVOLVED IN THAT, AND
I STARTED DEFENDING MEDICAL A
MALPRACTICE CASES ALL OVER STATE
OF FLORIDA.

AND IT WAS AMAZING HOW THAT
KNOWLEDGE THAT I HAD GAINED IN
UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL ROSE TO THE
SURFACE AND WAS SUCH A
FACILITATION FOR ME TO DO THE
PRACTICE.

I HAD A LITTLE BIT, AN ADVANTAGE
MAYBE OVER SOME OF MY COMRADES,
AT LEAST I THOUGHT I DID.

[LAUGHTER]

HAVING KNOWN THAT.

SO REALLY THERE'S A LOT OF TIMES
SOME OF THE THINGS YOU HAVE IN
YOUR PAST EXPERIENCE WILL ALSO
BLEND WITH YOUR LEGAL PRACTICE
AND HELP YOU BE ABLE TO MOVE
FORWARD AND JOIN THE TWO.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT THING ABOUT
THE PRACTICE OF LAW IS PUBLIC
SERVICE.

AND IN MY ESTIMATION, IT HAS A
LOT TO DO TO BE A POSITIVE THING
TO OUR PUBLIC IMAGE.

THE BEST WAY TO ENHANCE IS
THROUGH DIFFERENT TYPES OF
PROFESSIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE.
PRO BONO.

CAN ALL OF Y'ALL SAY PRO BONO?

[LAUGHTER]

THAT MEANS WE ARE CHALLENGED TO
GIVE OF OUR TIME TO THE PUBLIC
AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO
ARE LESS FORTUNATE AND CANNOT
AFFORD COUNSEL.

WE ARE, AND IT'S NOW AN
ASPIRATIONAL GOAL, IT'S NOT A
MANDATORY GOAL, BUT WE ARE ASKED
TO PROVIDE 20 HOURS PER YEAR,
ASPIRATIONALLY, OF FREE SERVICE
THROUGH PRO BONO SERVICES.

OR YOU CAN PAY \$350 TO A LEGAL
AID ORGANIZATION.

WELL, THE TALLAHASSEE BAR
ASSOCIATE THROUGH THE LEGAL AID
FOUNDATION, WE HELP PROVIDE OUR
LAWYERS THAT VEHICLE TO GET

THEIR PRO BONO TIME IN.
AND I CAN TELL YOU I CAN GET AN
AWFUL LOT OF POSITIVE FEELINGS
HAVING HELPED SOMEONE THROUGH
THESE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS
THAT THEY'RE GOING THROUGH IN
LIFE, AND THEY'RE IS SO TO
GRACIOUS AND THANKFUL SO MUCH
MORE THAN SOME OF THESE
CORPORATE JERKS-- I MEAN,
GUYS--

[LAUGHTER]

YOU DIDN'T DO A GOOD ENOUGH JOB
FOR ME OR WHATEVER.
SO I THINK THE PRO BONO IS A
VERY GOOD WAY.

ANOTHER WAY IS THROUGH LOCAL
CIVIC GROUPS OR CHARITABLE
ORGANIZATIONS WHERE YOU CAN BE
GIVING OF YOUR TIME AND ACTUALLY
SERVING AND HELPING THE GROUPS
WHEN THEY DO HAVE SOME LEGAL
ISSUES OR THINGS THAT NEED TO BE
DEALT WITH.

AND THERE ARE OTHER BAR
ORGANIZATIONS.

AS I MENTIONED, THE TALLAHASSEE
WOMEN'S LAWYERS, THE BARRISTERS,
THE GOVERNMENT LAWYERS, ABODA,
THERE'S ANY NUMBER OF
ORGANIZATIONS.

BUT I URGE YOU TO, ONCE YOU GET
SETTLED IN, KIND OF TRY TO FIND
A GROUP THAT YOU CAN BLEND IN
WITH.

AND YOU MAY SAY WHY SHOULD I
EVEN DO THAT?

THERE'S SEVERAL REASONS I
BELIEVE YOU SHOULD.

IN MOST MAJOR CITY IN THE STATE
OF FLORIDA, THERE IS A BAR
ASSOCIATION, A LOCAL
ORGANIZATION.

I THINK FIRST THING IS TO FIND A
MENTOR, SOMEONE WHO'S A MEMBER
OF THE BAR IN THAT COMMUNITY
THAT YOU CAN JOIN WITH AND TO
MAYBE HAVE LUNCH WITH TO
OCCASIONALLY AND TO SHARE THINGS
AND QUESTIONS YOU HAVE, SOMEONE
YOU TRUST AND MAYBE SOMEBODY IN
YOUR OWN FIRM.

IT MAY NOT BE, BUT I WOULD SAY
THAT WOULD BE THE FIRST THING,

TO HELP GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE AND SOME GUIDANCE AND MOVE YOU ALONG.

I THINK ALSO THE ORGANIZATIONS DO HAVE A GOOD SOCIAL ATMOSPHERE AND A PLEASANT PLACE, AND YOU GET TO MEET ALL THE LAWYERS. MOST ALL THE LAWYERS ARE GOING TO BE IN THESE ORGANIZATIONS AND MARKETING.

AND THAT REMINDS ME OF A STORY. A SENIOR LAWYER TOLD ME THERE'S TWO KIND OF LAWYERS, THERE'S GRINDERS AND THERE'S FINDERS. ANY OF YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT A GRINDER IS?

THAT'S SOMEBODY IN THERE SITTING THERE DOING THOSE BILL ABLE HOURS ALL DAY.

THE FOUNDER IS INITIATING CLIENTS AND BRINGING BUSINESS INTO THE FIRM.

THE GOAL IS, OBVIOUSLY, TO DO A GOOD JOB DOING YOUR BILLABLE HOUR WORK, BUT ALSO TO BRING IN NEW CLIENTS.

BECAUSE A LOT OF THESE SALARY COMPENSATIONS ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ORIGINATION OF NEW CLIENTS.

WELL, GUESS WHAT?

APPROXIMATELY 80% OF REFERRALS COME FROM OTHER LAWYERS.

OTHER LAWYERS.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO MEET THEM?

AT THE LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATION OR GO INTO THE FLORIDA BAR ANNUAL MEETINGS AND WHAT NOT.

SO I REALLY SUGGEST THAT YOU DO THAT.

ALSO THROUGH THE LOCAL BAR ORGANIZATIONS YOU CAN GET FREE CLE.

THE TALLAHASSEE BAR PUTS ON FREE CLEs WITH SOME FREQUENCY.

THEY'RE FREE TO TALLAHASSEE BAR MEMBERS.

NONMEMBERS HAVE TO PAY A MINIMAL FEE FOR IT.

AND ALSO AS I MENTIONED BEFORE, THE TALLAHASSEE BAR AND OTHER BAR ORGANIZATIONS HELP WITH FULFILLING THE PRO BONO SERVICE

WHICH MAKES IT MUCH, MUCH
EASIER.
AND THERE'S OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.
THERE'S THE NATIONAL
ORGANIZATION OF THE AMERICAN BAR
ASSOCIATION, FLORIDA DEFENSE
LAWYERS, INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF THE DEFENSE
COUNSEL, DRI.
THOSE ARE ALL VERY GOOD FOR,
AGAIN, THE SAME THING.
THE BOARD CERTIFICATION PROCESS,
I WOULD URGE YOU AT SOME POINT
IN TIME MANY YOUR PRACTICE TO BE
THINKING ABOUT DOING THAT.
I CURRENTLY SERVE ON THE MORE
THAN BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL
LIABILITY ATTORNEYS WHICH THAT
DEALS WITH MEDICAL MALPRACTICE,
AMERICAN BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL
LIABILITY ATTORNEYS, AND I
HAPPEN TO ALSO BE PRESIDENT OF
THAT ORGANIZATION.
I GET EXTRA MONEY FOR DOING THAT
TOO.
BUT TO DO THESE THINGS, I THINK
IT REALLY HELPS US TO FIGHT TO
IMPROVE THE PUBLIC IMAGE OF
LAWYERS.
AND WE'RE NOT CROOKS, CHEATS AND
LIAR, YOU KNOW, THEY WOULD HAVE
YOU BELIEVE.
AND THE BIGGEST THING IS WE'VE
GOT THIS 90/10 RULE.
10% OF THE LAWYERS CREATE 90% OF
THE PROBLEMS.
AND THANK GOODNESS THE COURT AND
THE BAR DO THE BEST THEY CAN TO
SANCTION AND TO DO, TAKE
APPROPRIATE ACTION TO HAVE THEM
PAY FOR THEIR CRAZINESS.
I THINK A LOT OF THE ISSUES
NOWADAYS HAS TO DO WITH US
WANTING TO BE REAL VIGOROUS IN
FIGHTING TO DEFEND AND TO WORK.
WHAT I'VE FOUND IS YOU DO TO THE
E-MAILS, OFTENTIMES I AM
COMMUNICATING WHILE I'M STILL IN
A RAGE.
YOU SORRY RAT, I CAN'T BELIEVE
YOU'RE DOING THAT.
WELL, YOU THINK BACK IN TIME OR
I THINK BACK IN TIME IN THE OLD
DAYS I WOULD DICTATE A DOCUMENT

LIKE THAT, IT WOULD GO TO MY SECRETARY, AND SHE WOULD HOLD IT FOR 20 OR 30 MINUTES, AND SHE'D COME TO ME AND SAY, YOU MAY WANT TO RETHINK THIS THING.

BUT WITH E MAILS TOO OFTEN WE FIRE THAT THING OUT WHILE WE'RE STILL IN A MOMENT OF RAGE OR PASSION, AND I CHALLENGE YOU TO WAIT.

TAKE A STEP BACK AND CALM DOWN AND TO BE COMMUNICATING WITH OPPOSING COUNSEL OR WITH WHOMEVER WITH A CALM, COOL AND AN ATTITUDE THAT WILL BE RESPECTABLE.

REACT OR RESPOND, AND THAT'S WHAT I THINK IT IS.

IT'S SORT OF THAT FIGHT OR FLIGHT RESPONSE.

SO I'M ASKING YOU TO TAKE THE TIME TO BE COURTEOUS AND BE PROFESSIONAL.

BUT I WOULD SAY, IN CLOSING, THAT THE MAJOR THING WE CAN DO IS TO FIGHT TO BRING CIVILITY TO PRACTICE OF LAW.

AND I URGE YOU TO DO THAT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

[APPLAUSE]

>> WE REALIZE THAT THIS DAY IS IMPORTANT TO YOU BECAUSE NOT EVEN A CATEGORY FOUR HURRICANE KEPT YOU FROM BEING HERE.

[LAUGHTER]

IT IS NOW MY HONOR TO CALL UPON ANDREW MANKO ON BEHALF OF THE YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION FOR A FEW REMARKS.

>> CHIEF JUSTICE LABARGA, JUSTICES AND MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT, NEW ADMITEES, MY NAME IS ANDREW MANKO, AND I'M ONE OF THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT ON THE FLORIDA BAR YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

I'M AN APPELLATE LAWYER HERE IN TALLAHASSEE AND HAVE BEEN DOING THAT SINCE I FINISHED UP A TWO-YEAR CLERKSHIP WITH JUSTICE PARIENTE IN 2008.

I HAVE TO THANK YOU ALL FOR LETTING ME SPEAK TODAY SEEING

THIS MAY BE THE ONLY TIME I GET INTO THIS COURTROOM AND ABLE TO FREELY SPEAK AT A PODIUM WITHOUT GETTING INTERRUPTED WITH QUESTIONS FROM JUSTICE PARIENTE-- I MEAN, THE ENTIRE COURT.

[LAUGHTER]

I'M GOING TO RELISH THE NEXT FEW MINUTES.

ON BEHALF OF THE NEARLY 26,000 YOUNG LAWYERS IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA, I WANT TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR TREMENDOUS ACCOMPLISHMENT.

YOU'VE PASSED THE DREADED BAR EXAM IN FLORIDA AND ARE ABOUT TO BE SWORN INTO ONE OF MOST DIVERSE AND VIBRANT BARS IN THE COUNTRY.

AND TO GET TO DO IT IN THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT, NO LESS. THIS IS I TRULY A WONDERFUL DAY FOR EACH OF YOU.

I KNOW YOU'LL CHERISH AND REMEMBER IT FOR THE REST OF YOUR CAREER.

YOU CAN ALL COLLECTIVELY BREATHE A SIGH OF RELIEF.

YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION HAVE PAID OFF, BUT YOUR JOURNEY IS JUST BEGINNING.

I WANT TO GIVE YOU A FEW WORDS OF ADVICE THAT WERE GIVEN TO ME BY OTHER LAWYERS TO, HOPEFULLY, MAKE YOUR TRANSITION TO THE PROFESSION AN EASY AND SUCCESSFUL ONE.

FIRST OF ALL, BE INVOLVED. IN WHATEVER COMMUNITY YOU BEGIN YOUR LEGAL CAREER WHETHER IT'S HERE IN TALLAHASSEE, MIAMI, PENSACOLA OR ANYWHERE IN BETWEEN, THERE ARE A PLETHORA OF OPTIONS FOR YOU TO BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR PROFESSION. YOU ALL ARE AUTOMATICALLY A PART OF THE YOUNG LAWYER DIVISION OF THE FLORIDA BAR WHICH, AS I MENTIONED BEFORE, HAS ABOUT 26,000 MEMBERS.

YOU'RE PART OF THE YLD FOR YOUR FIRST FIVE YEARS OF PRACTICE OR THROUGH YOUR 36TH BIRTHDAY,

WHICHEVER IS LATER.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FREE WEBINARS AND VARIOUS CLEs THAT THE YLD OFFERS FREE ONLINE FOR ALL OF YOU.

FOR THE DAREDEVILS OUT THERE, THE YLD RECENTLY CREATED A PAGE ON ITS WEB SITE WITH TONS OF INFORMATION ON HOW TO START YOUR OWN FIRM.

THE WEB PAGE, FLAYLD.ORG-- I'M GLAD IT'S ME, NOT ME THIS TIME, I'VE DONE THAT BEFORE--

FLAYLD.ORG HAS LOTS OF INFORMATION, AND I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE EACH OF YOU TO CHECK IT OUT AND SEE HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED.

JOIN A LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATION. YOU'VE HEARD DICK AND MELISSA TALK ABOUT THIS.

BUT MANY OF THEM HAVE YOUNG LAWYERS' SECTIONS THAT CATER TO LAWYERS LIKE YOU AND ARE RUN BY LAWYERS LIKE YOU.

THESE ASSOCIATIONS, LIKE THE TALLAHASSEE BAR ASSOCIATION YOUNG LAWYERS' SECTION, DO SUCH AMAZING WORK NOT ONLY IN HELPING YOU TO DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS AS YOU GROW IN THE PROFESSION, BUT ALSO THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE. TRY TO GET INVOLVED IN A LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN END OF COURT.

I BELIEVE DICK MENTIONED THAT. THEY EXIST IN VARIOUS COMMUNITIES ALL OVER THE STATE. HERE IN TALLAHASSEE WE HAVE A FEW, WE HAVE THE STAFFORD WHICH FOCUSES MORE ON THE CIRCUIT COURT AND LITIGATION, AND WE ALSO HAVE THE FIRST DCA APPELLATE COURT WHICH FOCUSES ON, OBVIOUSLY, APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I JOINED SEVERAL YEARS AGO, AND AT THE TIME I WAS JUST STARTING MY PRACTICE AND DIDN'T REALLY KNOW MANY OF THE JUDGES PERSONALLY, AND THEY DIDN'T KNOW ME.

I HADN'T REALLY APPEARED BEFORE THEM BEFORE.

BUT THE IN OFFERED A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO BUILD GREAT RELATIONSHIPS NOT ONLY WITH THE JUDGES, BUT ALSO THE MORE SENIOR AND EXPERIENCED LAWYERS WHO WERE ENGAGED IN THE SAME PRACTICE AS I WAS. BUILDING THOSE RELATIONSHIPS IS SO VALUABLE FOR YOU AS YOU LEARN YOUR CRAFT AND DEVELOP YOUR PRACTICE. BEING INVOLVED IS JUST IMPORTANT. FROM A BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE, IT'S GREAT BECAUSE IT OFFERS YOU TONS OF NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES. IT ALSO ALLOWS YOU TO HELP SHAPE OUR PROFESSION WHICH IS ALWAYS CHANGING WITH THE TIMES, ESPECIALLY TECHNOLOGY THESE DAYS. AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT GIVES YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER LAWYERS AND JUDGES, MANY OF WHOM CAN SERVE AS WONDERFUL MENTORS TO YOU AS YOU BEGIN YOUR CAREER. I CAN'T EMPHASIZE ENOUGH THE VALUE OF HAVING GOOD MENTORS IN YOUR LIFE. SEEK THEM OUT AND CULTIVATE THOSE RELATIONSHIPS BOTH INTERNALLY AT WHATEVER OFFICE YOU END UP GOING TO OR EXTERNALLY AS WELL. MENTORS CAN LAST A LIFETIME. EVEN WHEN YOU DECIDE TO LEAVE A PARTICULAR JOB, WHICH MANY OF YOU WILL DO SEVERAL TIMES IN YOUR CAREER, OR MOVE ON FROM ONE BAR ORGANIZATION TO JOIN AND GET INVOLVED IN ANOTHER ONE, DON'T FORGET THE MENTORS WITH WHOM YOU HAVE ALREADY DEVELOPED A RELATIONSHIP. ALTHOUGH I FINISHED MY CLERKSHIP EIGHT YEARS AGO, JUSTICE PARIENTE TO THIS DAY REMAINS ONE OF MY MOST VALUED AND TRUSTED MENTORS. THE POINT IS THAT GETTING INVOLVED IN THE STATE AND THE LOCAL BAR ORGANIZATIONS IS ONE

OF THE BEST WAYS TO MEET MENTORS, SO I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE EACH OF YOU TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT.

SECOND, ALWAYS STRIVE TO EXCEED EXPECTATIONS.

PEOPLE SAY IT TAKES A LIFETIME TO BUILD A GOOD REPUTATION AND ONE LOUSY MISTAKE TO MESS IT UP. YOU MAY HEAR THIS A LOT OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, BUT DON'T LET IT FREAK YOU OUT.

IN MY MIND, YOU CAN INSURE THAT YOU BUILD AND MAINTAIN A GOOD REPUTATION BY ALWAYS BEING PREPARED, ALWAYS BEING HONEST IN WHAT YOU SAY OR WRITE IN A PLEADING OR AN E-MAIL AND WHAT YOU SAY TO OTHER PEOPLE IN THE PROFESSION.

AND ALWAYS BE KIND IN ALL OF YOUR INTERACTIONS WITH OTHERS, WHETHER IT BE A JUDGE, A SENIOR LAWYER, A FELLOW LAWYER, A LEGAL ASSISTANT, A PARALEGAL OR THE JANITORIAL STAFF IN YOUR BUILDING.

BE KIND TO EVERYONE.

TREAT OTHERS WITH RESPECT EVEN WHEN YOU KNOW THEY DON'T DESERVE IT.

AND WHEN YOU MAKE A MISTAKE-- WHICH YOU WILL DO, I KNOW THAT I HAVE MADE PLENTY OF DOOZIES IN MY CAREER SO FAR-- OWN IT, SAY YOU'RE SORRY AND LEARN FROM IT. BASICALLY, BE THE KIND OF LAWYER THAT YOUR GRANDMOTHER WOULD BE PROUD OF, AND YOU'LL PROBABLY NEVER GO WRONG.

THIRD, DO GOOD AND GIVE BACK.

IT'S AN ALARMING STATISTIC, BUT SOME 80% OF LOW TO MODERATE INCOME FLORIDIANS GO WITHOUT LEGAL REPRESENTATION THEY NEED BECAUSE THEY CAN'T AFFORD IT.

OVER 90% OF OUR CITIZENS REPRESENT THEMSELVES IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DEBT COLLECTION AND EVICTION DISPUTES.

THE ONLY WAY THEY WILL GET LEGAL REPRESENTATION IS IF LAWYERS LIKE YOU DONATE THEIR TIME.

DOING PRO BONO WORK IS ONE OF

THE THINGS THAT SETS OUR
PROFESSION APART FROM ALL THE
OTHERS.

YOU SHOULD DO IT NOT JUST
BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO REPORT HOW
MANY HOURS YOU'VE DONE ON YOUR
ANNUAL BAR REGISTRATION FORM,
BUT BECAUSE THEY CAN BE SOME OF
THE MOST REWARDING CASES YOU'LL
EVER WORK ON.

IF THAT'S NOT REASON ENOUGH,
THEY'RE A GREAT WAY TO GET
ACTUAL COURTROOM EXPERIENCE YOU
MAY NOT OTHERWISE GET EARLY ON
IN YOUR CAREER.

SO IT'S A TRULY WIN/WIN FOR
EVERYONE.

FOURTH AND FINALLY, DON'T EVER
FORGET WHO YOU ARE.

OUR PROFESSION IS AN IMPORTANT
AND MEANINGFUL ONE, BUT IT ALSO
COMES WITH JUST A LITTLE BIT OF
STRESS FROM TIME TO TIME.

SOME OF THAT STRESS COMES FROM
THE NATURE OF THE WORK, SOME OF
IT COMES FROM LOOMING DEADLINES.
THE MORE SENIOR LAWYERS FOR WHOM
WE WORK, OPPOSING COUNSEL AND
EVEN SOME OF OUR CLIENTS.

MANY LAWYERS ARE PERFECTIONISTS
AND CREATE UNNECESSARY STRESS
FOR THEMSELVES.

I KNOW I AM MY OWN WORST ENEMY
AT TIMES WHEN IT COMES TO
DEALING WITH THE EVERYDAY
STRESSES OF THE PROFESSION.

IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU MAKE
TIME TO BE WITH YOUR FAMILY, TO
BE WITH YOUR LOVED ONES.

TAKE TIME AWAY FROM WORK TO DO
THE THINGS YOU LOVE AND RELAX
YOU.

WORK OUT, SEE A MOVIE, GO TO THE
BEACH FOR A DAY.

AND IF ALL ELSE FAILS, BINGE
WATCH THE LATEST SEASON OF THE
REAL HOUSEWIVES OF NEW YORK
CITY.

THERE IS NOT A BETTER WAY TO
MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD ABOUT YOUR
OWN STRUGGLES THAN WATCHING THAT
SHOW.

[LAUGHTER]

IF YOU HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOR,

DON'T LOSE ONE.
IF YOU DON'T HAVE A SENSE OF
HUMOR, FIND ONE.
LAUGHTER AND JOKES ARE OFTEN THE
BEST REMEDY FOR A STRESSFUL
SITUATION.
YOU SHOULD NEVER FORGET THAT
YOU'RE A HUMAN BEING FIRST AND A
LAWYER SECOND.
IF YOU TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF AND
MAINTAIN A GOOD WORK/LIFE
BALANCE AND TRY NOT TO TAKE
YOURSELF OR THE JOB TOO
SERIOUSLY, YOU'LL BE A HAPPIER
AND HEALTHIER PERSON WHICH WILL
MAKE YOU A BETTER LAWYER.
OUR PROFESSION IS A MOBILE AND
EXCITING ONE, AND I AM SO
THRILLED FOR EACH OF YOU AS YOU
BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY.
AGAIN, ON BEHALF OF ENTIRE YOUNG
LAWYER DIVISION-- OF WHICH YOU
ARE NOW OFFICIALLY A MEMBER-- I
WELCOME YOU TO THE PROFESSION.

[APPLAUSE]

>> EACH YEAR WE SELECT A
CANDIDATE WHO EXCELLED ON THE
FLORIDA BAR EXAM TO MAKE REMARKS
ON BEHALF OF THE NEWLY-ADMITTED
LAWYERS.

WHEN I WAS ADMITTED, I WAS NOT
CHOSEN TO BE THAT PERSON.

[LAUGHTER]

FOR THAT PURPOSE, IT IS MY HONOR
TO CALL UPON JAIME LAPIDUS.
IF I BUTCHERED YOUR NAME, I
APOLOGIZE.

>> JAIME.

CHIEF JUSTICE, MEMBERS OF THE
COURT, INDUCTEES, PROUD MEMBERS
OF THE AUDIENCE, I'D LIKE TO
BEGIN BY THANKING THE CHIEF
JUSTICE AND THE COURT FOR
OFFERING ME THIS GRACIOUS
INVITATION TO SPEAK TODAY.
WHEN I RECEIVED THE PHONE CALL
INVITING ME TO SPEAK, I WAS
TRULY SPEECHLESS, AND FOR THOSE
WHO KNOW ME, THAT'S AN EXTREMELY
RARE THING, FOR ME TO BE
SPEECHLESS.

I ALWAYS KIND OF HAVE SOMETHING
TO SAY.

IN FACT, AT MANY MOMENTS IN MY

LIFE THAT HAVE SHAPED MY LIFE
CAME AS A RESULT OF THAT VERY
PROBLEM AND GIFT.

MY INTENTION TODAY IS NOT TO
GIVE YOU MY LIFE STORY AS WE ALL
HAVE DIFFERENT STORIES, AND
EVERY PERSON IN THEIR LIFE HAS
THEIR OWN STRUGGLE, SACRIFICE
AND SUCCESS.

LIFE IS FULL OF LOVE AND LOSS,
AND WE EACH HAVE OUR OWN PATHS
THAT LIFE HAS TAKEN US ON.
BUT TODAY, RIGHT NOW, WE ALL
HAVE OUR PATHS ALIGNED WITH THIS
SUCCESS AND HONOR OF BEING SWORN
INTO A PROFESSION OF DEEP
IMPORTANCE AND IMPACT.

TODAY WE ARE ALL HERE AS
CONQUERORS OF CHALLENGE.
AND YET ALTHOUGH I CANNOT SPEAK
TO WHAT THE LAW AND THIS
PROFESSION MEANS TO ANY OF
YOU-- AS, UNFORTUNATELY, I HAVE
NOT GOTTEN TO KNOW ANY OF YOU
YET-- I'M HERE TO ISSUE ANOTHER
CHALLENGE TO YOU ALL.

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT THE LAW'S
A MIGHTY MACHINE.

WOE TO THE UNFORTUNATE MAN WHO
BECOMES ENTANGLED IN ITS MIGHTY
WHEELS UNLESS HIS RESCUE PLANNED
AND EXECUTED BY ABLE COUNSEL.

THE MACHINE WILL GRIND ON
RELENTLESSLY IS AND RUTHLESSLY,
AND BLINDFOLDED JUSTICE DOES NOT
SEE THAT THE GRIST IS SOMETIMES
STAINED WITH BLOOD.

THAT WAS SAID IN 1893.

OFTEN BECAUSE OF THE WORK I HAVE
CHOSEN TO DO, DEFENDING THE
INDIGENT, I GET QUESTIONED AS TO
MY MOTIVATIONS FOR
DEFENDING THAT THAT SOME VIEW IN
CERTAIN LIGHTS.

I'VE FOUND THE EASIEST WAY TO
ANSWER THIS QUESTION IS TO
EXPLAIN THAT I VIEW THE PRACTICE
OF LAW AN ENGINE OF DEFENSE IN
TERMS OF PATRIOTISM.

I BELIEVE THAT WE ARE FORTUNATE
TO LIVE IN THE GREATEST NATION
ON EARTH.

THIS GREATNESS, PRESERVED IN THE
VERY DOCUMENTS THAT YOU WILL

SOON TAKE OATHS TO UPHOLD, WAS BORN OUT OF THE PRACTICE OF LAW AND PURSUIT OF JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND PROGRESSION FROM THOSE WHO AND OPPRESSED AND PERSECUTED US. WE LIVE IN A NATION GOVERNED BY LAWS DESIGNED BY THOSE WHO FOUGHT TO HAVE THEIR VOICES HEARD, WHO FOUGHT TO BE FREED FROM INVASION AND FOR THEIR RIGHTS OF PRIVACY AND WHO FOUGHT FOR PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE. PEOPLE LIKE JOHN ADAMS WHO IN THE FACE OF THREAT AGAINST HIMSELF AND HIS FAMILY SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED THE BRITISH MEN ACCUSED OF FIRING INTO AN ANGRY MOB OF BOSTONIANS UNPROVOKED, WHO WOULD FIGHT TO INSURE THAT THESE IDEALS OF JUSTICE WOULD BE THE BACKBONE IN WHICH THIS NATION WOULD GROW AROUND.

TO GIVE VOICES TO THE VOICELESS AND FIGHT AGAINST THOSE WHO SEEK TO JUDGE IN SILENCE, TO PROTECT THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST AGAINST WHAT HAS BECOME A SYSTEM THAT WEIGHS AGAINST THEM AND TO FIGHT EVERY DAY TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS THAT WE AS AMERICANS SHOULD ALL ENJOY.

LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE-- EXCUSE ME, THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS. THIS IS WHERE I FIND MY MOTIVATION TO PRACTICE LAW AND WHERE MY CHALLENGE TO ALL OF YOU COMES FROM, WHICH IS TO APPROACH ALL THAT IS BEFORE YOU NOT WITH JUDGMENTAL EYES, BUT RATHER WITH AN OPEN MIND AND A COMPASSIONATE HEART.

AS WE NOW, AS ATTORNEYS, ARE BEING ENTRUSTED TO UPHOLD AND GUARD THE VIRTUES THAT A MAKE OUR NATION GREAT.

THAT MAKE OUR NATION GREAT. A GREAT NATION THAT, UNFORTUNATELY, STILL FACES TURMOIL OVER RACIAL PREJUDICES, A SYSTEMIC DISADVANTAGE AND A BROKEN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM THAT GOES SO FAR AS TO PENALIZE

THE POOR FOR ASKING FOR FOOD
WHILE FAILING TO ADDRESS THE
QUESTION AS TO WHY SO MANY NEED
TO ASK FOR IT.

IT HAS BEEN SAID BY A GREAT
ATTORNEY THAT THE TRUE MEASURE
OF COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE, THE
CHARACTER OF OUR SOCIETY AND OUR
COMMITMENT TO THE RULE OF LAW,
FAIRNESS AND EQUALITY CANNOT BE
MEASURED BY HOW WE TREAT THE
RICH, THE POWERFUL, THE
PRIVILEGED OR THE RESPECTED
AMONG US.

THE TRUE MEASURE OF OUR
CHARACTER IS HOW WE TREAT THE
POOR, THE DISFAVORED, THE
ACCUSED, THE INCARCERATED AND
THE CONDEMNED.

AS ATTORNEYS, THE CONSTITUTION
LIVES AND BREATHE THROUGH OUR
WORK REGARDLESS IF THAT WORK IS
IN CRIMINAL, CIVIL OR ANY AREA
OF THE LAW.

FIND A TIME TO HELP THOSE THAT
NEED IT MOST AND REPRESENT THE
PROPOSITION FOR WHAT IT IS AND
WHAT IT MEANS TO BE IN A FREE
SOCIETY.

BE FEARLESS AND TRIUMPHANT IN
YOUR PURSUITS AS IS THE GREAT
TRIUMPHANT JOY OF LIVING TO THE
FULLEST EXTENT IN WHICH REAL
MEANING IS FOUND.

ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT A CAPTAIN
NEVER LEARNS TO SAIL ON SMOOTH
WATER AND THAT OUR BEST TEACHERS
ARE OUR OWN PAST MISTAKES.

REACH FOR THE STARS WITH YOUR
FEET ON THE GROUND AND MOST OF
ALL, HAVE FUN.

THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

>> THE COURT WILL NOW RECOGNIZE
DEBORAH MINNIS, MEMBER OF THE
FLORIDA BOARD OF BAR EXAMINERS,
TO PRESENT THE CANDIDATES AND
MOVE FOR THEIR ADMISSION.

>> THANK YOU, CHIEF JUSTICE.
TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE, MEMBERS OF
THE COURT, THE CANDIDATES, THE
AUDIENCE, FAMILY MEMBERS,
FRIENDS AND THE MEMBERS OF THE
VARIOUS BAR ORGANIZATIONS

REPRESENTED HERE TODAY, FIRST, I WANT TO LET YOU KNOW THAT THIS IS, INDEED, A VERY BIG HONOR FOR ME AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF BAR EXAMINERS TO MOVE FOR YOUR ADMISSION TO PRACTICE IN THE COURTS OF FLORIDA AND BECOME MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA BAR.

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT, PURSUANT TO RULES OF THE SUPREME COURT RELATING TO ADMISSIONS TO THE BAR, THE CANDIDATES BEFORE YOU HAVE BEEN RIGOROUSLY EXAMINED BY THE BOARD BOTH AS TO KNOWLEDGE OF THE LAW AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE STANDARDS AND IDEALS OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION.

IN ADDITION, THEIR BACKGROUNDS HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO SEARCH IN CHARACTER AND FITNESS INVESTIGATIONS.

ON BEHALF OF THE FLORIDA BOARD OF BAR EXAMINERS, I CERTIFY THAT THESE CANDIDATES ARE FULLY QUALIFIED AND THAT EACH ENJOYS THE ENTHUSIASTIC RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD FOR ADMISSION TO THE BAR OF FLORIDA.

AS I CALL YOUR NAMES, WILL YOU PLEASE STAND AND REMAIN STANDING.

AMANDA ASTOR.

KEVIN BAKER.

JANELLE BARREIRO.

MALLORY BENNETT.

JACOB BONNELL.

FORREST BOONE.

CHASE BOSWELL.

MARLON BRAMMER.

CHARLES BURDEN JR.

ANDREW BUTLER.

JASON BYRD.

JAMES CARBONELL.

PRYCILLA DE LA TORRE.

BREA DEARING.

NICHOLAS DUVAL.

CHRISTOPHER GUERRERO.

ISAIAH JAMES.

MELANIE CALMANSON.

MORGAN KIRLAND.

MATTHEW KNOLL.

JAIME LAPIDUS.

KRISTIN LARSON.

JAXON LEAR.
KATELYN LEVINE.
KRISTIN LONERGAN.
SHELBY LOVELESS.
FORREST MEYER.
JENNIFER MORAFATES.
PATRICK MURPHY.
MICHAEL NOVAK.
GREGORY PIERSON.
LATEASHA POWELL.
MICHAEL ROSCOE.
ANN ROZYCKI-FIERRO.
EXCUSE ME.
NICOLE SAUNDERS.
TAYLOR SHARPLESS.
STEVEN SPECHT.
MANUEL GRISANTI.
JOHN VAN HISE III.
ELVIRA VILLARREAL.
HANNA WILLIAMS AND SHARON
WYSKIEL.
I MOVE THESE BE ADMITTED TO THE
FLORIDA BAR.
>> THANK YOU, MS. MINNIS.
THE COURT ACCEPTS YOUR MOTION
AND GRANTS IT.
SO NOW THE MOMENT HAS COME FOR
THE FINAL STEP IN YOUR JOURNEY
TO BECOME A LAWYER, THE OATH OF
ADMISSION.
WILL THE CANDIDATES PLEASE RISE?
I SEE ALL OF YOU HAVE DONE THAT
ALREADY, AND RAISE YOUR RIGHT
HAND AND REPEAT AFTER ME.
IT'S A VERY LONG OATH, SO STAY
WITH ME.
I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR I WILL
SUPPORT--
>> I WILL SUPPORT.
>> THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
UNITED STATES--
>> THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
UNITED STATES--
>> AND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
STATE OF FLORIDA.
>> AND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
STATE OF FLORIDA.
>> I WILL MAINTAIN THE
RESPECT--
>> I WILL MAINTAIN THE
RESPECT--
>> DUE TO COURTS OF JUSTICE AND
JUDICIAL OFFICERS--
>> DUE TO COURTS OF JUSTICE AND

JUDICIAL OFFICERS.
>> OKAY.
I GOT AHEAD OF YOU.
START AGAIN.
WILL MAINTAIN THE RESPECT--
>> WILL MAINTAIN THE RESPECT--
>> DUE TO COURTS OF JUSTICE--
>> DUE TO COURTS OF JUSTICE--
>> AND YOU ADDITIONAL OFFICERS.
>> AND JUDICIAL OFFICERS.
>> I WILL NOT COUNSEL OR
MAINTAIN ANY SUIT OR
PROCEEDINGS--
>> ANY SUIT OR PROCEEDINGS--
WHICH SHALL APPEAR TO ME--
>> WHICH SHALL APPEAR TO ME--
>> TO BE UNJUST.
>> TO BE UNJUST.
>> NOR ANY DEFENSE--
>> NOR ANY DEFENSE--
>> EXCEPT SUCH AS I BELIEVE TO
BE HONESTLY DEBATABLE.
>> TO BE HONESTLY DEBATABLE.
>> UNDER THE LAW OF THE LAND.
>> UNDER THE LAW OF THE LAND.
>> I WILL EMPLOY FOR THE PURPOSE
OF MAINTAINING--
>> FOR THE PURPOSE OF
MAINTAINING--
>> THE COSTS AS CONFIDED TO ME
SUCH MEANS ONLY--
>> SUCH MEANS ONLY--
>> AS ARE CONSISTENT WITH TRUTH
AND HONOR.
>> AS ARE CONSISTENT WITH TRUTH
AND HONOR.
>> AND WILL NEVER SEEK--
>> AND WILL NEVER SEEK.
>> TO MISLEAD THE JUDGE OR JURY
BY ANY ARTIFICE OR FALSE
STATEMENT OF FACT OR LAW.
I WILL MAINTAIN THE
CONFIDENCE--
>> I WILL MAINTAIN THE
CONFIDENCE--
>> AND PRESERVE INVIOLEATE--
>> AND PRESERVE INVIOLEATE--
>> THE SECRETS OF MY CLIENT.
AND WILL ACCEPT NO
COMPENSATION--
>> AND WILL ACCEPT NO
COMPENSATION--
>> IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR
BUSINESS OR WITH THEIR KNOWLEDGE

AND APPROVAL.
TO OPPOSING PARTIES AND THEIR
COUNSEL--
>> TO OPPOSING PARTIES AND THEIR
COUNSEL--
>> I'LL PLEDGE FAIRNESS--
>> I'LL PLEDGE FAIRNESS.
>> INTEGRITY--
>> INTEGRITY.
>> AND CIVILITY.
>> AND CIVILITY.
>> NOT ONLY IN COURT--
>> NOT ONLY IN COURT--
>> BUT ALSO IN ALL WRITTEN--
>> BUT ALSO IN ALL WRITTEN--
>> AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS.
>> AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS.
>> I WILL ABSTAIN--
>> I WILL ABSTAIN--
>> FROM ALL OFFENSIVE
PERSONALITY AND ADVANCE NO
FACT--
>> AND ADVANCE NO FACT--
>> PREJUDICIAL TO THE HONOR--
>> PREJUDICIAL TO THE HONOR--
>> OR REPUTATION--
>> OR REPUTATION--
>> OF A PARTY OR WITNESS.
>> OF A PARTY OR WITNESS.
>> UNLESS REQUIRED--
>> UNLESS REQUIRED--
>> BY THE JUSTICE OF THE
CAUSE--
>> BY THE JUSTICE OF THE
CAUSE --
>> WHICH I AM CHARGED.
I WILL NEVER REJECT--
>> I WILL NEVER REJECT--
>> FROM ANY CONSIDERATION.
>> FROM ANY CONSIDERATION.
>> PERSONAL TO MYSELF THE CAUSE
OF THE DEFENSELESS OR OPPRESSED.
OR TO LAY ANYONE'S CAUSE--
>> OR TO LAY ANYONE'S CAUSE
FOR--
>> SO HELP ME GOD.
>> SO HELP ME GOD.
>> LET ME BE THE FIRST TO
CONGRATULATE YOU AS YOU START
YOUR NEW CAREERS.
[APPLAUSE]
>> PLEASE BE SEATED.
MAY EACH ONE OF YOU ALWAYS BE
FAITHFUL TO THE SOLEMN OATH YOU

HAVE JUST TAKEN.

I HAVE A FEW ANNOUNCEMENTS TO MAKE, AND WE ASK THAT THAT THE NEWLY-SWORN ATTORNEYS REMAIN HERE IN THE COURTROOM STANDING IN FRONT OF THE BENCH FOR A GROUP PHOTOGRAPH WITH THE COURT. WE ASK ALL OF THE, ALL OF OUR OTHER GUESTS TO MAKE ROOM FOR THE NEW ATTORNEYS TO GATHER HERE IN FRONT.

IN OTHER WORDS, THEM COME UP HERE FIRST AND GET THE PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN.

AND THE NEW ATTORNEYS, YOU SHOULD SIGN YOUR OATH HERE TODAY IN THE PRESENCE OF ONE OF COURT'S DEPUTY CLERKS IN THE LAWYERS' LOUNGE, IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO, OKAY?

SO THE COURT IS ADJOURNED, AND WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK FOR PHOTOGRAPHS.

>> ALL RISE.

>> AND I CHARGE WHATEVER MATT DAMON CHARGES FOR PHOTOGRAPHS.