Message from the Dean

Possibly you have had occasion to reflect upon what may seem a most marvelous mystery—that somehow or other a social organization exists which affords each of us the opportunity of an honorable place in life doing work of usefulness and even of high distinction for our fellow citizens and ourselves. Barring the effect of catastrophe, you may especially have wondered what makes it work so remarkably well in the absence of any highly visible form of national or world planning or regimentation.

May I suggest to you that one of the important factors in the preservation of this mystery is the hardly visible everyday effect of the exercise of the public profession of the law, of which you are a part, in the administration of justice. Through this activity our social order not only adjusts disputes but establishes goals of behavior to which most of our citizens almost automatically strive. Moreover, it is through this work that these goals can be progressively elevated toward the best that man can conceive.

You, therefore, are entitled to consider yourselves as persons trained and functioning in the direction of keeping established and continuously thrusting toward the optimum possible ordering of the society which I have mentioned. You will now be taking an increasingly active part in this fundamentally educative job by which we are enabled to achieve group and individual purposes and values. There may well be equally high callings, but you should be assured that there is none higher. We wish you the utmost respect and confidence in yourselves and in your dignified assumption of the responsibilities of your profession in a sober and enlightened way.

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