

Remarks to the Entering Class – Orientation – August 30, 2010

Rita Jones, Assistant Dean, Admissions and Financial Aid

Welcome, members of the Boston College Law School Class of 2013. After reading your applications and corresponding with you over the last several months, it is great to finally meet you all. I know many of you have worked with the staff in admissions and financial aid as you prepared for the beginning of classes, and I invite you to stop by our offices to say hello and meet the people who helped you get here. We hope you won't be strangers.

This year, we received nearly 7,000 applications for our entering class. That is approximately 27 candidates for every seat you now occupy. Our admissions committee, comprised of faculty and administrators as well as student readers, is the largest standing committee in the law school. As a member of that committee, I can tell you how fulfilling it is to see you here today after having read yours and thousands of other files.

You are about to begin your legal education with a very talented group of people and I want to take a few moments to tell you a bit about yourselves.

You are residents of 25 states, and the District of Columbia. Some of you were born in China, Canada, South Korea, Dominican Republic, Taiwan, France, India, Brazil, Jamaica, Moldova, Philippines, Switzerland, Entebbe, Germany, Vietnam, Japan, Portugal, Venezuela, Uganda and Belarus.

Massachusetts is the state most represented among students in your class, followed by New York, California, Washington DC, New Jersey, Connecticut, Texas, Florida, and Pennsylvania. You are graduates of 114 different colleges and universities. Ten of you graduated from Cornell, seven from Duke, six from Georgetown and six from Colby, five each from NYU, Tufts, UCLA, and Brown, and four each earned degrees at Dartmouth, Harvard, Oberlin, Penn, Michigan and Bucknell. Thirty-eight of you are Boston College graduates, so you are on your way to becoming Double Eagles, if not Triple Eagles.

The most popular names among you are Matthew, Michael, Daniel, Jennifer and Sarah. Your average age is 24 and you range in age from 21 to 34.

Eighty-five of you speak at least one foreign language including Arabic, Armenian, Cambodian, Chinese, French, German, Gujarati, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Luganda, Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Tagalog, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

Your records of achievement are remarkable. One of you is a Fulbright scholar. Four of you are National Merit scholars. Twelve of you graduated Phi Beta Kappa. Twenty-two of you have advanced degrees. You were student government presidents, and officers in fraternities, campus organizations and service clubs.

You have been legislative fellows, staffers, press secretaries and interns for members of Congress, US Attorneys, the Department of Justice and the Conservation Law Foundation. Some of you have what one of your classmates calls “a passion for political organizing.” You have helped get out the vote in many political campaigns nationwide. You have been paralegals, litigation assistants and interns. You are debaters.

You’ve served in the Peace Corps, Teach for America, the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and AmeriCorps. You are Eagle Scouts. Some of the beneficiaries of your volunteerism are those served by: Habitat for Humanity, Appalachia Volunteers, the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, the Animal Rescue League, Amnesty International, the Alzheimer’s Association and the Sierra Club.

One among you volunteered for ten years at an orphanage in Inchon and also served as a sergeant in the Defense Security Command of the Korean army. Another one of you, while serving in the Peace Corps in West Africa, launched a savings product that currently serves over 2,000 clients previously without bank access. Yet another worked for the Energy Foundation in San Francisco, the largest grant making foundation dedicated to clean energy in the world. One of you was the emergency shelter manager for St. Vincent de

Paul in Cincinnati and another was the Chief of staff for the Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants.

You are parents raising children. You grew up in households that embraced multiple cultures. As one of you said, "I am Chinese, Polish, Russian and Romanian." This student was the volunteer editor for China Labor Watch in NYC. One of you grew up on a potato farm in Northern Maine.

You've served in the US Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. One veteran was a Marine artillery officer serving two combat deployments to Iraq. And another served as a US Navy Lt. before being appointed the Presidential Communications Officer for the White House Communications Agency and she was awarded the Presidential Service Badge for direct support to the President of the United States. One of your classmates was an Army platoon leader earning the Bronze Star with Oakleaf Cluster.

Your professional skills are numerous. You are teachers, CPA's, auditors, venture capital associates, engineers, computer wizards, entrepreneurs, scientists, artists and builders. At least one of you is capable of rebuilding and restoring cars, trucks, heavy machinery and farm equipment for resale.

One of you was the manager of annual giving for the Corcoran Gallery of Art and another worked as a budget analyst in the State of Illinois Governor's Office of Management and Budget working with the Illinois State Board of Education. Also in your 1L class is a Certified Fraud Examiner and Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist who successfully managed the close-out of \$400 billion in market exposure resulting from the Lehman Brothers' bankruptcy. One of you was an Environmental Crime Program intern with INTERPOL in France producing a law enforcement Smuggling Concealment Guide to fight illegal wildlife trade.

You are athletes, participating in over 45 sports, the most popular being Running, hiking, tennis, volleyball, ultimate Frisbee (one of you is a ten-year veteran), softball, volleyball, soccer and rowing. And, in our midst today is the past President of the Big Red Bears, the Cornell University mascots, who

also happens to be in training for an Olympic distance triathlon. Among our cyclists is a student who cycled cross-country from Boston to Santa Barbara helping raise 90K for affordable housing.

You are competitive marathon runners, scuba divers, and equestrians. You have been athletic team captains, championship winners, instructors, and scholar-athlete award winners. One of you earned the Bob Allen award for America's top female hockey player and was on the Bronze medal winning hockey team at the 2006 Olympic Games, not to be confused with another new 1L who was the starting goaltender for the USC women's ice hockey team.

You are talented in other ways. You are dancers, actors and musicians. You play violin and classical and jazz piano. You play the guitar, alto and tenor saxophone, viola, sitar, tuba, banjo, flute, trumpet, drums and bagpipes. In our midst today is a professional actor whose resume includes parts in CSI: NY, Grey's Anatomy, Gilmore Girls and Veronica Mars. Another of you produced numerous feature length and short films including "Tricks of a Woman" which was selected for best picture at the Monaco Film Festival in 2008.

You are performers; with University chorales and orchestras, chamber ensembles, marching bands, symphonies and a cappella groups. One of you was the trumpet section leader of the USC Trojan Marching Band.

This is not a complete list of all the interesting and noteworthy aspects of this year's entering class and I will leave it to you all to get to know those whose talents I've mentioned. Suffice it to say, you are doers and thinkers and in three years, I trust you will all add lawyer to your lists of accomplishments.