

>> ALL RISE.
HEAR YE, HEAR YE, HEAR YE.
SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA IS NOW
IN CEREMONIAL SESSION.
ALL WHO HAVE CAUSE TO PLEAD,
DRAW NEAR.
YOU SHALL BE HEARD.
GOD SAVE THESE UNITED STATES,
GREAT STATE OF FLORIDA AND THIS
HONORABLE COURT.
>> LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, SUPREME
COURT OF FLORIDA.
PLEASE BE SEATED.
>> GOOD AFTERNOON, AND WELCOME
TO THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT.
ON BEHALF -- ON BEHALF OF THE
FLORIDA SUPREME COURT, IT IS MY
HONOR TO WELCOME YOU TO THIS
INDUCTION CEREMONY FOR NEW
MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA BAR.
THIS CEREMONY IS A TIME OF
CELEBRATION FOR EACH OF YOU
INDUCTEES, YOUR FAMILIES, YOUR
FRIENDS AND EVERYONE WHO HELPED
YOU OVERCOME CHALLENGES ALONG
THE WAY TO THIS PROUD OCCASION
AND WHO HELPED YOU PAY YOUR
TUITION.
I AM PROUD TO BE A LAWYER
BECAUSE THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY
OF THIS GREAT NATION IT HAS BEEN
THE AMERICAN LAWYER -- WHEN I
SAY "THE AMERICAN LAWYER," I
MEAN THE LAWYERS OF THE UNITED
STATES -- WHO HAVE BEEN THERE
EVERY STEP ALONG THE WAY OF THE
DEVELOPMENT OF OUR GREAT
DEMOCRACY.
FOR STARTERS, 25 SIGNERS OF THE
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WERE
LAWYERS.
23 SIGNERS OF THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE UNITED STATES WERE
LAWYERS.
LAWYERS HAD THEIR HANDS IN THE
LANDMARK DIVISION OF MARBURY
VERSUS MADISON.
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 LAWYERS WHO PRESENTED THE CASE OF BROWN VERSUS BOARD OF EDUCATION TO THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT AND LAWYERS WHO COURAGEOUSLY LITIGATED CASE AFTER CASE TO MAKE SURE THE COURT'S RULINGS WERE PROPERLY ENFORCED.

LET'S NOT FORGET THE LAWYERS, JUDGES, WHO AT GREAT RISK TO THEIR LIVES, ISSUED THEIR HISTORIC RULINGS ENFORCING THE BROWN DECISION BACK IN THOSE DAYS.

THE EXAMPLES GO ON AND ON ABOUT WHAT LAWYERS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO OUR DEMOCRACY.

SO AS YOU CAN SEE, WE, THE AMERICAN LAWYER, HAVE PARTICIPATED IN A CRUCIAL WAY IN THE ESTABLISHMENT AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS GREATEST OF ALL DEMOCRACIES SINCE ITS INCEPTION.

THIS IS WHY I AM PROUD TO BE A LAWYER, AND THIS IS WHY IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU FEEL PROUD ABOUT BEING A LAWYER.

WHAT YOU DO AS A LAWYER IS IMPORTANT, NOT JUST TO YOUR CLIENT'S INTERESTS, BUT ALSO TO THE PRESERVATION AND ADVANCEMENT OF OUR CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM.

EACH TIME YOU WALK INTO A COURTROOM WITH A CASE, YOU'RE NOT JUST REPRESENTING YOUR CLIENT.

YOU ARE REAFFIRMING OUR PRECIOUS RIGHT TO DUE PROCESS, AND WHAT YOU DO IS VERY IMPORTANT.

AND IF YOU HAPPEN TO MAKE A LITTLE MONEY ALONG THE WAY, THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT, EITHER.

THE TORCH IS NOW BEING PASSED ON TO YOU, REGARDLESS OF YOUR

POLITICAL BELIEFS, RELIGIOUS BELIEFS OR ECONOMIC BACKGROUND, TO CONTINUE TO SAFEGUARD THE CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLES THAT HAVE MADE OUR DEMOCRACY PROBABLE.

I WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO OUR BELOVED PROFESSION, AND IT IS AT THIS TIME MY HONOR TO CALL UPON WILLIAM H. DAVIS, BOARD MEMBER OF THE FLORIDA BAR, TO MAKE A FEW REMARKS.

>> THANK YOU, MR. CHIEF JUSTICE. HONORABLE CHIEF JUSTICE, MEMBERS OF THE COURT, INDUCTEES TO THE FLORIDA BAR AND YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS, I FIRST OF ALL WANT TO THANK THE COURT FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HERE AND I WANT TO WELCOME YOU ALL AS MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA BAR.

I WANT TO TAKE A COUPLE OF MINUTES TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT THE FLORIDA BAR, WHAT THAT IS, WHAT YOUR ROLE IS AND TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT BEING A HAPPY LAWYER, ABOUT BEING A SUCCESSFUL LAWYER, BECAUSE WE WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE WE'RE TRUSTING YOU TO SAVE, PRESERVE, ADVANCE OUR DEMOCRACY.

YOU WENT TO A PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL, AND YOU HAVE A JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE.

I REMEMBER LAW SCHOOL THE FIRST YEAR.

I THOUGHT IT WAS INTELLECTUAL BOOT CAMP.

THEY WERE TRYING TO BREAK US DOWN AND MAKE US THINK LIKE LAWYERS.

WE WERE TAUGHT TO PENETRATE THE LABELS OF THINGS TO SEE WHAT THEY ACTUALLY MEANT, WHAT THEY ACTUALLY WERE.

WE SOON LEARNED THAT THE LAW WAS A SEAMLESS WEB, THAT ALL THE PRACTICE AREAS WERE INTERRELATED.

WE LEARNED THAT ONE THING OVER

HERE AFFECTED SOMETHING OVER THERE.

WE LEARNED THAT A CONSTRUCTIVE TRUST IDEA WOULD BE APPLICABLE IN CRIMINAL LAW.

WE HAD A DIVERSE COURSE -- A LOT OF COURSES, A LOT OF DIFFERENT COURSES.

BY THE THIRD YEAR -- THAT WAS THE SECOND YEAR THAT FIT TOGETHER.

BY THE THIRD YEAR, WE WERE READY TO LOOK IT UP.

WE KNEW WHERE IT WAS.

I WAS A LAW CLERK AT THE TIME FOR A LAWYER, AND I LEARNED A LITTLE EARLY THAT WE COULD USE THE LAW TO ADVANCE THE INTEREST OF OUR CLIENTS.

BUT I WASN'T A LAWYER YET.

YOU'RE NOT A LAWYER YET.

YOU'RE A JURIS DOCTOR.

THAT'S WONDERFUL BECAUSE YOU'VE LEARNED THOSE SKILLS.

BUT NOW, TODAY, THROUGH THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT HAVING DETERMINED THAT YOU HAVE THE CHARACTER AND FITNESS AND YOU HAVE THE TRAINING, YOU ARE GOING TO BE INVESTED WITH THE PERMANENT -- UNLESS YOU LOSE IT BY SOME FAULT OF YOURS OR SOME ILLNESS OR SOMETHING, YOU WILL PERMANENTLY BE AN OFFICER OF THE COURT AND A LAWYER, JUST LIKE THOMAS JEFFERSON OR REUBIN ASKEW OR THE OTHER GREAT LEADERS CIVICALLY.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW WHAT A PROFESSIONAL WAS IN SCHOOL.

I DID SOME RESEARCH ABOUT IT.

A PROFESSION LIKE MEDICINE, TEACHING, LAW IS A JOB OR A CAREER OR A TASK WHERE YOU SERVE SOMETHING OTHER THAN YOUR OWN SELF-INTEREST.

AS JUSTICE LABARGA SAID, YOU NEED TO MAKE A LIVING IN ORDER TO SERVE, RIGHT?

BUT YOU SERVE SOMETHING OTHER
THAN YOUR OWN SELF-INTEREST.
IT MIGHT BE THE CLIENT.
CLIENT'S ALWAYS INVOLVED.
OR ALL THE TIME IT'S THE SYSTEM
OF JUSTICE IN THIS COUNTRY,
WHICH IS BASED ON INTELLECTUAL
HONESTY AND TRANSPARENCY IN THE
REASONS FOR WHAT WE DO, ROOTED
IN WORDS AND THOUGHTS AND
CONCEPTS OF JUSTICE.
AND AS LAWYERS, YOU ARE
AMBASSADORS FOR THAT IDEA.
AND IT'S US WHO UNDERSTAND IT AS
LAWYERS BETTER THAN, ON AVERAGE,
ANYBODY ELSE.
IT'S THE LAWYERS THAT ARE GOING
TO DEFEND THE COURTS FROM ANY
ATTACK OR ANY MANEUVER THAT
WOULD TEND TO MAKE THEM LESS
INDEPENDENT AND LESS ABLE TO
RELY PURELY ON INTELLECTUAL
HONESTY IN FURTHERING OUR
DEMOCRACY AND KEEPING US AFLOAT
AND A FREE COUNTRY.
THESE ARE CHALLENGING TIMES FOR
LAWYERS.
THERE ARE A LOT MORE LAWYERS
NOW.
THE MIDDLE CLASS DOESN'T HAVE
THE SPENDING POWER THAT IT USED
TO HAVE.
AND SO THERE'S ECONOMIC
PRESSURE.
THERE ARE NATIONAL ENTITIES THAT
WANT TO MAKE LAW A BUSINESS,
WHERE YOU EVEN COULD WORK FOR A
LAW FIRM THAT'S NOT EVEN OWNED
BY LAWYERS, BY SHAREHOLDERS OR
SOMETHING.
AND THERE'S THESE ENTITIES AND
THESE FORCES ARE THERE.
AND SOME PEOPLE SAY IT'S JUST
THE FAST, DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGY.
WE HAVE TO ADAPT.
BUT YOU AND I KNOW THAT IN ORDER
TO BE HAPPY AND TO BE
SUCCESSFUL, THAT WE NEED TO
HAVE, FIRST AND FOREMOST, OUR
INTEGRITY.

AND IF YOU GO TO GOOGLE AND YOU
GOOGLE WHAT MAKES LAWYERS HAPPY
-- I SUGGEST YOU DO THAT, AND
YOU'LL FIND THAT THE NUMBER ONE
CORRELATION BETWEEN PROFESSIONAL
SATISFACTION OR PERSONAL
HAPPINESS AND THE ELEMENTS OF
THE PRACTICE OF LAW, THE THING
THAT CORRELATES THE MOST, NUMBER
ONE IS A SENSE OF INTEGRITY.
NOT THE DEFINITION OF INTEGRITY
OF MEANING HONESTY, BUT THE
DEFINITION OF INTEGRITY MEANING
THAT YOU'RE INDEPENDENTLY MAKING
YOUR OWN CHOICES WITH RESPECT TO
WHAT IS THE BEST THING TO DO,
THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE LAWYER.
AND YOU'LL SEE THAT THE LAWYERS
THAT ARE THE MOST HAPPY
STATISTICALLY ARE DOING SERVICE
WITH A SENSE OF INTEGRITY.
SO I WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY, AND I
SUGGEST THAT YOU THROUGHOUT YOUR
PROFESSIONAL LIFE EXPLORE THOSE
ISSUES, GO ON A HIKE, READ
POETRY, LISTEN TO MUSIC, BE A
DIVERSE PERSON, QUESTION THINGS.
NOW, I WANT TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE
BIT OF VERY PRACTICAL ADVICE
THAT YOU CAN USE TOMORROW AND
USE EVERY DAY FOR YOUR PRACTICE,
YOUR PROFESSION.
ASK FOR HELP FROM YOUR FELLOW
LAWYERS.
THE OLDER LAWYERS, THE MORE
EXPERIENCED LAWYERS, YOUR PEERS,
YOUR COLLEAGUES, YOUR
CLASSMATES, THEY WANT TO HELP
YOU AND YOU WANT TO HELP THEM.
ASK FOR HELP.
TRY TO LOOK IT UP.
IF YOU CAN'T FIND IT, THE YOUNG
LAWYERS DIVISION OF THE FLORIDA
BAR HAVE LOTS OF METHODS AND
GORDON IS GOING TO TELL YOU
ABOUT THOSE THAT ARE
INSTITUTIONALIZED, BUT JUST GO
FIND SOME OLDER LAWYER AND ASK
THEM.
I DO THAT STILL MYSELF.

GET SOME ADVICE.
AND I URGE YOU TO GET INVOLVED
IN YOUR COMMUNITY.
GET TO KNOW THROUGH YOUR CIVIC
ORGANIZATIONS, YOUR SCHOOLS,
YOUR CHURCHES OR WHATEVER, THE
SOCCER TEAM.
YOU'LL KNOW MORE PEOPLE.
THEY'LL KNOW YOU AS A LAWYER.
HELP THEM AND THEY CAN HELP YOU.
BUT ALSO GET INVOLVED IN YOUR
LOCAL BAR.
IT MIGHT FEEL AWKWARD AT FIRST.
YOU WON'T KNOW THEM AND THEY
WON'T KNOW YOU.
VOLUNTEER.
YOU'LL GET TO KNOW LAWYERS.
THAT WAS THE MOST MEANINGFUL
THING FOR ME IN MY PRACTICE, WAS
SERVING THE LOCAL BAR, DOING THE
GRUNT WORK, GETTING ON THE LEGAL
AID, WORKING LEGAL AID, DOING
SOME SERVICE THERE, GET TO KNOW
THE OTHER LAWYERS THAT ARE DOING
IT.
AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, YOU
MIGHT BE REPRESENTING THEM OR
THEIR CHILDREN IN A COMMERCIAL
OR CIVIL OR WHATEVER KIND OF
MATTER.
SO I URGE YOU TO DO THAT.
GET INVOLVED, ASK FOR HELP AND
HAVE FUN AND GOOD LUCK TO YOU.
CONGRATULATIONS AGAIN.
>> THANK YOU.
[APPLAUSE]
>> YOU KNOW, MY YOUNGEST
DAUGHTER IS ABOUT HALFWAY
THROUGH HER FIRST SEMESTER IN
LAW SCHOOL, AND SHE TOLD ME THAT
SHE'S FINALLY BEGINNING TO LEARN
HOW TO THINK LIKE A LAWYER.
AND SHE SAID I WISH I KNEW THEN
WHAT I KNOW NOW.
YOU WOULD HAVE MADE A LOT MORE
SENSE TO ME WHEN I WAS A
TEENAGER.
[LAUGHTER]
>> AT THIS TIME IT'S MY HONOR TO
CALL UPON GORDON -- I'M SORRY,

SUNITA SMITH, THE PRESIDENT OF
THE TALLAHASSEE BAR ASSOCIATION,
TO MAKE A FEW REMARKS.

THANK YOU.

>> MAY IT PLEASE THIS HONORABLE
COURT, SOON-TO-BE NEW MEMBERS OF
THE FLORIDA BAR AND RESPECTED
GUESTS, AS I PREPARED MY REMARKS
LAST NIGHT, I FONDLY REMEMBERED
SITTING WHERE YOU WERE TEN YEARS
AGO.

MY HUSBAND AND I HAD MOVED HERE
FROM THE BAY AREA OF CALIFORNIA.
IF YOU MUST KNOW WHY, I'LL TELL
YOU LATER.

BUT IT WAS WORTH IT AND WE'RE
STILL HERE.

WHAT A SPECIAL DAY IT WAS, AND
I'M SO EXCITED FOR ALL OF YOU.
I HOPE TO IMPART THREE THINGS TO
YOU TODAY.

NUMBER ONE, EMBRACE THE HONOR OF
BEING A LAWYER.

WE ENJOY RIGHTS IN THIS COUNTRY
THAT BILLIONS THROUGHOUT THE
WORLD DO NOT ENJOY.

WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE FREE OF
CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT,
INCLUDING TORTURE.

THE ACCUSED IN ALL CRIMINAL
PROCEEDINGS ARE ASSURED THE
RIGHT TO A SPEEDY TRIAL, A
PUBLIC TRIAL BY AN IMPARTIAL
JURY, THE RIGHT TO CONFRONT
WITNESSES AND THE RIGHT TO
COUNSEL.

ALTHOUGH OUR COUNTRY IS
PRESENTLY FACING SOME VERY TOUGH
TIMES, THERE IS MUCH FOR WHICH
TO BE GRATEFUL.

WE ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL
PROVEN GUILTY.

WE CAN SPEAK OUR OPINIONS
FREELY.

REFLECT ON THAT RIGHT FOR A
MOMENT.

CITIZENS OF OTHER COUNTRIES ARE
OFTEN NOT PROVIDED THIS
LATITUDE.

RECOGNIZE THAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO

BE INCLUDED INTO A NOBLE
PROFESSION IN ONE OF THE
GREATEST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD.
NUMBER TWO, GIVE BACK WHEN YOU
CAN.

PART OF THE OATH YOU WILL LATER
TAKE IS I WILL NEVER REJECT FROM
ANY CONSIDERATION PERSONAL TO
MYSELF THE CAUSE OF THE
DEFENSELESS OR OPPRESSED OR
DELAY ANYONE'S CAUSE FOR LUCRE
OR MALICE.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

IT MEANS THAT WE MUST STEP IN TO
HELP THOSE WHO CANNOT HELP
THEMSELVES.

IT IS OFTEN CHALLENGING AND
ALWAYS REWARDING TO TAKE PRO
BONO CASES.

I URGE YOU TO EXCEED THE GOALS
SET BY THE FLORIDA BAR, AS THERE
IS A VALID ISSUE OF EQUAL ACCESS
TO JUSTICE IN THIS COUNTRY.

WE HAVE NOT JUST THE
IMPOVERISHED, BUT THE WORKING
POOR, WHO CANNOT AFFORD THEIR
OWN LEGAL REPRESENTATION.

WE HAVE A DUTY TO ASSIST PEOPLE
THROUGH PRO BONO RIGHTS AND
ASSERT RIGHTS FOR CITIZENS WHO
NEED OUR PROTECTION.

IF YOU CAN'T GIVE PRO BONO HOURS
AT YOUR NEW JOB TO A MINIMUM
BILLABLE REQUIREMENT OR BECAUSE
YOU'RE A GOVERNMENT WORKER OR IF
YOU FEEL IT WOULD BE MALPRACTICE
CASE, YOU CAN FIND OTHER WAYS TO
GIVE BACK.

REACH BACK TO ASSIST LAW
STUDENTS.

ATTEND VOLUNTARY BAR EVENTS.
SIT ON PANELS.

FIND WHATEVER WAY YOU CAN TO
SHARE YOUR WISDOM, TIME AND YOUR
MENTORSHIP.

AND THE THIRD POINT IS DON'T
WRESTLE WITH PIGS.

I READ YESTERDAY AN ARTICLE BY
GINA CHOW ENTITLED "WHY YOU
SHOULDN'T WRESTLE WITH PIGS."

I LEARNED LONG AGO NEVER TO
WRESTLE WITH A PIG.
YOU GET DIRTY AND, BESIDES, THE
PIG LIKES IT.
I FOUND THE ARTICLE RELATABLE ON
SEVERAL LEVELS, BUT I'D LIKE TO
QUOTE THE EXCERPT TO WHICH I CAN
UNFORTUNATELY RELATE THE MOST.
I'VE SEEN SOME DESPICABLE
BEHAVIORS IN MY 12 YEARS OF
PRACTICE, INCLUDING BEING ASKED
TO FETCH COFFEE, BEING MISTAKEN
AS A SECRETARY, BEING CALLED
SWEETHEART, YET THESE ARE THE
MOMENTS WHERE I HAVE A CHOICE.
I CAN CHOOSE TO ENTER INTO THE
MUD PIT AND WRESTLE WITH THE
PIG, OR I CAN COLLECT MYSELF AND
FIND CLARITY.
I'M SHARING THIS WITH YOU SO
THAT YOU REALIZE THE LEGAL
PROFESSION ISN'T ALWAYS AS NOBLE
AND GLAMOROUS AS IT SEEMS ON TV.
YOU'LL DEAL WITH DIFFICULT
PEOPLE.
SOMETIMES THEY'RE GOING TO BE IN
YOUR OWN LAW FIRM, SOMETIMES
ACROSS FROM YOU AND SOMETIMES
BOTH.
PLEASE JUST HOLD FAST TO YOUR
MORALS AND SPEAK UP IF YOU SEE
SOMETHING WRONG.
I CAN SHARE WITH YOU A PERSONAL
EXAMPLE.
I USED TO PRACTICE INSURANCE
DEFENSE LITIGATION AND IN 2008
OR SO I WAS WORKING ON A \$25
MILLION TRADE SECRET CASE, OF
COURSE, WITH A SUPERVISING
PARTNER AND A VERY EXPERIENCED
COLLEAGUE.
OUR CLIENT WAS AN EXCESS INSURER
DEFENDANT AND POTENTIALLY ON THE
HOOK FOR \$10 MILLION.
I WAS COVERING A DEPOSITION IN
MIAMI, WHERE THE DEPONENT'S
TESTIMONY WAS IMPORTANT TO BOTH
THE PRIMARY INSURER DEFENDANT,
SO THAT'S THE FIRST \$15 MILLION
OF COVERAGE, AND TO OUR CLIENT,

THE NEXT \$10 MILLION.
THE LAWYER DEFENDING THE
DEPOSITION WAS A VETERAN LAWYER
AND SHAREHOLDER AT A VERY
WELL-KNOWN INTERNATIONAL LAW
FIRM THAT WE'LL JUST CALL BIG
LAW.

DURING THE LUNCH BREAK, BIG LAW
PARTNER, THE WITNESS AND I
JOINTLY MET.

OBVIOUSLY OUR CASES WERE ALIGNED
AND I HAD AN INTEREST IN KNOWING
WHAT HIS AFTERNOON TESTIMONY
WOULD BE.

AFTER THE BREAK AND BACK ON THE
RECORD, PLAINTIFF'S COUNSEL'S
FIRST QUESTION WAS DID YOU MEET
WITH SUNITA SMITH?

THE WITNESS RESPONDED NO.
BIG LAW PARTNER INCREDULOUSLY
LET THIS LIE STAND AS THE
WITNESS'S ANSWER, WHILE I WAS
SILENTLY DYING OF SHOCK AND
DISBELIEF.

HE WAS EXPERIENCED ENOUGH TO
KNOW BETTER, AND I WAS THE ONLY
ASSOCIATE IN THE ROOM WITH FIVE
LAWYERS.

SO WHAT SHOULD HE HAVE DONE?
HE SHOULD HAVE ALLOWED THE
DEPONENT TO ANSWER TRUTHFULLY
THAT WE DID MEET JOINTLY.

PLAINTIFF'S COUNSEL COULD THEN
ASK CERTAIN QUESTIONS, SUCH AS
HOW LONG DID YOU MEET?

BUT ONCE THE PLAINTIFF'S COUNSEL
HAD ASKED WHAT WE DISCUSSED, BIG
LAW PARTNER COULD HAVE SIMPLY
INSTRUCTED THE WITNESS NOT TO
ANSWER AND ASSERTED THE JOINT
DEFENSE PRIVILEGE.

WHAT I DID TO RECTIFY THIS WAS
TO REPORT IT TO MY SUPERVISING
PARTNER WHEN I GOT BACK TO
TALLAHASSEE.

I INSISTED THAT THE WITNESS
CORRECT HIS ANSWER ON THE ERRATA
SHEET AFTER THE TRANSCRIPT
ARRIVED.

OVER WHAT I IMAGINED MUST HAVE

BEEN A STRUGGLE BETWEEN MY SUPERVISING PARTNER AND BIG LAW PARTNER, THE WITNESS DID CORRECT HIS ANSWER.

IT WAS CERTAINLY RISKY AND A HIGH DOLLAR CASE, BECAUSE WITNESS CREDIBILITY IS EVERYTHING.

IF SOMEBODY LIES ABOUT SOMETHING SO INCONSEQUENTIAL, WHAT ELSE COULD HE BE LYING ABOUT?

NEVERTHELESS, I STOOD MY GROUND. I HOPE IF YOU EVER ENCOUNTER ANYTHING OF THAT NATURE, THAT YOU WILL TOO.

I WOULD LOVE TO TELL YOU THAT THAT WAS MY OWN EXPERIENCE WITH UNETHICAL LAWYERS, BUT IT WASN'T.

I DIDN'T WANT TO SCARE YOU OR MAR A DAY OF CELEBRATION.

I WILL SAY THAT I WAS CRESTFALLEN TO FIND OUT THAT SUCH GAMESMANSHIP EXISTS AND IT REMAINS THE MOST SURPRISING THING I'VE DISCOVERED AS A LAWYER.

PLEASE DO WHAT YOU KNOW IS RIGHT.

WE ARE DUTY-BOUND TO FOLLOW THE RULES REGULATING THE FLORIDA BAR.

YOU WILL TAKE AN OATH THAT SO MANY OF US TAKE SERIOUSLY.

YOU MAY IN THE FUTURE ENCOUNTER A CLIENT WHO LIES OR A CLIENT WHO WISHES YOU TO TAKE AN UNTENABLE POSITION IN COURT. RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO DO THAT.

I WILL NOT DO THAT, AND I SLEEP VERY WELL AT NIGHT.

OUR CANDOR TO THE COURT IS A DUTY WITH HIGHER SIGNIFICANCE THAN OUR DUTY TO OUR CLIENTS BECAUSE IT ASSURES THE EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

WE ARE HELD TO THIS HIGH STANDARD SO THAT NEITHER LAY PEOPLE NOR LAWYERS CAN MAKE A

MOCKERY OF OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM.
PERFORM DUE DILIGENCE.
IN CONCLUSION, EMBRACE THE
HONOR, GIVE BACK AND FOR GOD'S
SAKE PLEASE DON'T WRESTLE WITH
PIGS.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU,
AND WELCOME.

[APPLAUSE]

>> OKAY.

I WON'T WRESTLE ANY PIGS.
AT THIS TIME IT IS MY HONOR TO
CALL UPON GORDON J. GLOVER,
PRESIDENT OF THE YOUNG LAWYERS
DIVISION.

>> THANK YOU, CHIEF JUSTICE,
JUSTICES, NEW ADMITTEES.
ON BEHALF OF THE FLORIDA BAR
YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION AND THE
26,000 PLUS YOUNG LAWYERS IN
FLORIDA, I WOULD LIKE TO
CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR
WONDERFUL ACCOMPLISHMENT AND
WELCOME YOU AS THE NEWEST
MEMBERS SHORTLY TO THE FLORIDA
BAR.

AS BOB DYLAN SO ELOQUENTLY SAYS,
THE TIMES, THEY ARE A CHANGIN'.
WHEN I WAS BORN IN 1979, THERE
WERE APPROXIMATELY 26,000
LAWYERS IN FLORIDA.

WHEN MOST LAWYERS GRADUATED LAW
SCHOOL IN 1979, THEY HAD A JOB,
NO OR LITTLE STUDENT DEBT AND A
MENTOR TO SHOW THEM THE ROPES.
LAWYERS IN 1979 COMMUNICATED BY
USING A LAND LINE OR WRITING A
LETTER.

AND THE LAWYERS' COMPETITION WAS
A LAW FIRM DOWN THE STREET.
BY STARK CONTRAST, TODAY THERE
ARE OVER 100,000 LAWYERS IN
FLORIDA.

MOST NEW LAW GRADUATES HAVE
SUBSTANTIAL STUDENT LOAN DEBT.
A LAWYER'S LIFE REVOLVES AROUND
THE iPad AND CELL PHONE AND
SOCIALIZE USING TWITTER,
INSTAGRAM AND FACEBOOK.
TODAY LAWYERS NOT ONLY COMPETE

WITH EACH OTHER, BUT WITH THE ONLINE LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDERS AND THE PLETHORA OF FREE LEGAL ADVICE AND FORMS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET.

YET, DESPITE THESE DRASTIC CHANGES, ONE ISSUE REMAINS CONSTANT.

THE LACK OF ACCESS TO LEGAL SERVICES.

WOULD IT SURPRISE YOU TO LEARN THAT THE WORLD JUSTICE PROJECT RANKS THE UNITED STATES 65TH OUT OF 99 COUNTRIES IN ACCESSIBILITY AND AFFORDABILITY OF JUSTICE?

OR THAT 80% OF LOW TO MODERATE-INCOME INDIVIDUALS GO WITHOUT THE LEGAL REPRESENTATION THEY NEED?

AND MORE THAN 90% OF FLORIDIANS REPRESENT THEMSELVES IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, EVICTION CASES.

IT MIGHT SURPRISE YOU EVEN MORE TO LEARN THAT THE ESTIMATED VALUE OF THE UNSERVED LEGAL MARKET IN THE UNITED STATES IS \$45 BILLION.

THAT'S BILLION, WITH A B. SO WHILE SOME MAY SEE THE JUSTICE GAP AS DAUNTING, I SEE OPPORTUNITY, ESPECIALLY FOR YOU YOUNG LAWYERS.

I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT YOU CAN HELP THE UNSERVED AND RUN A PROFITABLE LAW PRACTICE.

BUT YOU HAVE TO LOOK AT THINGS DIFFERENTLY.

MY CHALLENGE TO YOU TODAY IS TO LOOK AT ALL TYPES OF BUSINESS MODELS AND FEE STRUCTURES, LOOK INTO OPERATING A VIRTUAL LAW FIRM.

UTILIZE TECHNOLOGY TO BE EFFICIENT AND KEEP YOUR OVERHEAD COSTS LOW.

AND GO TO WHERE THE CONSUMERS OR YOUR POTENTIAL CLIENTS ARE, THE INTERNET.

LET'S HELP TURN THE FOCUS FROM THE 20% OF POTENTIAL CLIENTS WHO

CAN PAY HIGH HOURLY RATES TO THE 80% WHO REMAIN UNSERVED.

AGAIN, A MARKET THAT IS ESTIMATED TO BE VALUED AT OVER \$45 BILLION.

HOWEVER, WE ALSO HAVE A DUTY TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO AFFORD AN ATTORNEY.

WHEN YOU TAKE THE OATH OF ADMISSION TO THE FLORIDA BAR SHORTLY, YOU'LL AFFIRM THAT YOU WILL NEVER REJECT FROM ANY CONSIDERATION PERSONAL TO YOURSELF THE CAUSE OF A DEFENSELESS OR OPPRESSED.

THIS COURT HAS OBSERVED IN THE PAST THAT THE BAR HAS A RESPONSIBILITY DIFFERENT FROM THE PUBLIC -- I'M SORRY, A RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PUBLIC THAT IS UNIQUE AND DIFFERENT FROM MEMBERS OF OTHER PROFESSIONS.

SO IN ADDITION TO VENTURING INTO THE \$45 BILLION UNTAPPED LEGAL MARKET, I ENCOURAGE YOU TO GO TO YOUR LOCAL LEGAL AID OFFICE AND SIGN UP FOR YOUR FIRST PRO BONO CASE.

AND IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT LATER THIS MONTH THE YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION WILL BE LAUNCHING ITS GUARDIAN ADVOCACY PROJECT, WHICH WILL ASSIST FAMILIES WITH DISABLED CHILDREN. THE TRAINING WILL TAKE ONLY TWO HOURS AND CAN BE DONE ON LINE. THE TOTAL TIME COMMITMENT FOR YOUR FIRST CASE WILL BE LESS THAN TEN HOURS.

IT'S EASY TO DO AND I CAN ASSURE YOU IT WILL BE AN EXPERIENCE YOU WILL NEVER FORGET.

FELLOW YOUNG LAWYERS, OUR BAR IS TRULY ONE LIKE NO OTHER.

WE HAVE LAWYERS FROM PENSACOLA TO KEY WEST, A DISTANCE THAT SPANS OVER 800 MILES.

WE HAVE DIFFERENT ETHNICITIES, RACES AND CULTURES.

WE COME FROM DIFFERENT
BACKGROUNDS, EXPERIENCES AND
PERSPECTIVES.

YET I BELIEVE WE ALL SHARE A
COMMON LINK, A LINK -- AND THAT
LINK IS A DESIRE TO HELP OTHERS.
LET'S BE PROACTIVE AND
INNOVATIVE AS WE TRY TO HELP
THOSE THAT HAVE UNMET LEGAL
NEEDS.

LET'S EMBRACE TECHNOLOGY AND
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE
OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE NOW
BEFORE US.

WE CAN AND WE SHOULD PROVIDE
ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL.
AGAIN, ON BEHALF OF THE YOUNG
LAWYERS DIVISION, WHICH YOU WILL
SOON OFFICIALLY BE MEMBERS OF, I
WELCOME YOU TO THE LEGAL
PROFESSION.

THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

>> YOU KNOW, MR. GLOVER, IF YOU
KNOW WHO BOB DYLAN IS, I'M NOT
TOO SURE YOU QUALIFY TO BE IN
THE YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION.

[LAUGHTER]

>> EACH YEAR, WE SELECT A
CANDIDATE WHO HAS EXCELLED ON
THE BAR EXAM TO MAKE REMARKS ON
BEHALF OF THE NEWLY-ADMITTED
LAWYERS OR SOON-TO-BE ADMITTED
LAWYERS.

AND FOR THAT PURPOSE, IT IS MY
HONOR TO CALL UPON JARED SPECTOR
TO MAKE A FEW REMARKS.

>> GOOD AFTERNOON, CHIEF
JUSTICE, MEMBERS OF THE COURT,
FELLOW INDUCTEES AND GUESTS.

I WANT TO START BY
CONGRATULATING ALL OF MY PEERS
HERE TODAY.

I KNOW HOW MUCH HARD WORK AND
DEDICATION IT TOOK TO GET HERE
AND I'M JUST AS EXCITED AS YOU
TO FINALLY TAKE THE OATH OF AN
ATTORNEY.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T ME,
WHICH IS BASICALLY EVERYONE

HERE, MY NAME IS JARED SPECTOR.
I STARTED MY LAW SCHOOL
EDUCATION AT GEORGE WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY BEFORE TRANSFERRING
TO NYU AT THE START OF MY SECOND
YEAR.

I FOUND OUT I'D BE GIVING THIS
SPEECH LAST WEEK.

THEY ASKED ME IF I WOULD SPEAK
ON BEHALF OF ALL FUTURE
ATTORNEYS HERE TODAY.

THEY TOLD ME TO DISCUSS WHY I
WENT TO LAW SCHOOL AND TO
DISCUSS SOME OF MY EXPERIENCES
OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS.

I COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE
HONORED TO GIVE SUCH A SPEECH.
I WAS ALSO EVEN MORE SHOCKED AND
A LITTLE NERVOUS, TOO.

SEE, MY EXPERIENCE IS REALLY NO
DIFFERENT THAN ANY OF YOURS.

IN FACT, I'M SURE MANY OF YOU
HAVE STORIES THAT ARE MUCH MORE
INTERESTING AND EXCITING THAN
MINE.

HOWEVER, EVEN IN THE MOST BASIC
OF STORIES, YOU CAN FIND A
MESSAGE.

I DECIDED TO ATTEND LAW SCHOOL
DURING MY FRESHMAN YEAR OF
COLLEGE.

EARLIER THAT YEAR, MY
GRANDPARENTS HAD PASSED AWAY AND
MY MOTHER NEEDED AN ATTORNEY
THAT SPECIALIZED IN WILLS,
TRUSTS AND ESTATES TO HELP
RESOLVE LEGAL ISSUES.

WHILE I WAS HOME ON VACATIONS, I
STARTED TO ATTEND MEETINGS AT
THE LAW FIRM WITH HER.

I WAS CURIOUS.

WHAT WAS GOING ON INSIDE THE
FIRM.

AND I WANTED TO KNOW WHY MY MOM
SPOKE SO HIGHLY OF THESE
ATTORNEYS.

AS I STARTED TO ATTEND THESE
MEETINGS, I LEARNED TWO
IMPORTANT LESSONS.

THE FIRST LESSON IS THE MOST

BASIC ONE, AND IT'S SOMETHING THAT MAY HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS TO YOU YEARS BEFORE IT BECAME OBVIOUS TO ME.

LAWYERS ARE NOT SIMPLY THE PEOPLE YOU SEE ON "LAW AND ORDER."

THE LEGAL PROFESSION IS VAST AND DIVERSE.

THERE ARE REAL ESTATE ATTORNEYS HELPING CLIENTS BUILD HOTELS, CORPORATE ATTORNEYS TAKING COMPANIES PUBLIC, EVEN ATTORNEYS THAT SPECIALIZE IN ART LAW.

YOU CAN BE A JUDGE, A CEO, A SPORTS AGENT OR EVEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. YOU NEVER KNOW WHERE YOUR CAREER MIGHT TAKE YOU OR WHO YOU MIGHT END UP HELPING NEXT.

THAT'S WHAT'S GOING TO MAKE OUR CAREER PATH SO SPECIAL.

THE SECOND LESSON IS A LITTLE LESS OBVIOUS AND IT'S SOMETHING I CONTINUE TO LEARN EVERY DAY.

DESPITE HOW WE WERE GRADED ON LAW SCHOOL EXAMS, AS LAWYERS WE WERE NOT SIMPLY ROBOTS THAT SOLVE ISSUES PRESENTED TO US. AS MY MOM CONTINUED TO GO TO HER ATTORNEY, SHE DEVELOPED A FRIENDSHIP.

NOT ONLY DID HE HELP RESOLVE ALL THE LEGAL ISSUES.

HE MADE THE WHOLE PROCESS EASIER FOR HER.

HE WAS CARING, COMPASSIONATE AND FRIENDLY.

FOR MY GRIEVING MOTHER, THIS WAS INVALUABLE.

IT WAS ALSO THE OTHER REASON I WAS INSPIRED TO GO TO LAW SCHOOL.

WE ARE NOT JUST PROBLEM SOLVERS. WE ARE ALSO ROLE MODELS, TRUSTED CONFIDANTES AND FRIENDS.

THERE'S A REASON WE PUT IN ALL OF THIS WORK DURING SCHOOL.

THERE'S A REASON MANY OF US MISSED THANKSGIVINGS TO STUDY

FOR EXAMS OR HAD TO SEE SPRING
BREAK PICTURES COME UP ON
FACEBOOK WHILE WE WERE WRITING
MEMOS.

WE'RE VERY FORTUNATE TO TAKE
THIS OATH TODAY AND WE SHOULD
REALIZE HOW LUCKY WE TRULY ARE.
ONCE AGAIN, I WANT TO
CONGRATULATE ALL OF YOU AND I
WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK
THROUGHOUT YOUR CAREERS.
THANK YOU.

[APPLAUSE]

>> THANK YOU.

THE COURT WILL NOW RECOGNIZE
KENNETH PRATT, MEMBER OF THE
FLORIDA BOARD OF BAR EXAMINERS,
SOMEONE YOU WILL MEET SOON.

>> MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT, MY
NAME IS KENNETH PRATT AND I'M
PLEASED TO BE HERE THIS
AFTERNOON TO MAKE THE MOTION TO
THE COURT TO ADMIT ALL OF YOU
ALL, SO YOU ALL SHOULD ALL BE
SMILING AT THIS POINT.

THIS IS THE GOOD PART.
PURSUANT TO THE RULES OF THE
SUPREME COURT RELATING TO THE
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 A
THOROUGH -- AND I UNDERLINE A
"THOROUGH" -- SEARCHING OF THEIR
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 FLORIDA BAR.

AS YOUR NAME IS CALLED, PLEASE
STAND AND REMAIN STANDING.

MS. KELLY ANNE BAKER.
MS. IRINA KOTCHACH BLEUSTEIN.
MR. CHARLES ABRAM BOWEN JR.
MR. COLEMAN BRYCE.
MS. LAUREN BROTHERS.
MR. JAMES DAVID BURKHART JR.
MR. JORDAN CHASTAIN.
MR. MATTHEW T. CRIST.
MR. JOSEPH MICHAEL COLEMAN.
MS. SHALANDA L. COLEMAN.
MS. GRACE ELIZABETH CONWAY.
MS. ANNA KATHRYN DECERCHIO.
MS. NATALIE EVE FINA.
MS. BIANCA GONZALEZ.
MR. GLENDON GEORGE GORDON JR.
MR. SEAN KEVIN GRAVEL.
MR. CHARLES LAWRENCE WAYNE HELM.
MR. BENJAMIN HARRIS HYMAN.
MR. LEE ISTRAIL.
MS. KELLY JUNE KIBBEY.
MS. ANTJE KINGMA.
MR. ZACHARY JAMES LEE.
MS. BIANCA YVA FAUSTIN
LHERISSON.
MR. ZACHARY WELLS LOMBARDO.
MS. LAURA LEONA LUXTON.
MR. KYLE MAXFIELD MAGEE.
MS. ANDREA-LI S MEDINA.
MS. SARAH ROSE NIEWOLD.
MR. OLORUNFUNMI O. OJETAYO.
MS. AMY ELIZABETH PARKER.
MS. KRISTEN BLAIR SIMMONS.
MR. TIMOTHY PATRICK SPARKS.
MR. JARED EVAN SPECTOR.
MS. ERICA STEINMILLER-PERDOMO.
MISSANNA LAURA WAYWINKLE.
MS. ANGELA RHOADES.
MS. ELIZABETH TAYLOR TURNER.
MS. KRISTIN HEATHER FOGEL.
MR. MATTHEW RUSS WALL.
MS. GWENDOLYN A. WIGGINS.
MR. JONATHAN LENTINE WILLIAMS.
MR. MICHAEL JOSEPH WYNNE.
ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD, I MOVE
THAT THESE CANDIDATES BE
ADMITTED TO THE FLORIDA BAR.
>> THANK YOU, MR. PRATT.
THE COURT ACCEPTS YOUR MOTION
AND GRANTS IT.
[APPLAUSE]

>> OKAY.

THE MOMENT HAS COME NOW IN THE FINAL STEP IN YOUR JOURNEY TO BECOME A LAWYER, THE OATH OF ADMISSION.

WILL EACH ONE OF YOU PLEASE RISE AND RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND AND REPEAT AFTER ME.

I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR I WILL SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA.

I WILL MAINTAIN THE RESPECT DUE TO COURTS OF JUSTICE AND JUDICIAL OFFICERS.

I WILL NOT COUNSEL OR MAINTAIN ANY SUIT OR PROCEEDINGS WHICH SHALL APPEAR TO BE TO BE UNJUST, NOR ANY DEFENSE EXCEPT SUCH AS I BELIEVE TO BE HONESTLY DEBATABLE UNDER THE LAW OF THE LAND.

I WILL EMPLOY FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING THE CAUSES CONFIDED TO ME, SUCH MEANS ONLY AS ARE CONSISTENT WITH TRUTH AND HONOR.

I WILL NEVER SEEK TO MISLEAD THE JUDGE OR JURY BY ANY ARTIFICE OR FALSE STATEMENT OF FACT OR LAW.

I WILL MAINTAIN THE CONFIDENCE AND PRESERVE INVIOLEATE THE SECRETS OF MY CLIENTS.

I WILL ACCEPT NO COMPENSATION IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR BUSINESS EXCEPT FROM THEM OR WITH THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL.

TO OPPOSING PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSEL, I PLEDGE FAIRNESS, INTEGRITY AND CIVILITY, NOT ONLY IN COURT, BUT ALSO IN ALL WRITTEN AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS.

I WILL ABSTAIN FROM ALL OFFENSIVE PERSONALITY AND ADVANCE NO FACT PREJUDICIAL TO THE HONOR OR REPUTATION OF A PARTY OR WITNESS UNLESS REQUIRED BY THE JUSTICE OF THE CAUSE WITH WHICH I AM CHARGED.

I WILL NEVER REJECT FROM ANY CONSIDERATION PERSONAL TO MYSELF

THE CAUSE OF THE DEFENSELESS OR
OPPRESSED OR DELAY ANYONE'S
CAUSE FOR LUCRE OR MALICE, SO
HELP ME GOD.

LET ME BE THE FIRST TO
CONGRATULATE YOU AS YOU START
YOUR NEW CAREERS.

MAY EACH ONE OF YOU ALWAYS BE
FAITHFUL TO THE SOLEMN OATH YOU
HAVE JUST TAKEN.

THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS.
[APPLAUSE]

>> GO AHEAD.

BE SEATED.

I HAVE A FEW ANNOUNCEMENTS.
WE ASK THAT THE NEWLY-SWORN
LAWYERS REMAIN HERE IN THE
COURTROOM STANDING IN FRONT OF
THE BENCH FOR A GROUP
PHOTOGRAPH.

WE ASK ALL OF OUR OTHER GUESTS
TO PLEASE MAKE ROOM FOR THE NEW
LAWYERS TO GATHER HERE IN FRONT
AT THE BENCH SO WE CAN TAKE
PICTURES.

YOU WANT TO GO BACK AND COME
BACK WHEN YOU'RE READY?

SO WE'LL GO BACK INTO CHAMBERS
AND COME BACK WHEN YOU'RE READY
FOR US.

IS THAT OKAY?

ALL RIGHT.

LET'S DO IT.

>> ALL RISE.