

2001 Temple Law Graduation Commencement Speech

Welcome to the 2001 Temple Law Graduation.

Dean Reinstein, Dean Epps, Dean Esten, Members of the Philadelphia District Attorney's Public Nuisance Task Force Unit under the supervision of Chief ADA Edgar Jaramillo, Pamela Errico, Former graduates Josh Villari and Joe Malfitano, SBA President Jerry Wells, SBA VP Sam Lasso, incoming SBA Board of Governors Chris Cerski, Micah Knapp, and Laura McManamy, the Law School Library Staff, Family and Friends.
Welcome!

As Presidential Candidate George W. Bush said in his speech right here in Philadelphia during the RNC convention, "They had their chance, they have not led, we will." And Ladies & Gentleman, we will and we have!

Currently, Temple Law is ranked number one in the United States in Trial Advocacy according to U.S. News & World Reports, and as stated by the master of evidence, Professor Ohlbaum, "Harvard Law Who."

Cristi Charpentier has taught many of us the skills to be a trial attorney. Eddie Ohlbaum has taught us the many rules of evidence, but now you out there must make Temple Law number one in something else. Bar Passage!

Everyone, it is my wish that we all successfully pass the bar, making Temple Law number one in both Trial Advocacy and Bar Passage.

As for Temple Law itself, we have learned such fundamentals from masters of the trade.

Professor Cappalli has taught many of us, especially from Section 3, that Stare Decisis Case law is binding precedent on other courts.

Then, Professor Libonati pulls the rug out and says that Stare Decisis, the fundamental of our common law system, does not exist. He cites Busik v. Levine, a NJ Supreme Court case.

Many of us are stunned, but I thought... So I run to Professor Cappalli, he looks at the same case and says it reaffirms Stare Decisis.

This is an example of two great legal minds at work!

Professor Ellers, who has taught many of us about business associations or securities regulations, left us with two important points which will not be forgotten. I will share them with you now.

(1) Remember when all else fails in front of a Philly judge, just cite the case In re rachmones, a clever way to ask for mercy; and

(2) He quoted Tennyson, "this too shall pass." Ladies & Gentleman, this too shall pass!

The students also added to our learning.

Some of our classmates overcame tremendous adversity and are here with us today.

Arcangelo Travaglini in his first year as a Temple Law student had a fire one week in his apartment, and a flood the next. In his third year, he was even held up at gun point in a subway station.

Another student, Tim Krause, also overcame a tremendous adversity to be here today. Tim told me something that I would like to share with you. Tim said: "Remember, No one can ever take away your character." I want all of you out there to remember that no one can ever take away your character. Remember this when studying for the bar, remember this when passing the bar!

I leave you with this story, one that I have used numerous times in my mock trial closing arguments as Cristi Charpentier could attest. A story taught to me by Professor Carl Singley, Mayor Street's good friend, which he cited from the closing argument of the Karen Silkwood case, which is celebrating an anniversary this year.

This is the story of the old wise man and the young arrogant boy. The young arrogant boy sees a bird flying and he catches it in his hands. The wise man sees this. The boy approaches the wise man and asks him, "I bet you don't know what is in my hands?" The wise man says, "yes, a bird." The boy then asks, "But, I bet you can't tell me if it's alive or dead?" The wise man steps back and thinks for a minute: "if I say alive, the boy will crush the bird's neck in his hands, and show me a dead bird; if I say dead, the boy will open his hands and let the bird fly away." The wise man approaches the boy and says, "son, it is in your hands."

Students, it is in your hands to pass the bar.

I leave you with these final few words:

Laissez les bontemps ruler!

Let the good times roll!

2001 Temple Law Day Division Class Gift Speech

There have been many great ones who have graduated from Temple Law.

Philadelphia District Attorney Lynne Abraham, Aviation Lawyer Arthur Wolk, Admiralty Lawyer Frank Scanlan, and former ADA and State Senator Bob Rovner, just to name a few.

Ladies & Gentleman, I want to quickly address one of Temple Law's most distinguished Alums.

Benjamin Levy, a 1966 Temple Law Graduate who has been a tremendous supporter of the law school. Sadly, Mr. Levy has passed this year. His support will truly be missed.

But the Levy Legacy will live on.

Mr. Levy's daughter, Kara, graduated Temple in 1998, and his son Howard is a member of our graduating class.

To show our affection for Howard, and to continue the Levy Legacy, the 3rd Year Day Division has decided that our Class Gift be added to the scholarship already in existence in Mr. Levy's honor.

In addition the Law Alumni Association will match this gift dollar for dollar. We thank them.

[Hand Dean Reinstein the Envelope!!!]