

December Recognition Ceremony



Twenty-seven students who finished classes in December were recognized at the December Recognition Ceremony, Dec. 2, 2006, at the Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center. The guest speaker was The Honorable Tom Marten '76, U.S. District Judge of the District of Kansas.

Marten spoke on the importance of ethical business practices. "Whether you are in business, at a law firm, a public defender, a prosecutor, a judge, or in any other line of work, there is one rule that I can say in all candor towers above all others. Always be scrupulously honest in your dealings with others. Do not ever misrepresent a fact, the

holding of a case, authority, what you have done or have not done, to a client, co-counsel or opposing counsel, or a court. And don't make promises you can't keep. You never know when you will be called on it."

"If you have been less than candid, your reputation will take a hit, and whatever your efforts to rehabilitate your reputation, it will never be quite the same. Misrepresentation is never a shortcut to your destination; it is a much longer and more difficult road. What is more, you can never completely escape it. When you least expect it, it can reemerge to damage you, sometimes with devastating effect. The greatest credentials in the world will not overcome a charge which has any basis in fact of being less than completely candid in dealings with one's adversaries, friends, and, in the case of lawyers, the courts."





Marten encouraged the graduates to find a firm or business where they feel they fit in and to find satisfaction with their work and friendships. He urged, “Become active in bar activities and other organizations to keep an interest in what is going on in the world. And always continue to learn. Nurture your personal relationships and try to find a piece of every day for yourself. It may not be easy, but it is worth it.”

Marten made a few suggestions on working with clients, “First, and most important, deliver quality work in a timely manner. Second, you must spend the time it takes to educate your clients about what you are doing and why you are doing it. Third, even with excellent work and having completely educated your client, a bill that is truly reasonable is much easier for a client to accept than a bill which is unreasonably high, even if (and maybe particularly if) the client can afford to pay it.”

In closing Marten said, “Draw as much life as you can out of each day. It will not only enhance you as a person – it will make you a much better lawyer. Continue to seek to grow all through your career and your life, and you will have few regrets about the way you have lived. You might even recognize that your honest mistakes are the most valuable part of the whole experience.”

Other graduation speakers included Interim Dean Bill Rich, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Alex Glashausser, Professor David Pierce and Associate Dean for Student Affairs Kelly Anders. A reception for graduates and their families immediately followed the ceremony.



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