SCHOOL OF LAW

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"And Do as Adversaries Do in Law, Strive Mightily, But Eat and Drink as Friends."

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
"Nobody move . . . this is a 'coup'."
"Now . . . it took me TWO hours to learn this step . . . you better watch."
"You add it in before you put the brownies in the oven."
"... The Law Is Not the Place for the Artist or the Poet. The Law Is the Calling of Thinkers."

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES
"Good, Dan, now try and walk."
“Dear diary . . .”
"... take my bike ONE more time ..."
"Burt, he got it in the nose, you want it too?"
"This water fountain never works."
Your sentence is up!!!
Bob Abrahams walking into a door.
A Farewell Message From the Dean

I have a special feeling about the class of 1976, because we began our careers at Hofstra Law School together. On Orientation Day, when I welcomed you to the Law School, I expressed the hope that we would end our three years together with a sense of mutual respect, and even affection. I know that hope has come true for me, and would like to think that it has for you as well.

When we arrived here, an extraordinarily strong foundation had already been established by Dean Malachy Mahon and by the faculty and students who had worked with him. Full accreditation, both from the American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools, had been achieved in record time. Since then, we have moved into the new building, expanded and strengthened our faculty, and enlarged the student body to our new capacity.

We have also grown considerably in reputation, not just in New York State, but throughout the country. We were singled out for special mention in the ABA's recent rating of law schools, in part because of our notable achievement in surpassing Boston University, Georgetown, and scores of other law schools that have had many years head start on us. In the last three years, Hofstra has received more favorable attention in the national news media - newspapers, magazines, radio, and television - than perhaps any other law school. That public recognition has, in turn, added significantly to the Law School's strength. At a time when other law schools are leveling off or declining in admissions applications, for example, Hofstra is continuing to attract even more and better applicants every year. Moreover, the prestige associated with Hofstra's name is helping us to maintain an enviable record in graduate placement, despite a difficult job market.

Our reputation is a reflection of real substance. I doubt that there is another law school in the country that has as consistently strong a teaching faculty, or a faculty that is as accessible to students out of class. Our clinical program - now expanded to include two Neighborhood Law Offices, and the only Tax Clinic in the country - is one of the best any place. Few law schools have comparable student participation in governance of the school. None, I believe, is as successful as Hofstra in creating a friendly and pleasant atmosphere in which to work.

You have good reason for pride, therefore, in your Law School and in the important part that you have played in shaping and building it. But there is more to do. Hofstra attracts more than its share of students who think of the law as a profession of service and who are conscious of the major role that the law, and lawyers, can play in social reform. We try to nurture those professional ideals, as well as to develop and sharpen your professional skills, while you are here. Whatever kind of practice you enter, therefore, it is my hope that you will participate in establishing a tradition of Hofstra graduates as lawyers committed to community service and to social reform.

Please come back and see us often. You will always be welcome.