The first time I read the Dean’s Message in my Law School Yearbook was when I purchased it shortly before graduation. The next time was about three years later when I was trying to connect a face with the name of a classmate who had referred a client to me. If your pattern follows mine, writing a message for this Yearbook is akin to composing something for a time capsule.

In my brief graduation remarks to you (“civility demands brevity”), in the heat of the gymnasium, I expressed some of my hopes for you in the future and proffered some advice. I offer them again in the expectation that the wishes have been fulfilled, at least in part, or that a reminder might be of some use.

First, and most importantly, I told you that you should be proud of your accomplishments because you have persevered and you have succeeded and that makes you special. It is easy to forget that during the sometimes frustrating and frenetic peace of practicing law.

Second, I told you that the faculty and administration of the Law School knows that you are capable and that you are prepared for that which lies ahead. I hope you now share that confidence about yourself.

Third, I hoped that you are elated about your successes, fair to yourself when the results are not what you wanted, and that you forgive yourself for the inevitable mistakes. Although these wishes are clearly
easier to state than to fulfill, I do hope you have been able to develop a realistic perspective on your professional endeavors. To those of you who encounter a so-called “professional crisis,” I hope that you take steps to ensure that you find your work fulfilling and rewarding. If you are proud of the goals or objects of your efforts, the practice of law is, indeed, a noble endeavor.

Lastly, I offered my hope that you would maintain your bonds with your colleagues and classmates and with Hofstra Law School. I said that we would miss the class of 1991 and we have. If you haven’t remained a part of our community, we urge you to do so. Our futures are, after all, intertwined.

Stuart Rabinowitz, Dean