First Annual Student-Faculty Basketball Game

Front Row: Prof. Kessler, Prof. DiFonzo
Middle Row: Chuck Chang, Vinh Trinh, Sam Lee, Justin Holmes, Dawn Cox, Jennifer Ng (Captain), Prof. Francis, Katie Walkden, Tricia Kastem
Back Row: John Shin, Matt Maloney, Joe Nery, Prof. Falkenstein (Captain), Gary Moore
All the way in the back with the ball: Leon Feingold.
What are lawyers really? To me a lawyer is basically the person that knows the rules of the country. We’re all throwing the dice, playing the game, moving our pieces around the board, but if there’s a problem, the lawyer is the only person that has actually read the inside of the top of the box.

-Jerry Seinfeld
A little over three years ago we took the LSAT and got our tickets to begin this journey. OJ Simpson was just a football player then. Flight 800 had not happened yet. Bill Clinton was hard at work and Monica Lewinsky was just another intern. On behalf of the Class of 1998, I would like to thank the Hofstra University School of Law faculty and administration for selecting each and every one of us and for helping us sail these rough waters. Thank you, to the family and friends of the Class of 1998. Little did we know how important your ear would be to our problems, your shoulder to our tears, your words of support to our heart, or your money to our pockets.

We set sail that first year, without any real idea what was in-store on the journey. Some early moments stand out more than others, like the very first person that you met in the class of 1998, and that there was never a parking spot when you needed one. How about the very first person to be called on in class and the expression on their face. It was a look that only be described as a deer caught in the headlights. See if these words spark a memory: mens rea, Pierson v. Post, the rule against perpetuities, in rem jurisdiction, and parole evidence.

By second year so much had changed, but there was still no parking. We had gained our sea legs, we knew what to expect. We had weathered the storm of Civ Pro and emerged the better for it, and just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water, Con Law. A class that many of us will remember not just in its substance, but in learning that Leon Friedman was not only a distinguished professor of law but a George Carlin impersonator as well.

By third year we no longer saw some of the people we were closest to during the first two years. We drifted a little as we focused on the classes that were most important to us. We unfurled our sails and set our own course. We also began the hunt for jobs, the shore on the distant horizon that marked the end of our journey. By this point we knew what we were doing, we had become the captains of our own ship. But still, we could not find parking. We discovered South Park, we lost Frank Sinatra and found out that George Michael did it his way too.

Tomorrow we face the bar and professional practice, and it is without question that we will succeed on these newfound shores. But, as we build our lives let us not forget the struggle that we endured along our journey to success. It was a long and hard journey, but, it is only a microcosm of the pain and the injustice that our clients will bring to us. Let us remember that once, we had to turn to the people here today for help and support, and so too will we always remember that those who are without money deserve our help in their time of need. Let us never forget how we struggled to reach the shore of success, so that we may never forget to help those people that need it most.

But, that is tomorrow. Today is the end of the beginning of our legal careers. Let's just enjoy it. Today we, the Class of 1998 can raise our heads high and strike our flag into the soil of success.

Although I am fond of quoting Shakespeare, today I will leave you with the words of Walt Whitman:

Oh Captain! My captain our fearful trip is done;
The ship has weather'd every rack, the prize we sought is won.

Dale Frederick, Graduate Speaker, Class of 1998.
Columbia Society of Real Estate Appraisers Award in Real Estate Law
Barbara O'Connor, Susan Rubin

Property Law Courses
Richard Feustel, Samuel Lee, Steven Schwartz

Commercial Law Courses
Elyssa Eneman, Elizabeth Weiland

Environmental and Natural Resources Courses
Mikol Benjacob

Labor and Employment Law Courses
Brian Kalmair

Benjamin Weintraub and Alan Resnick Bankruptcy Law Award
Philip Dublin

Health Law Courses
Karen Cooper, Kristin Raffone, Linda Toga

Constitutional Law Courses
Elizabeth Weiland

Hofstra Service to the School Award
Marilyn Nelson-Cashman

Deborah Sloyer Memorial Scholarship in Trial Advocacy
Dale Frederick, Marilyn Nelson-Cashman

Estate Planning Courses
David Olsen

Gina Maria Escarce Memorial Award
Alan Barr, Linda Toga

Torts Courses
Richard Feustel

William F. Levine Award
Kim Percyz

Procedural Courses
Andrew Reiss

Outstanding Law Student
Andrew Reiss

Trial Lawyers Section, Nassau & Suffolk Counties Bar Association
Michelle Regina

Advocacy/Litigation Courses
Richard Cass, Kim Percyz

Taxation Courses
Samuel Krause

International Law Courses
Mikol Benjacob, Lotfi Bouslama, Christine Gagliano

Outstanding Scholarly Achievement Book Award
Elyssa Eneman

George and Sadie Krulik Award for Outstanding Performance in Advanced Trial Advocacy
Dale Frederick, David Haber

Award for the Achievement of Women in the Law
Linda Toga