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Dean Smith's Farewell to the Class of 1987

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OFFICE OF THE DEAN
SCHOOL OF LAW

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

2900 VAN NESS STREET, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

FOUNDED BY GENERAL O. O. HOWARD

April 23, 1987

TO: THE BARRISTER

Dean Smith's Farewell to the Class of 1987

Three years ago the class of 1987 embarked on the study of law at the Howard University School of Law. You were a brave crowd. You were ready to conquer the world -- then you took your final exams in Contracts, Torts, Civil Procedure, Property, Criminal Law and a few other courses, and discovered that you needed more intellectual ammunition to undertake your assault against the world.

Many of you dug into the valley of opportunity in which the Howard University School of Law is situated. There you decided to arm yourselves with the vast knowledge around you with the hope that it would afford you with greater vision to evaluate the ideals and principles that drive the law in the world order. You studied more, socialized less and determined who you were and assayed your commitment to the study of law.

What have you conquered in these three years in Law School? Did you conquer all of the cases? Did you absorb all of the knowledge offered to you by your teachers and that which is housed in the A. Mercer Daniel Law Library? Did you determine who you are and fix in your mind the principles in which you believe and the values which will mold your personality in the years to come?

As you leave the physical surroundings of Howard University School of

Law, we charge you to conquer the world. Do not leave any frontier untouched. Take the words and the notions of your teachers with you. Tuck the memories of your experiences in your briefcases and never forget what you have become by the opportunity afforded at the Law School.

You are the future of all that is good, honest and just. You are the new brickmasons for the principles undergirding the concepts of liberty and justice for all. Do not betray your calling to uphold the law, and your obligation to lay new foundations so that other people like you will be able to cross over the bridge of troubled waters and to enter the new century with dignity.