

On behalf of the Seton Hall Law School Board of Visitors, allow me to join those congratulating you on this milestone.

Your years here reflect a sisterhood and a brotherhood experienced by only a small fraction of people in our society. That you began your journey during a worldwide pandemic puts you in the most unique group of Seton Hall Law School Alumni. Those experiences – and the relationships that you built – can either be left behind or strengthened. Let me make a pitch for the latter.

Reflecting on the last 30-plus years in the profession, I can honestly say that among the most rewarding and fulfilling times were those spent giving back to Seton Hall, whether it be:

- Assisting someone through the law school application process.**
- Meeting with a law student in need of advice**
- Engaging with fellow alumni at the Annual Dinner or Red Mass.**
- Or through our Firm’s endowment of the McLaughlin Trial Advocacy Workshop, which many of you experienced.**

You too can experience that same level of fulfilment by giving back with your time to a fellow Seton Hall Law School alumni. Think back to a time when an alum helped you out ... or just as importantly, when you wish one had.

So today, as you officially join the ranks of Seton Hall Law School Alumni, celebrate your connection to one another. Your experience here has made you part of a larger family of our noble legal profession. Please support each other in the years ahead. Commit to helping your fellow Seton Hall Law grad. When one of us succeeds, we all share in that

Commencement Speech for the Class of 2023
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success. When one of our fellow graduate falls, don't look the other way. Stop. Reach down. Lend a hand. And pull them up. Not only is it the right thing to do, but it will be extremely rewarding.

I can promise you this: if you come from a place of pure gratitude, give your time unconditionally, and ask for nothing in return, you will be lavished with fulfillment beyond what this practice already provides.

When I was sitting where you were more than 30 years ago, Seton Hall's status in the legal community was quite different. Very few judges in the State were graduates of Seton Hall, and we were still waiting for our first graduate to become a federal judge.

Since that time, Seton Hall has risen to prominence. And our alumni represent the finest lawyers in the region. Over that time, our alumni have filled more than 100 state court judgeships, 2 Third Circuit judgeships, 10 federal district court judgeships (including our Commencement Speaker, Judge Evelyn Padin), our first Associate Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court (and now a newly nominated one), 2 of the last 4 United States Attorneys, the Attorney General of New Jersey, members of the New Jersey General Assembly and Senate, and a Governor.

This is not by accident. When Seton Hall alumni have each other's backs, good things happen. Just imagine what the Class of 2023 will accomplish in the next 30 years by supporting one another. Seton Hall Law School is a family. Treat it that way. Nurture it. This is not the end of your relationship with Seton Hall; it is merely the beginning.

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