

In the Loop

June 3 - 9, 2007

Commencement Speaker Says Journalists, Lawyers on 'Same Page'

Clarence Page, the Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for the *Chicago Tribune*, who accepted an honorary degree from The John Marshall Law School during commencement ceremonies May 20, addressed the graduates telling them that his journalism profession is pretty similar to that of the law.

"I'm a journalist here to extend a hand of fellowship to another vastly misunderstood minority," Page quipped. "I accept this honor today on behalf of all the other people who wanted to be lawyers and never quite found the time—so we fake it."

Page gave a few comparisons between the two professions. Journalism, like the Bar, is a very close-knit community. He reminded graduates that both professions are a people business where ethics count.

"Some people think journalistic ethics is an oxymoron, like jumbo shrimp or athletic scholarship. It is not," he said. "Neither is legal ethics. You may be told by some to be ruthless. Well, be ruthlessly ethical."

"Journalists and lawyers share a similar quest for narratives," he explained. Page said he questioned three best-selling author/attorneys about their career paths. Each said at a young age they wanted to write, "but turned to the law when they realized they had to make a living. The law offered a natural haven for these writers, and now I see why. Much of what lawyers do is the same thing writers do. You scrounge around looking to dig up facts, evidence, witnesses, testimony and timelines in pursuit of the truth."

"None of us has a lock on the truth," Page told the audience, "but we all gather facts in pursuit of the truth. Ultimately, we're both trying to get a narrative—a story we hope reveals what happened."

Page's final analogy was that lawyers and journalists are resourceful. Education is only the beginning. What you do with the knowledge you have is as important as earning the J.D. degree.

Page told the story of attending the farewell news conference of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, best known for his attorney skills in the *Brown v. Board of Education* case he argued before the Supreme Court, winning a unanimous decision in 1954. By the



Clarence Page addresses the graduating class before accepting an honorary degree from The John Marshall Law School.

time Marshall was appointed the first African-American on the court, its liberal days were on the wane, "but that didn't stop him from working well with his colleagues," Page pointed out.

"I became a journalist to be an eye witness to history, and here it was," Page remembered of that 1991

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Deans' Activities

Dean John Corkery

Activities

He delivered the welcoming remarks for the May 24 International Masters of Gaming Law spring conference at the 4 Seasons Hotel that drew more than 100 participants from around the world. The program was organized, in part, by Adjunct Professor Cory Aronovitz (J.D. '93), and the law school was an event co-sponsor.

Faculty Activity and Publications

Professor Kathryn Kennedy

Activities

She presented her paper "PPA '06 Makes IRA Rollovers More Attractive: Maybe It's Time to Switch to a Self Direct IRA? Think Again!" at the May 17th meeting of the BNA Tax Management Advisory Board, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City. Her paper will be published in an upcoming BNA Tax Management Compensation Planning Journal.

Professor David L. Schwartz

Activities

He recently participated in a panel discussion at the law school on "Obviousness in Patent Litigation: KSR International v. Teleflex." Other panelists included the Honorable Judge James F. Holderman, the Honorable Judge Matthew F. Kennelly and several distinguished patent practitioners. The event was sponsored by Intellectual Property Law Association of Chicago (IPLAC) and the John Marshall Law School IP Center.

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press conference. His question to Justice Marshall was how the justice wanted to be remembered. After a minute or two of contemplation, Marshall's response was "He did the best he could with what he had."

Page remembers it "sounded like an epithet—a message to the rest of us from beyond the grave today. And I pass it on to you.

"This is a big age for complainers. Turn on talk radio and TV and you're guaranteed to hear someone kvetching about something. Marshall had plenty to complain about, but he didn't let that slow him down. He did the best he could with what he had and so must the rest of us."

Schedule of Events

June 4

BAR BRI NY Bar Video Course, Room 200, 9 a.m.

June 5

BAR BRI NY Bar Video Course, Room 200, 9 a.m.

Dean and Executive Committee Faculty Members Meeting, Baim Courtroom, 11 a.m.

Domestic & Foreign Patent, Trademark, Trade Secret & Copyright Documentation, Room 413, 6 p.m.

June 6

BAR BRI NY Bar Video Course, Room 200, 9 a.m.

Deans' Meeting, Courtroom, 10 a.m.

June 7

Litigating Unfair Labor Practices before the NLRB, Room 1200, 8:30 a.m.

BAR BRI NY Bar Video Course, Room 200, 9 a.m.

June 8

Basic Skills Course for New Attorneys, Room 503, 8 a.m.

BAR BRI NY Bar Video Course, Room 200, 9 a.m.

Alumni Association Annual Meeting, Room 1200, 5 p.m.

June 9

Basic Skills Course for New Attorneys, Room 503, 8 a.m.

June 11

BAR BRI NY Bar Video Course, Room 200, 9 a.m.

Tax & EB Open Houses, 16th Floor CBA, 12 p.m. and 5 p.m.

June 12

BAR BRI NY Bar Video Course, Room 200, 9 a.m.

Domestic & Foreign Patent, Trademark, Trade Secret & Copyright Documentation, Room 413, 6 p.m.

June 13

BAR BRI NY Bar Video Course, Room 200, 9 a.m.

Deans' Meeting, Room 217, 10 a.m.

Board of Trustees, Courtroom, 3p.m.

June 14

BAR BRI NY Bar Video Course, Room 200, 9 a.m.

June 15

BAR BRI NY Bar Video Course, Room 200, 9 a.m.

June 16

Admissions Open House, Room 200 and 201, 8:30 a.m.

Kissane Scholarship Presented to Ian Cooper at Commencement

Experience with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office helped Ian Cooper win the May 2007 Elmer C. Kissane Public Service Award presented to him during the May commencement ceremony.

The Kissane Award, presented to a student who will work at the state's attorney's office, honors Elmer C. Kissane, a 1945 graduate of The John Marshall Law School. The award was established by his friends and family in recognition of Kissane's 43 years with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. The \$5,000 monetary award will be presented to Cooper after the recipient has completed a year with the state's attorney's office.

Cooper has been working at the Cook County State's Attorney's Office as a law clerk. His first assignment in January 2005, was in the Narcotics Bureau, Complex Narcotics Unit where he wrote motions and memorandum. In January 2006, after receiving his 711 license, Cooper was transferred to Bond Court, and then to Branch 57 Preliminary Hearing Courtroom, where he learned how to conduct a preliminary hearing.

In May 2006, he transferred to Branch 44 Preliminary Hearing Courtroom. For the past 12 months, he has conducted dozens of felony preliminary hearings each week, as well as reviewing documents and preparing files to be sent to the Grand Jury.

"I have been able to work closely with victims of, and witnesses to, criminal acts," Cooper said. "Throughout my time with the office, I have been fortunate to argue several motions and conduct narcotics bench trials, assist during jury trials and learn from many outstanding attorneys."

Cooper said he is anxious to begin work at the Cook County State's Attorney's Office where he has benefited from the camaraderie and learned from wonderful attorney mentors.

"I look forward to practicing criminal law, a field that I feel passionately about, with people who care as much as I do about the work being done," he added.

Cooper, who ran the Chicago Marathon in 2005, has participated in various fundraisers, include work as a member of Habitat for Humanity student chapters at Illinois State University and The John Marshall Law School.



Kissane Public Service Award recipient Ian Cooper is congratulated by Paul Kissane, son of the late Elmer Kissane.

Valedictorian Reminds Students John Marshall Offers Empowerment Through Education

When Justin Watkins, the May 2007 valedictorian, addressed his graduating class May 20, he reminded the more than 300 graduates of the John Marshall Law School traditions that have been empowering attorneys for more than 100 years.

Here is his address:

Our graduation today marks the culmination of the individual efforts of some 300 students to obtain the education necessary to enter the practice of law. It is also a recognition of the support and encouragement we have all received from our friends and family who join us here today to celebrate this accomplishment. At another level, our graduation marks the continuation of tradition, of our school's tradition of offering the opportunity to obtain a legal education that, for various reasons, might not otherwise have been available to some, or maybe even many of us.

Our school was founded with this purpose in mind, of offering an excellent legal education to those students whose opportunities were otherwise limited because of their gender, their background, or their economic position. The importance of this tradition is something I took for granted during my time as a student...but, the day after I learned I would be speaking here today, a professor asked me a question in class that as it turns out clarified the importance of our school's tradition of opportunity, the question was about why a certain Texas law school, in the 1940s would have chosen to exclude applicants based on such an arbitrary factor as race, and while the obvious answer was racism, the complete answer was that the law school was ultimately seeking to avoid empowering certain individuals through a legal education. It is this idea of empowerment through education that, to me, makes our school's tradition of opportunity so important.

Education, even the education we receive in grade school, is about empowerment. It empowers those who receive it by giving them the basic skills necessary to survive in society. A legal education goes even further, giving those who receive it the tools necessary to understand the legal system, to understand how the system operates, and with those tools in hand, the power to change the legal system, to change the rules of the game, and if necessary to change the game itself. Our school's tradition of opportunity is important because it is a tradition of offering empowerment, of offering the tools of the legal system to those who might not otherwise have had the chance to obtain them, but who are more than capable of wielding them.



We have each been offered this opportunity for empowerment through a legal education, and we have each embraced that offer. We each now have a wealth of options open to us, of further opportunities that might not have otherwise been available. If we want to make a difference, if we want to improve the world in some way, we now have tools that will help us make that difference. My point is that our legal education allows us the chance to achieve more than mere financial security, it allows us the chance to achieve goals that go above and beyond our own personal interests, because no matter what area of law we enter, we will be representing the interests of others...we will be helping others to achieve their goals, to overcome obstacles, to face and to correct mistakes made in their business and personal lives, to confront

Two May Graduates Named Sprague Scholarship Winners

Nicholas Ftikas and Karl Tetzlaff, graduates in the May 2007 class of The John Marshall Law School, are recipients of Lucy Sprague Public Service Scholarships.

Each has committed to a career in public interest law. Ftikas is hoping to accept a job offer from the City of Chicago Corporation Counsel's office where he has already accepted a law clerk's position. Tetzlaff will help establish a drug treatment program in Boulder, Colo., under the direction of the chief judge of the Boulder District Court.

Ftikas and Tetzlaff will each receive \$25,000 to help pay down a portion of their law school debt. The scholarship was established in 1998 in the memory of Lucy Sprague, who was a second-year law student at The John Marshall Law School at the time of her death in December 1996. Her parents, Lee and Hon. George Sprague, a district court judge in Cambridge, Mass., and her brother and sister, Alexander and Cynthia, established the scholarship to assist other students interested, as Lucy was, in a profession in public interest law.

During his law school career, Ftikas was a law clerk for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and for a small personal injury law firm. Working in two different areas of law helped Ftikas recognize that he wanted to work for the public. He accepted a position with Chicago's Corporation Counsel, working for the Chicago Buildings Department. It allowed him to understand the specifics of zoning, land use, demolition and urban planning.

"The buildings department has a direct affect on the formation and reformation of communities throughout Chicago. That direct affect describes exactly why I want to be an attorney at the Corporation Counsel," he said. "I want to work in a setting where I know what I do on a particular day will have a positive impact on the city I live in."

A law degree, Tetzlaff believes, will help him "garnish power to support the communities I feel are often overlooked and neglected. The services of attorneys simply do not reach the poorest people in this country. Public interest work is truest to my heart and the only area of law that satisfies my desire to perform legal services."

Tetzlaff is excited about his work in Colorado, "because it involves interaction with individuals who need much support. The Drug Court Treatment Program seeks to rehabilitate persons who the court identified as persons that committed crimes because of their drug addiction. I hope to touch and improve the lives of members of our society, who many disregard and neglect," he said.



Lee Sprague (second from left) and her daughter, Cynthia, are joined by Dean John Corkery (center) in congratulating the 2007 Sprague Public Service Scholarship winners Nicholas Ftikas (left) and Karl Tetzlaff (right).

Tetzlaff has been an extern at the National Immigrant Justice Center-Heartland Alliance, and an intern at the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute in Washington, Neighborhood Housing Services and The John Marshall Law School Fair Housing Legal Clinic.

He was the 2006-2007 president of John Marshall's Latino Law Student Association; a board member of the Illinois Latino Law Student Association from September 2005 through May 2007; and a member of John Marshall's team for the Hispanic National Bar Association Moot Court Competition in 2006, placing as national quarterfinalists.

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challenges that they would not otherwise be able to confront. With our legal education, we now have the chance to offer opportunity to others.

Through these last years of our legal education we have all faced challenges, and we have all struggled in our own way. Our graduation today represents a triumph over these struggles, as we have all proved ourselves capable to enter the practice of law. As we all begin our careers, we should remember the opportunity that was offered to us here, at The John Marshall Law School, and that because we embraced that opportunity, we now have the chance to offer opportunity to others. Thank you and congratulations.

Commencement Honors



Justin Watkins, who graduated first in the May 2007 class, received the John N. Jewitt Scholarship for having the highest rank in studies during the first year, and the John Marshall Law School Prize for having maintained the highest average during the first year in the day division.



Jason Alan Frye was honored at commencement with the Arba N. Waterman Scholarship for maintaining the highest rank in studies for the second year.



Dean John Corkery (left) and Alfred E. Gallo (center), chairman of The John Marshall Law School Board of Trustees, welcomed Clarence Page, Chicago Tribune columnist, to the May 20 program. Page gave the commencement address and was presented an honorary degree from John Marshall.



The Francis D. and Corinne S. Morrissey Awards in Professional Responsibility were presented to Claire Covington and Michael Lindinger.



Dean John Corkery gives extra congratulations to Neema Patel Desai who walked across the stage with her son, Sadev, who was born during her second year of law school.



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Since 1899, The John Marshall Law School in Chicago has been preparing attorneys for the J.D. degree. Today the law school also offers practicing attorneys LL.M. degrees in:

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