

Greetings Dean, faculty, staff, loved ones and fellow graduates. It is an absolute honor and privilege to address you on behalf of the LL.M. Class of 2008.. What a year 2008 has already been. This is a year of change – change we can believe in; a year of being a part of a cause greater than your own self-interest; and a year of being ready on day one – this is going to be a great year to remember; but enough about the presidential campaign...this day in 2008 belongs to us.

To the distinguished faculty who like what they do and love teaching us how to do it even more; you have been our professors, mentors and friends, and aided us as we grew from ordinary to extraordinary in such a short time--we thank you.

To the administrators and department assistants who made BU feel like a home away from home; energized us in and out of class and allowed us to vent for hours on end--we thank you.

To our family and friends who at all times “exercised due diligence” and went well beyond the “reasonable person” standard; were our biggest fans when we succeeded; gave us guidance when we seemed to lose our way; were forced to live our law school career vicariously through us and supported us in pursuing yet another degree, for this and so much more--we thank you.

Last, but certainly not least, to my fellow graduates – you are absolutely phenomenal. Your curiosity, critical analysis, intelligence and drive are inspiring and it has been truly humbling to learn alongside the most astute and engaging people in the world. We have encouraged and empowered one another to do our best and be the best; we have studied, played, and most importantly, prayed together--now that is global camaraderie at its finest. Whether from Brazil, Thailand, Africa, Argentina, India, France, or the United States (just to name a few), we collectively represent the best and the brightest the world has to offer.

Now, I want to talk to you about what will matter most, not only in our legal careers, but our personal lives as well. And if I leave you with nothing else, I want you to walk away with these simple, but significant words – “B” you in everything you do and “B” great while doing it!

A profound author, Marianne Williamson once said, “Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that frightens us most. And when we let our light shine, we unconsciously give others permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”

We should ask ourselves, “Who are we not to be great?” We will not serve the world by playing small or pretending we are not great, nor will we obtain excellence by dimming our lights and shrinking around others; after all, why should we pretend when the world already knows just how great BU students really are? In fact, we must face our fears and embrace our power and never shy away from the brilliant and talented individuals we were called to be.

Be you by being distinguished. Be you by being courageous rather than fearful. Be you by being the change that people want to see in this world. Be you by being inspiring and inspired by others around you. Be you by being a leader, setting the standard that others try to follow. Be you by being ready to practice on day one and be prepared to take the legal profession to the next level. “B” you in everything you do and “B” great while doing it!

I hope these words resonate within you because we have been given all the tools necessary to succeed. We have begun to master our respective areas of law, possess the ability to think on our feet, and creatively, yet intelligently, use the law to advance the needs of our clients. We have the responsibility to exude excellence at all times; live it – claim it – and embrace it, with the greatest of professionalism and humility.

So, as you return or prepare to enter into practice and in your personal life, it is my hope that you find your light, use it to pursue your passion and meet the great needs of this world. Let me be among the first to congratulate you and put the world on notice that, while there is room at the top, space is reserved for the BU Law Class of 2008, and we are conquering the world one city, one state, and one country at a time. In closing, “B” you in everything you do and “B” great while doing it! Congratulations and Godspeed, my beautiful Class of 2008.