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Speech - Seton Hall University President Joseph E. Nyre's 2022 Law School Commencement Rema

President Joseph E. Nyre

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Recommended Citation

Nyre, President Joseph E., "Speech - Seton Hall University President Joseph E. Nyre's 2022 Law School Commencement Rema" (2022). *Graduation*. 3.
https://scholarship.shu.edu/law_graduation/3

2022 Law School Graduation

Wednesday, June 1

11 a.m.

New Jersey Performing Arts Center

Newark, New Jersey

Thank you Dean Boozang and welcome to the graduates and your families.

It's been said and I think you're aware and might concur that there are a handful of decisions you make in life that will change your destiny, choosing a law school is one of them - and - you chose wisely.

You've done it. You are about to take your rightful place as Seton Hall lawyers. What once seemed just a little bit out of reach is now firmly in your grasp. Years of books and papers, and discussions, late nights, exams, remarkable dedication and sacrifice — have led to this moment.

So, congratulations! Together with your classmates, and the support of your family and friends, you've earned world-class legal education. All of you should be gratified by your accomplishments. Certainly, your parents, your spouses, and friends are filled with pride. (And, they should be!)

So is Dean Boozang, and your remarkable professors, your Board of Regents and certainly me as your President - we are so proud of you.

As you bid farewell to your student days, as Dean Boozang mentioned, you are entering a world of choice, and I am confident the choices you make will reflect your Seton Hall values.

It's well known and often said..."the higher the calling, the greater courage it takes to fulfill that calling with integrity, honor and compassion."

This is especially important for you. More than any previous law school class, you will bring your expertise to bear on the great issues, the challenges and debates of our time. This is simply a fact — a product of when you are entering the profession and the kind of lawyers I know you can be.

The pandemic has highlighted a myriad of questions that will occupy the legal profession for decades. The questions affect every area of law — from civil

liberties to medicine; from education to employee rights, to our very system of governance. Our political election system, as you know, was designed to reflect the will of the people. Yet many questions of a political nature are also finding their way to the courts. Charges of election fraud, gerrymandering, election rights spring immediately to mind. As Seton Hall lawyers, how will your careers ensure democracy is upheld? That is a heady question, but it is a real question.

As more and more of our fellow citizens consider the courts to be an option of first resort, we will need attorneys with wisdom and virtue.

Wisdom of course is “knowing what to do” and virtue is “having the will to do it.” We know you will demonstrate both in the choices you make.

Now, Class of 2022, it is time to go forth and commit to great deeds in communities across the nation and around the globe. As you do, I urge you to keep in touch with your alma mater and remember that:

You are Seton Hall Law and Seton Hall Law remains forever yours.

God bless you. Congratulations in everything you are about to do. Godspeed. Well done.