Stetson University College of Law conferred 242 degrees to students in a year plagued by national tragedy and corporate scandal — a year that yielded a renewed call for lawyers with selfless values and high levels of professional ethics.

“You’re going to face a world where the Constitution that you will swear to uphold will be challenged more since Sept. 11 than ever before,” U.S. Representative C.W. Bill Young told December graduates. “You will see attempts to change laws that might infringe upon that Constitution more so than before, because we are in a new world. We are in a new threat not only in our interests overseas, but here at home in the United States.”

At Spring 2002 commencement, Florida Bar President Tod Aronovitz encouraged graduates to shift their focus from themselves to others. “Up to now, your emphasis has been on you, your achievements and your successes. The transition to lawyer has a different focus — you must understand your duty and obligation to your clients.”
“Remember that high and noble success is not found in the bargain basement. Remember to obtain the fruits of your good labor with proven good character, for in doing so, you’ll make us proud of you as honorable graduates of this institution.”

Judge Thomas E. Stringer Sr. ’74