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**Stetson University College of Law
Commencement Ceremony
Saturday
May 14, 2022
12:00 PM‑1:09 PM EST**

 **[Captioner standing by]**

 **[Music: Bagpipes]**

 **>> DEAN MICHELE ALEXANDRE: Everyone please be seated.**

**Good afternoon!**

 **>> Good afternoon!**

 **>> DEAN MICHELE ALEXANDRE: I’m Michèle Alexandre, Dean of Stetson University College of Law and Professor of Law.
 Welcome Honored Guests, Students, Faculty, Family Members, Spouses, Partners, and Friends, and most importantly — Graduates! Welcome to our May
2022 Commencement Ceremony.
 >> [Applause]
 >> DEAN MICHELE ALEXANDRE: Today is a unique celebration as we recognize the classes of December 2021 and May and August 2022.
 We are delighted that you could all be with us today in‑person for this celebration.**

 **>> [Applause]
 >> DEAN MICHELE ALEXANDRE: First, I would like to acknowledge — our active‑duty military personnel and our veterans in this graduating class, in our faculty, and in our audience.**

 **Please stand, so that we can recognize your service.**

 **>> [Applause]
 >> DEAN MICHELE ALEXANDRE: Let me take a moment to introduce those on stage with me, and those who are part of the procession.
 We are honored to have with us:**

 **Dr. Christopher Roellke, President of Stetson University.**

 **Dr. Noel Painter, Executive Vice President, and Provost of Stetson University.**

 **Jason Bent, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Law.**

 **Darryl Wilson, Associate Dean for Faculty and Strategic Initiatives and Professor of Law.**

 **Dr. JoCynda Hudson, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs.**

 **And our Commencement Speaker, the Honorable Donald M. Remy, Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.**

 **>> [Applause]
 >> DEAN MICHELE ALEXANDRE: We are honored to the Honorable Deputy Secretary Remy with us today and are immensely thankful for him and to his service to our country. We are equally thankful for our Veterans in the community and around the nation.**

 **I would also like to recognize those honored guests who, due to pandemic restrictions, unfortunately could not be part of this presentation ceremony. They graciously sent a personal video to the graduates. We invite you to view their
videos on the graduation webpage that we've dedicated for that. Those videos will be from:**

 **Maureen Breakiron‑Evans, Chair of the Board of Trustees.**

 **Greg Coleman, Chair of the Board of Overseers.**

 **Mitchell Schermer, President of the Stetson Lawyers Alumni Association.**

 **And Tala El‑Ghali, your fellow graduate and the Outgoing Student Bar Association President.**

 **As many of you know, Stetson Law has a pro bono requirement for graduation. Our December 2021 and May 2022 graduates and students,
volunteered more than 20,000 hours of community service.
 >> [Applause]
 >> DEAN MICHELE ALEXANDRE: Many of our graduates took our pro bono requirement to the next level — by continuing to serve their communities and society even after they had far exceeded the required number of hours — using the skills and tools learned at Stetson Law.**

 **They doubled down on that commitment during the pandemic creating new ways to be of use to the community.**

 **The world is changing fast and communities around the nation ‑ more than ever ‑ need attorneys committed to serve them through pro bono service.**

 **I am proud to say that our graduates have answered that call to service and are leading the way to help those in need.**

 **You will recognize those graduates by their Blue cord representing our Blews Award for pro bono service.
 >> [Applause]
 >> DEAN MICHELE ALEXANDRE: I have to say, you all look beautiful in the audience.
 >> [Laughter]
 >> DEAN MICHELE ALEXANDRE: It really is quite a sight. Thank you for being here.**

 **Graduates, I have not been shy about letting you know that you hold a special place in our hearts. You are a class whose resilience, perseverance, and
generosity of spirt has inspired us each step of the way.**

 **You, our 2022 graduates, have spent most of your Law School career in a global pandemic and have been restrained by health restrictions. Yet, these challenges did not stop you from giving of yourself every day to each other
and to the Law School.**

 **Throughout your time here, you collaborated with us in all aspects to make the Law School experience better for your classmates and you showed gratitude to the faculty and staff in small and big ways.**

 **I have no doubt that your insights and wisdom gleamed these last few years will help benefit the world and make it a better place.**

 **I am so proud of you. I'm proud that you will continue to serve your communities with distinction and professionalism as a Stetson lawyer!
 >> [Applause]
 >> DEAN MICHELE ALEXANDRE: This year at orientation, I told our group of fresh‑faced 1Ls that they would be forging a new path that no one had walked before. I impressed upon them that empathy for others, grit, and resilience, are the pivotal foundation of a good attorney.**

 **You have seen firsthand, just in the last three years alone, the importance of lawyers and the role of law to society.**

 **Pioneer lawyers who paved the way for them, lawyers like the first woman to be admitted to practice in Florida in 1898, Louise Rebecca Pinnell, and the first woman to graduate from Stetson Law in 1908, Mary Stewart Howarth‑Hewitt. Lawyers like the first Black woman to obtain a law degree in the United States in
1872, Charlotte E. Ray. And, of course, the transformative Lawyers like
President Abraham Lincoln, who were called to serve as Presidents of the United States at pivotal times in our history.**

 **Or even fictional ones, like my Cousin Vinny, have something to offer.**

 **Graduates, as I thought about what I wanted to say to you today, I found myself reflecting on the world ahead of you. I ponder the issues we face in this increasing complex world, climate change, global wars, and my conviction is reinforced that you are well prepared to join us in tackling these problems. That is because you are the embodiment of the qualities that it takes to rise to this moment in our history.**

 **You, 2022 graduates, have had to adapt and transcend continues, international landscape, for which there was no blueprint. You faced it all and excelled! As a result, you now know what it's like to successfully complete one of life's biggest challenges despite the immense hurdles that were placed in your path. In your Law School career, you have shown determination, that Stetson Law grit, and a fresh breed of dogged commitment.**

 **I am so proud of who you are as humans, scholars, and legal minds.**

 **In answering the call to become an Attorney, you are beginning your life's purpose. You now have the tools to be change agents and justice warriors who can transform the world. So as you go forth, this advice from President Lincoln, an Attorney for 25 years before he became President, is instructive and comforting.**

 **In a letter to John M. Brockman on September 25, 1860, President Lincoln stated:**

 **Dear Sir, your letter of the 24th asking what is the best mode of obtaining total knowledge of the law is received.**

 **Well, the mode is very simple, though laborious and tedious, it is only to get the books and read and study them carefully. Begin with Blackstone's Commentaries, and after reading it carefully through, say it twice. Take up Chitty’s Pleadings, Greenleaf's Evidence, Story's Equity, reading all in succession.**

 **And lastly, work, work, work is the main thing.**

 **Yours very truly, A. Lincoln.**

 **Well, graduates, you have read Blackstone and many more. You have the world and numerous sources of law at your fingertips. You know how to read and say it twice. And the countless hours of studying, competing, writing have taught you to work, work, and work, so you are ready!**

 **And because of that, we are elated to congratulate you today. We celebrate you, your graduation and your accomplishments. And we take this moment to cherish all that you have done and feel hope and excitement for all that you will do.
 >> [Applause]
 >> DEAN MICHELE ALEXANDRE: I now invite President Roellke to offer greetings.
 >> DR. CHRISTOPHER ROELLKE: Dean Alexandre, you commented how beautiful the audience looks. I think our graduates and faculty look beautiful as well.**

 **I'm not an Attorney, but I did have the opportunity to take Constitutional Law with the legendary John Flynn and I am profoundly respectful of the rigors to earn your Juris Doctor and I give you my congratulations.**

 **We gather today who celebrate the accomplishments of our students who have earned their Juris Doctor and other advanced law degrees.**

 **Congratulations to the Class of 21 and 22.
 >> [Applause]
 >> DR. CHRISTOPHER ROELLKE: You have made it to the end of a remarkable journey and I commend you for your resilience, your tenacity and all you have accomplishing during what I have been known to call a once in a century set of challenges for Higher Education and I'm certain those challenges apply to education as well.**

 **You made it. You made it through lockdowns, online meetings, virtual meetings, lost internet connections, masks, handwashing, physical distancing, you endured and you made it.**

 **Your friends, faculty, and family are assembled here, both in‑person and virtually, to celebrate you. I believe this is, indeed, a very special graduation because you have achieved your milestone this year.**

 **You absolutely should celebrate what you have done. Not only have you survived the demands of an outstanding Stetson education, but you have succeeded in accomplishing something both very difficult and special during a time of great adversity.**

 **In my view, these challenging experience have developed in you a repertoire of skills that will no doubt serve you exceptionally well as you move on into your legal careers.**

 **So today, I congratulate you for becoming part of the rich tradition of Stetson Law graduate who is have gathered at this very same spot.**

 **As you take the countless hours you have given in classrooms, Courtrooms, clinical experiences, competitions, as you take all these experiences out into the world and into your careers, I ask that you be kind, empathic, and that you be staunch advocates for your clients and your communities.**

 **The mission of Stetson University College of Law is to be a dynamic and supportive scholarly community, whose faculty and students will have a meaningful and far‑reaching impact on the law, on the profession, and on society.**

 **Here at Stetson you have learned the law and the skills required to apply it to legal practice with both professionalism and with integrity.**

 **Moving forward, I ask that you also bring kindness and empathy to all that you do. As you grow and thrive, and I know you will, I challenge you to help those around you to thrive, so offer small acts of kindness and empathy to your clients, to your partners, to your institutions, to your organizations, and to your communities.**

 **By practicing these two seemingly very simple things, kindness and empathy, you will, indeed, do your part in making the world a better place.**

 **Moreover, this is precisely how you will become the lawyer you set yourself out to be, serving justice where ever life may take you.**

 **Congratulations to the remarkable Stetson University College of Law Class of 21 and 22! Go Hatters!
 >> [Applause]
 >> DEAN MICHELE ALEXANDRE: President Roellke, on the recommendation of the faculty and students at the College of Law and with the approval of the
Board of Trustees of Stetson University, I present the Honorable Donald M. Remy, Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.
 >> [Applause]
 >> DR. CHRISTOPHER ROELLKE: Congratulations!
 >> [Applause]
 >> DR. CHRISTOPHER ROELLKE: Donald M. Remy, you have been a dedicated advocate for those who have served in the United States Armed Forces.**

 **Your current role is the culmination of decades of diligent service in multiple
sectors, a passion for helping veterans that spans decades, and a family tradition of military service.
 You were a Captain in the Army. Your father, Army Master Sergeant Donald Remy (Retired), was awarded the Bronze Star for his service in Vietnam. Your brother, uncle, and late father‑in‑law are also veterans, as are many other family members and close friends.**

 **In reflecting on your family’s legacy of service, you have recognized the critical role the Department of Veterans Affairs has had for your family.**

 **Your direct experience with the transformative services the Department of Veterans Affairs performs serves you well in your leadership role within the
Department.**

 **As Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Department of Justice, Assistant to the General Counsel for the United States Army, and Law Clerk at the 6th Judicial Circuit Court of Appeals, you supported the critical work of a broad range of federal agencies.**

 **In the private sector, you served as partner and global practice group chair of the Law Firm of Latham & Watkins.**

 **At Lathan & Watkins, you represented individual and corporate clients in complex investigations and compliance matters related to international
business.**

 **You also practiced at the Law Firm of O’Melveny & Myers, where you handled complex class‑action litigation.**

 **As Senior Vice President, Deputy General Counsel, and Chief Compliance Officer at Fannie Mae, you handled community development in the wake of the Hurricane Katrina disaster.**

 **You showed bold leadership as Chief Operating Officer and Chief Legal Officer at the nonprofit National College Athletic Association, NCAA, a $1
billion enterprise where you oversaw all strategic planning, operations, budget management, and legal affairs.**

 **Here, you advised the governance cabinets, committees, and boards of all three of the organization’s divisions, and you were integral to improving NCAA’s business, operational, and legal strategies.**

 **All of your skills, experience, and leadership capabilities well‑equip you for
a leadership role within the primary agency serving those who have served their country.**

 **This is why President Joseph Biden chose you to serve as Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.**

 **You have said there exists “no greater mission than the mission to serve our veterans,” and you demonstrate this ethic through your work every day.**

 **In light of your dedication to improving the lives of veterans and your ability to apply decades’ worth of legal expertise and leadership experience you apply to achieve this end with your role at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and with the power vested in me by Stetson University’s Board of Trustees, I proudly present you with the Honorary Doctor of Laws degree.
 >> [Applause]
 >> DR. CHRISTOPHER ROELLKE: Congratulations!
 >> THE HONORABLE DONALD REMY: I wish I could run out and give some of you guys this water that just dropped, I know that many of you are out here in this heat and I appreciate your dedication to these students. And it shows no more than it's shown every single day with what you do and how you do it and your presence here is fantastic.**

 **Indeed, I really appreciate that warm welcome. And when I talk about warm welcomes, I'm not talking about the heat out there. You know, I'm a country boy from Louisiana, so I know what it's like to sit out in the sweltering sun and enjoy some of this sun-kissed weather here in Florida.**

 **You know, President Roellke, I want to thank you for the kind introduction and for bestowing on me the Honorary Doctor of Laws from this, the oldest Law School in the State of Florida. I am honored, I am privileged, this is something that I, indeed, will cherish for a lifetime and it's because of you I'm able to do this, so thank you for that, indeed.**

 **And I also can join my family, people who have received degrees from Florida schools, my father has a degree from Florida Institute of Technology, and both of my sons have degrees in the University of Central Florida, so I can go and tell them I'm now amongst them as proud individuals with Florida degrees.
 >> [Applause]
 >> THE HONORABLE DONALD REMY: And I love that, I love that! Provost Painter and Dean Alexandre, thank you all for your leadership of this University, of this Law School at this pivotal point in time in preparing this institution for what I know will be an extraordinarily bright future, so I thank you for that.**

 **And to the Board of Trustees, distinguished faculty members, the proud parents, grandparents, family members, siblings, spouses, friends, it's a privilege, it's my privilege to join you in honoring this group of graduates, these men and women who have committed their lives now to the service of the law and the law that serves the people of this nation.**

 **It the Veterans who are graduating and the Veterans in our audience, I saw many of you stand earlier, on behalf of President Biden, on behalf of Secretary McDonough, and the entire Department of Veterans Affairs, I want to say thank you for your service in and out of uniform.
 >> [Applause]
 >> THE HONORABLE DONALD REMY: And to all the graduates of 2021-2022, thank you for inviting me to share this moment with you to celebrate your accomplishments and your achievements. Thank you.
 >> [Applause]
 >> THE HONORABLE DONALD REMY: Now I'd like to give a special shout‑out to somebody who is not even here, and this is my good friend, my Army buddy of 30‑plus years, Roy Gardner, who is a Professor of Law here at Stetson.**

 **I was talking to Roy yesterday and he is good at giving advice and he has given me advice over the years, especially when it's unsolicited.
 >> [Laughter]
 >> THE HONORABLE DONALD REMY: And he was giving me advice yesterday on a commencement address and what to say to this group.**

 **The first piece of advice he gave me, I thought it was good, he said be brief. Be brief. If you want to be long remembered, be brief.**

 **The second thing he told me is avoid that cliché of telling the students to be courageous as they go out into the brave, new world. People say that all the time.**

 **And the third thing he said is, try not to sound like a lawyer.**

 **And I said, Roy, what does it mean to sound like a lawyer?**

 **He said, you know, pompous and pedantic, you know.**

 **I said, Roy, I don't know, but you probably do know.**

 **I have good news and bad news for you guys. The good news is I'm going to be brief and I'm going to do my best to try not to sound pompous or pedantic.**

 **The bad news is I might get a little close to encouraging you to go out and be courageous in this brave, new world. I might get a little close to that because in accepting this calling to this profession of law, you all will have the opportunity, you'll have the responsibility to right wrongs, both large and small.**

 **And to hold our great nation accountable to all of its promises. That means, that means our nation is counting on them. Our nation is counting on you to be the next generation of leaders. Those leaders who will get us closer to the ideals upon which this nation was founded because if America is going to live up to those ideals, if America is going to keep the promises upon which it is built, then we need you to make sure that the words in our founding documents don't ring hallow.**

 **Think about that. "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union," is how the Constitution starts, and “We hold these truths to be self‑evident, that all men,” and dare I say women, “are created equal” is how our Declaration starts. You need to hold us accountable to those words and others.**

 **As we were driving over here this afternoon, I saw a Middle School named after Thurgood Marshall and Thurgood Marshall is one of my heroes, a former Supreme Court Justice. What he once said about inequality and justice, he said, speak out because this is your country, this is your democracy, make it, protect it, preserve it, and pass it on.**

 **That's what you all have to do. Most people don't think of lawyers as those who have to make the decisions of right or wrong. Unfortunately, our profession sometimes gets a bad reputation. But I know, I know that the reality is our business is the business of right or wrong. We are in the business of shaping this country and this world for the better.**

 **And whatever you do, that should be your guiding principle. That should be what gives meaning and purpose to your work.**

 **So as you prepare to leave Law School, I know that you are stepping into a future that looks unstable, maybe even uncertain. It's much like the environment that I inherited when I graduated from Law School. It's been more than 30 years since I left Law School and I know many of you are probably sitting over there thinking, what does this old guy know about what I'm thinking or what I need or what's happening in today's world? But I guarantee you, I once sat in your seats and I know what it is you're thinking.**

 **I once shared some of the same concerns that you have about jobs, about the nation, about economy, about the future that looked in equal parts both bleak and promising.**

 **That year, that year that I graduated was 1991 and the nation was at war. The economy was up and down. Race relationships were dominating the headlines. And the world was divided, yet together. Sound pretty familiar? I'm sure it does.**

 **General Norman Schwarzkopf was leading a coalition of forces into the Gulf War right as I was going into the military. And the late Secretary Ron Brown, commerce Secretary was my Commencement Speaker. I know you are thinking back to your commencements and you don't remember much of what your Commencement Speakers said. You are thinking, I want to get out of the hot sun and I want to see my child or grandchild walk across the stage.**

 **But I was thinking about the message he delivered to my graduating class. He said three things.**

 **First, as a nation we must continue to embrace and champion Social Justice and legislation that impacts everybody because America has come a long way, but it still has a long way to go. And that's just as true today as it was then.**

 **The second thing he said was, many of us come from humble beginnings and we must never forget that we stand on the shoulders of others in order to be here today. And that's why I want you to make sure you say thank you to your parents, to your spouses, to your children, to your grandparents, to everyone who has stood by you through this endeavor.**

 **And third, he reminded my graduating class that as a nation, we must remain committed to togetherness in order to get things done.**

 **And those words have never rung true more than they ring true today.**

 **So between the pandemic, which I know has been a challenge for all of you, all of us, the war in Ukraine, the division that so often threatens to define us, today's world reality, it really isn't much different than the reality I faced when I was leaving Law School.**

 **And if you are anything like I was then, if you are anything like that, that means you are looking out into the world and looking out into your post‑graduate life with a bit of apprehension. And I get that. That's only normal.**

 **But here's the thing, the thing about that is this is where you come in because, indeed, this world is, it's pretty much how it is. This country, the greatest country on earth, it is how it is. But the truth is, it doesn't have to always be this way. It improves and it can continue to improve and it doesn't have to stay this way and with your help, we will do that because the degree that you are getting today, this law degree, the knowledge that you have gained here at Stetson University College of Law, it gives you the tools to make those changes.**

 **You can build the world that you want to live in. And that's what we need you to do. That's what I need you to do. That's what they need you to do because after three years of Law School, and they put in just as much time as y'all did, and money some of them, after three years of Law School, you know better than anyone else that democracy isn't destiny. It doesn't just survive on its own. It's on you to protect and preserve it.**

 **You know better than anyone that progress doesn't just happen, it's on you to make it happen.**

 **And you know better than anyone that the fundamental promises of America, they aren't just kept, it's on you to keep those promises.**

 **So the future is in your hands and I know from talking to some of you, many of you, that that means that our future is in great hands.**

 **Now, look, you don't have to follow the path that I followed. Far from it. Everybody has their own path. For me, trying to make the country a better place means engaging in public service. That's what I feel called to do.**

 **And, sure, I have left public service a couple of times. You heard my resume here today, some say I can't even keep a job, but I've done some other things in life, but every time I do, I'm drawn back to my core. I feel myself pulled back in to what means the most to me and how I believe I can make a difference and that is through public service.**

 **But the lesson here isn't that the path to happiness is through the Army or through the Government, the lesson here is that you need to find that thing. You need to find that thing that calls you the way that public service calls me.**

 **That thing that you can't not do. That's the thing that will drive you in your legal careers. That's the thing that as you feel yourself drifting away, it will pull you back and ground you because that's the thing that will matter most to you. You know, people often say, you've heard this old cliché, if you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life. That's not true. You’re going to work, but I'll tell you work is a hell of a lot better when you are doing what you love, so find that thing.**

 **For me, it's public service. For you, it could being a Professor, Dean, President of the United States, being in a law firm, being in a corporation, it doesn't matter, but whatever you do, make sure you do it well because if you do, the hard work that put in, the hard work, it won't feel that hard after all.**

 **And all I ask of you is that you do it for "We the people," because "We the people" need you to rise up and do what your passion calls you to do to make sure that we continue on our quest to become a more perfect Union, make sure that our self‑evident truths are really true.**

 **And I doubt your path is going to be straight. Mine certainly wasn't. I've done a lot of things in my life and I've had a lot of successes, but those aren't the things that define me. And this is the last thing I want you to take away from my talk to you today.**

 **The things that I think define me are the failures, the challenges, the adversities that I've seen throughout my lifetime.**

 **I think about when I graduated from College, I just wanted a job, so I went down to the local 7‑Eleven and tried to get a job at 7‑Eleven, I couldn't get a job. I thought, oh, my God, my life is over, I can't even get a job in a convenient store.**

 **When I clerked on the 6th Circuit, I wanted to be a Supreme Court Clerk so bad and I didn't get to clerk for a Supreme Court Justice.**

 **The job that I wanted the most was to be the starting center for the Orlando Magic. I didn't get that job either. This 7 foot, LSU alum, he got the job instead of me. I get that.**

 **So, you know, just think about those things, those challenges because on a resume, in an introduction, on social media where all you see is the best of the representative, you don't really see the real that makes a person who they are.**

 **So stand by those failures as you move along as I stand here as a result of perseverance and adversity.**

 **And I believe, I know, the same thing will happen to you. You will fail. You will fail. Your life will take left and right turns along the way, but those experiences will make you better. And I'm sure decades from now, you'll be standing up here giving a commencement speech, maybe sooner than that, maybe receiving an Honorary Degree, you'll hear somebody introduce you and you'll sit back and you'll smile and people will wonder, what's that smile all about? And it will be a smile that demonstrates that you know the reason you are there is not all those things that they said on the page, but those things that weren't there that you had to overcome to be where you are.**

 **So the last thing, Roy's advice, don't tell you to go out and be courageous in a brave, new world, I won't say that, but I won't not say it either because it's your turn to find purpose in life, to pursue your passion, to fulfill your destiny for "We the people."**

 **Class of 2021-2022, congratulations again!
 >> [Applause]
 >> THE HONORABLE DONALD REMY: And Godspeed!
 >> [Applause]
 >> DEAN MICHELE ALEXANDRE: Find the thing that you cannot not do. Thank you Honorable Deputy Secretary Remy for that beautiful call to purpose.**

 **Let’s give another round of applause for our very special Honorary Degree recipient, the Honorable Donald Remy.
 >> [Applause]
 >> DEAN MICHELE ALEXANDRE: So families, friends, and community, it is now time to celebrate your graduates.**

 **President Roellke, today, we recognize the December 2021 graduates and honor the students who are candidates for the May and August 2022 Juris Doctor
degree, the LL.M. in Advocacy, the LL.M. in Elder Law, the LL.M. in International Law, the dual degrees, the Master of Jurisprudence in Aging, Law and Policy, and the Master of Jurisprudence in Healthcare Compliance.
 We anticipate that all candidates listed in the graduation program will meet the requirements for their respective degrees.**

 **As such, I ask that you prospectively confer their degrees on them.**

 **All graduates — please stand.
 >> [Applause]
 >> DEAN MICHELE ALEXANDRE: After President Roellke speaks, the graduates’ names will be read by Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Jason Bent, and Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, JoCynda Hudson.**

 **And now President Roellke.
 >> DR. CHRISTOPHER ROELLKE: Thank you, Dean Alexandre.**

 **By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Board of Trustees of Stetson University, pursuant to the charter granted by the State of Florida, I now pronounce you graduates of Stetson University and confer upon you all the rights and privileges appertaining thereto.
 >> [Applause]
 >> DR. CHRISTOPHER ROELLKE: Graduates, please come forward as your name is called.
 >> DR. JOCYNDA HUDSON: Good afternoon. It is our pleasure to present to you the Fall 2021 Juris Doctor graduates.
 [Reading Graduates' Names]
 >> DEAN JASON BENT: Now it is our pleasure to present to you the Spring and Summer 2022 Juris Doctor Degree candidates.
 [Reading Graduates' Names]
 >> DR. JOCYNDA HUDSON: [Reading Graduates' Names]
 >> DEAN JASON BENT: [Reading Graduates' Names]
 >> DR. JOCYNDA HUDSON: [Reading Graduates' Names]**

 **The diploma for our next graduate will be presented by her parents, her father, a 1996 graduate of the College of Law, and her mother, a 1997 graduate of the College of Law.
 [Reading Graduates' Names]
 >> DEAN JASON BENT: [Reading Graduates' Names]
 >> DR. JOCYNDA HUDSON: [Reading Graduates' Names]**

 **The diploma for our next graduate will be presented by his uncle, a 2000 graduate of the College of Law.
 [Reading Graduates' Names]
 >> DEAN JASON BENT: [Reading Graduates' Names]
 >> DR. JOCYNDA HUDSON: [Reading Graduates' Names]
 >> [Applause]
 >> DR. JOCYNDA HUDSON: Please join us in congratulating all of our graduates!
 >> [Applause]
 >> DEAN MICHELE ALEXANDRE: We had a little Stetson Law doggy graduate! [Laughter]**

 **Commencement is the happiest and proudest part of the year. It is our deepest honor and joy to see our students develop from first year law students to**

**seasoned legal minds, and soon to be attorneys.**

 **Families, supporters, and friends, you were there when our students needed you most! The task is not done, please support them one more time in the next three months as they study and prepare to take the Bar Exam.**

 **You can do it!
 >> [Applause]
 >> DEAN MICHELE ALEXANDRE: We thank you so very much for being part of the village who support our graduates' success.
 Our Staff and Faculty — serve as teachers, mentors, and role models. They demonstrate the values of leadership and service. And they serve as an inspiration to all of us.**

 **Graduates ‑ Stetson is a community dedicated to excellence.**

 **Stetson University College of Law was founded in 1900. We know that you will follow more than a century of tradition as lawyers and leaders who are committed to the rule of law, who transform society, who lead with empathy, who represent the values of your law school, your university, and our profession.**

 **Today we celebrate YOU — and from today forward, we are proud to call you graduates and alumni of the Stetson University College of Law.
 >> [Applause]
 >> DEAN MICHELE ALEXANDRE: Graduates, please stand one more time, turn your tassel from the right to the left of your tam, as we acknowledge the Class of 2022!
 >> [Applause]
 >> DEAN MICHELE ALEXANDRE: And now, dear graduates, it is time to thank everyone who helped you become a graduate of Stetson University College of Law. Please turn to your supporters and thank them.
 >> [Applause]
 >> DEAN MICHELE ALEXANDRE: And congratulations! [Laughter]**

 **After the Recession has concluded, we kindly ask that you meet your party and exit safely and swiftly to the parking lot.**

 **We appreciate your cooperation.**

 **It has been a delight and pleasure to have you with us today. Thank you and be safe!
 >> [Applause]**

 **[Music: Bagpipes]**

 **[Commencement concluded]**

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