

Suffolk University Law School
Commencement 2025

Student Speaker
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Members of the jury, or in this case, members of the graduating class, Board of Trustees, President Kelly and the deans, esteemed Suffolk Law faculty and staff, and loved ones, good evening. And welcome to our long-awaited Commencement day.

One of my favorite people here at Suffolk Law, Professor Christina Miller, once told me that *justice looks different for everyone*. Well, over the last three years, I've come to learn that the same can be said about law school. A few years ago, each of us embarked on our own individual journeys to becoming competent practitioners of all kinds of law, and these journeys have looked different from person to person. But we've shared in a few collective experiences as well, including being excited and ambitious, at times a little overwhelmed, or even terrified. Together we have shown strength, tenacity, and so much love for this profession. We have fought for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Most notably, today we stand here both independently and as a collective, ready and qualified to seek justice and remedies wherever we go.

The burden of proving to ourselves and to the world that we could do this has been *ours* to bear, and it's one of the highest standards that anyone could possibly be asked to meet. It's a standard of beyond our wildest dreams and our greatest expectations. Each of us has met this burden in the following ways:

On our very first day of law school, we packed our bags full of the heaviest books, technology, and supplies, and we walked through the doors of Suffolk University Law School for the very first time as students. We took great care to avoid stepping on the emblem on the floor of the lobby. And we headed to floors two and three, carefully selecting seats in our classrooms, bonding with our sections, and nervously awaiting our first cold-calls.

In our second, third, and fourth years, we joined clinics, journals, organizations, clubs, and teams that helped us to gain more specialized knowledge and training in our chosen areas of practice and of interest. We took numerous bar classes. We attended our CLEs. And then we took the MPRE, maybe more than once. We've briefed hundreds of cases and given dozens of oral arguments. We've practiced as 3:03s, and we've worked as summer associates. We have served our community and communities beyond with countless pro bono hours, fellowships, and involvement with activism and with governing.

We've been supported throughout this process by several witnesses to our achievements, many of whom are here today and can certainly testify as to the absolute nightmare that we've been these last few years. On behalf of the graduating class, to each of you, we are forever indebted and extremely grateful.

We've witnessed one another grow from 1Ls all the way into impressive graduates of law, landing prestigious internships, jobs, and leadership roles, winning awards and competitions. We've faced adversity and hardships to the things we thought knew and the things we thought we believed before starting law school. Indeed, we have been students during times of extreme changes and challenges to the law and to society as we know them. But we continue to pursue what we know to be right. Today, we represent dozens of different races, cultures, ethnicities, communities, languages, and religions, all of which not only make us stronger, but make the legal community as a whole, and the world, so much richer.

On this, the day of our graduation from law school, we stand here ready to take on our next big case: practice. It is now time to put into motion everything we have worked so hard for these last few years. It's time to be a voice, a leader, and advocate, counsel, and an example for one of the most beautiful and impactful careers in the world. [APPLAUSE]

Because this work that we get to do is not about just us. It's about the people, the communities, the clients, and the entities that we have the privilege of serving. Beginning today, each and every one of us has the immense honor and opportunity to be the change we want to see in the world. [APPLAUSE]

Members of the graduating class, as you may have anticipated, today I'm going to ask you to render a verdict. I'm going to ask you follow the facts and the evidence, the testimony of your loved ones and of each other, the memories you've made, and the friendships you've formed. The successes sustained, and the challenges overruled. And most importantly, the passion, the knowledge, and quite frankly the caselaw that you've gained these past few years. I ask you to consider and apply all of these factors and finding in favor of the one person who has met their most incredible burden of proving that becoming a lawyer is not only possible, but has actually happened as of today. [APPLAUSE]

For all of your matters, cases, trials, and days moving forward, I ask you to find in favor of *you*. And with that, we rest our case. Congratulations. Thank you. [APPLAUSE]