

## Dedication Speech Gabe Baldini

As I stand here before you today, I am struck to reflect upon my time as a law student at Thomas Jefferson. I was fortunate enough to begin my law **school** career at the old campus in old town. This may sound funny to some. Besides the long commute from living downtown and taking the trolley back and forth, and also the constant leaking problem that we had; starting at the old campus has really given me the opportunity to see where this school has come from and where we are going. Never in my wildest dreams did I think when I began my first class in old town that I would be standing **here**, giving a speech before a U.S. Supreme Court Justice.

I bring this up because it is reflective of Thomas Jefferson School of Law. To think about where we have come from, to where we are now as an internationally known law school is truly amazing. Bringing together such a distinguished group from all around the world and the Thomas Jefferson community as a whole is incredible.

There are 3 words that come to mind when I think about our new building: The first is Opportunity. We have the opportunities to do things like never before.

The new building provides for a perfect venue for social outreach and networking opportunities. Just last week we held an event on the third floor in which over 30 business owners from around San Diego, including the mayor, Bob Filner, came and networked with the students. This building allows us to host events like the annual sports symposium and ADR competition in which schools from all over the country like Harvard, Notre Dame, and others come to compete on a national level. The possibilities and opportunities are thus endless.

The second word that comes to mind is Excitement. Excitement in the sense that this building offers a learning experience like no other. Students are genuinely excited to use the technology that this building has to offer. Student life has **developed substantially** since the new building has been built. There are so many places to study and collaborate with **fellow** students. **As I think about Thomas Jefferson School of Law, a great Wayne Gretzky quote comes to mind. He stated:** "I skate to where the puck is going to be, not where it has been," **I feel that this is reflective of our Law School's path and vision. Illustrative of this point is the** technology this building has. Students are able to learn in ways like never before. From creative innovation learning stations for group collaboration, to technology driven lectures

taught by our top notched professors; legal studies and student life is ever so changing and **progressive**.

And it's not only students who attend Thomas Jefferson that are excited. I remember last year, walking into the student lounge to take a break during finals studies. I met a law student from Cal Western who was studying in our building. When I asked him, his response to me was: "this building is amazing and if I have the opportunity to study here, why wouldn't I." I felt proud of our school at that moment and continue to hear praise from around our community.

The Last word that I will talk about is Legacy. The legacy of Thomas Jefferson is in our hands. This amazing building has raised the school on a global pedestal and it is up to us, the Thomas Jefferson students, alumni, faculty, and community as a whole to continue to build our schools legacy. With a great building like this come great expectations. We will surely surpass these expectations.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the entire Thomas Jefferson community who made this building possible. I would like to thank our distinguished guests and everybody in the audience for taking time out of your busy schedules to be here for the dedication. I would especially like to thank Dean Hasl who spearheaded the campaign to get this building build. For without his dedication, determination and vision;

this building and my law school experience would not have been the same. Thank You!