

C L A S S O F 2 0 1 5 G R A D U A T I O N

CANFIELD COURTYARD
STANFORD UNIVERSITY
JUNE 13, 2015
11:15 A.M.

TO THE MEMBERS, FRIENDS, AND FAMILIES
OF THE CLASS OF 2015:

Congratulations to the Class of 2015, which today joins a distinguished group of Stanford Law graduates whose history stretches back over a century to 1895 when the fledgling Stanford University first conferred the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Law upon four seniors. The first graduate degree, a Master of Arts in Law, was introduced the next year and in 1901 the equivalent of today's professional Doctor of Jurisprudence (JD) degree was inaugurated as the Bachelor of Laws (LLB). Stanford Law School has since developed the degrees of Doctor of the Science of Law (JSD), Master of Legal Studies (MLS), Master of the Science of Law (JSM), Master of Laws (LLM), and 27 joint degrees.

It is my honor to uphold Stanford's tradition of excellence, which began in 1893 when the university started teaching law and recruited its first law professors. One was Benjamin Harrison, former president of the United States, whom Governor Stanford invited to deliver a landmark series of lectures on the Constitution. The other was Nathan Abbott, who would head the nascent law program. Dean Abbott assembled around him a small faculty, and he imparted a standard of rigor and excellence that endures to this day.

Following Abbott's departure in 1907, the deanship was held successively by Frederic Woodward (1908-1916), Charles Huston (1916-1922), and Marion Rice Kirkwood (1922-1945).

During Dean Kirkwood's tenure, the law school saw the successful introduction of a moot court program, the institution of the Stanford Law Association (forerunner of today's alumni law societies), and the first directory of Stanford Law alumni. Carl Spaeth became dean in 1946. Under his leadership, the school assumed its modern form, and the first volume of the *Stanford Law Review* was published.

During the deanship of Bayless Manning (1964-1971), Stanford expanded its role of national leadership in legal education and fundraising began for a distinct law school campus. Dean Thomas Ehrlich (1971-1976) successfully completed that campaign, overseeing the construction of Crown Quadrangle, a complex of buildings designed specifically for the study of law. The new buildings were dedicated by President Gerald Ford on September 26, 1975.

Stanford Law School consolidated its position as one of the nation's top law schools during the deanship of Charles J. Meyers (1976-1981), who led new initiatives in law, economics, and business. Dean John Hart Ely (1982-1987) promoted public interest programs for students, oversaw a student-led initiative to launch a legal aid clinic in East Palo Alto, and created the nation's first loan forgiveness program for graduates who chose public interest jobs.

Under the leadership of its tenth dean, Paul Brest (1987-1999), the law school embarked on a highly successful fundraising campaign to secure the future of the school with new faculty hiring and a re-engaged alumni community. A concerted effort was also made to recruit more women and minorities and today Stanford Law School's faculty is one of the most diverse among its peer law schools. Dean Brest also strengthened the law and business curriculum and deepened the law school's ties to the Graduate School of Business and Silicon Valley.

Dean Kathleen M. Sullivan (1999-2004) led a technologically sophisticated renovation of the law school complex and raised one of the largest individual gifts made to a U.S. law school to build the Munger Graduate Residence adjacent to the school. She also introduced a new LLM program and began efforts to reinvigorate clinical education at the law school.

Dean Larry Kramer (2004-2012) spearheaded significant educational reforms, including dramatically expanding joint degree opportunities, enlarging the clinical education program, and expanding initiatives to foster a public service ethos. Dean Kramer also led the move to bring the law school's academic calendar in line with the rest of Stanford University, thereby enabling law students to take advantage of offerings in Stanford's other top-rated graduate programs and departments.

Installed as the thirteenth dean in the fall of 2012, I have been privileged to join this distinguished community and build on its strengths. Stanford Law School will continue to innovate and evolve, but the basic mission has not changed since Abbott's day—dedication to the highest standards of excellence in legal scholarship and to the training of lawyers equipped to serve their clients, lead our shared profession, and solve the problems of our nation and our world. I am proud to carry on that tradition.



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Posthumous Presentation of the 2015 Staff Appreciation Award to J. Paul Lomio, Director of the Robert Crown Law Library

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Presentation of the 2015 John Bingham Hurlbut Award for Excellence in Teaching to Juliet M. Brodie, Associate Dean of Clinical Education, The Mills Professor of Law, Director of the Mills Legal Clinic, and Director of the Stanford Community Law Clinic

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A SHORT HISTORY OF SLS

Stanford began offering a curriculum in legal studies in 1893. After undergoing rapid expansion, in 1900 the law department moved from its location in Encina Hall to the Inner Quad and for the first time offered a three-year professional law program. The law department also became one of 27 charter members of the Association of American Law Schools. During this time, the law department began to focus more on professional training than on undergraduate education. The transition from a department to a modern graduate law school was completed in 1924 when Stanford began requiring a bachelor's degree for admission to its legal program.

The Great Depression and World War II seriously disrupted the work of the law school. Enrollment dropped sharply. The law school nonetheless adhered to its high academic standards, while recognizing that academic content would need to grow to reflect national developments. The faculty correctly predicted that government would play a greater role in the regulation of private affairs and so added administrative law, taxation, trade regulation, labor law, and related subjects to the curriculum during this period.

The late 1940s and 1950s brought a tidal wave of changes, including a relocation from the Inner Quad to the Outer Quad, publication of the first edition of the *Stanford Law Review*, the construction of a law school dormitory (Crothers Hall), the successful introduction of a new moot court program, the graduation of two future U.S. Supreme Court justices, and a commitment to maintaining selective enrollment and small class size. This last decision was perhaps the most important from the standpoint of the long-term success of the law school as it established a rigorous legal program and an intimate educational experience for a small, carefully chosen student body. In the 1970s, the law school again moved—this time to its current home in Crown Quadrangle. Speaking at the 1975 dedication ceremony for the new law campus, U.S. President Gerald Ford extolled Stanford's foundation as a "solid triad of law, learning, and liberty."

Building on this foundation, Stanford has consolidated its position as one of the nation's top law schools. Recognizing the necessity of experiential learning, the law school has developed a state-of-the-art clinical program, offering students closely supervised, pedagogically driven opportunities to work with clients. The law school has instituted model programs in both environmental and intellectual property law. The law school also has deepened its commitment to interdisciplinary education, working with graduate schools throughout the university to develop joint degree programs.

Moreover, through the generosity of friends and alumni, the law school has been able to implement physical expansions that such programmatic changes require. In 2009, law students welcomed the addition of new housing with the opening of the Munger Graduate Residence, the housing complex adjacent to the school, designed to facilitate interdisciplinary living and learning for law and other graduate students studying throughout campus. And in 2011, the 65,000-square-foot William H. Neukom Building was officially opened in a ceremony with U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, at which he said, "The building we now dedicate is the embodiment of an idea—a vision of all that is, and can be, good in the legal profession."

Much has changed at the law school since its founding in 1893. Originally, students were drawn mainly from California; today, they come from every region of the United States and around the world. Admission was not competitive in 1893; today, approximately 3,800 candidates typically vie for the 180 places in each entering class. In 1893, only a handful of courses were offered; today, students can choose from among hundreds of course offerings both at the law school and across the university. And today, Stanford Law School continues to offer a truly unique legal education that opens up a world of opportunity to its graduates.

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