

Graduation Address 1929

Paul M. Hebert

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Mr. President and fellow students,

Three years ago a group of young men entered the Law School of Louisiana State University, with ardor and ambition, bent upon hard work and honest endeavor, and with their faces pointed towards the ^{achievement} ~~beacon~~ of a Bachelor of Laws degree from this institution.

"~~Tempus fugit~~", ~~time flees~~, or ^A as Longfellow tells us in his Psalm of Life, "time is fleeting", and today that same group of young men, the Law Class of 1929, after achieving its immediate goal, appears before you for the last time in the role of undergraduate law students.

When we look backwards over the last few years we feel that our time in the Law School has been well spent. We have received a sound legal education which will be of inestimable value to us in later life. A thorough knowledge of legal principles is essential to higher professional success and this knowledge, which under all circumstances is difficult of acquisition, can rarely be attained except as the result of uninterrupted systematic study under competent guidance. In these respects, the Law School of Louisiana State University has not been found wanting.

We have studied the law in a dual aspect, as a science and as an art. As a science, in order that we might know the doctrines of the law. As an art, in order that we might be able to correctly and successfully apply these doctrines in the enforcement of the rights of our future clients, and in

the administration of justice, which are two of the fundamental duties imposed upon members of the legal profession.

We have been taught to honor and revere the noble principles and tenets of our glorious Civil Law, which comes to us preserved and protected through centuries of mature deliberation, fostered by some of the greatest legal minds the world has ever produced.

The Civil Law indeed manifests proofs of the highest culture and refinement; and no one who studies it will avoid the conviction that it has been the fruitful source of those solid principles which have been applied to elevate and adorn the jurisprudence of modern times.

We Louisianians should be justly proud of our great Civil Code, and it is incumbent upon the Louisiana Law School to instill into the hearts and minds of the embryonic lawyer a proper understanding and appreciation for this legal masterpiece.

We must have no false conception of our profession. The lawyer's education is never done. The legal profession is affected by changed modern conditions as are other vocations and professions. The prosperity and contentment of a people depend upon the protection afforded by the law to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The preservation and development of American institutions and ideals is now, and always has been, under the leadership of the legal profession. The character of the law school largely determines the character of the profession. It is therefore important that the law schools be great centers of learning and leadership. Fortunately

the standards of the law schools are being raised, as are the standards for admission to the bar. This leads to a raising of the standards of the bar itself.

Let us take pride in our profession and in the heritage that is ours as members of the legal fraternity. Let us live up to the high standards demanded by the ethics of our profession assured that if we do no individual or group of men can or will be of greater service to civilization than the lawyers.

On this the occasion of our departure from Louisiana State University our emotions are a peculiar mixture of gladness and sadness. Our joy is tempered with regret. Before we leave, it is fitting that you should hear the farewell address from the Law Class of 1929. I take great pleasure in presenting Theodore W. Bauer, Valedictorian of the Law Class of 1929.