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Greetings from the Louisiana State Bar Association

J. J. Davidson

It is my privilege to bring greetings from the Louisiana State Bar Association on the occasion of this, the Golden Anniversary of the L.S.U. Law School.

Over a period of time, covering half a century, this school, along with others, has been receiving raw recruits, subjecting them to varying degrees of torts, contracts, and constitutional principles, and discharging them, for better or for worse, as a finished product capable of handling every problem which an unsuspecting public might place in their care. As L.S.U. has struggled with the task of producing lawyers for fifty years, this anniversary is of particular significance to the State Bar Association, since the very life of the Association depends on the work of the law schools in qualifying its membership.

During the past fifty years, the great majority of the lawyers and judges of the bench and bar in Louisiana have come from this and other law schools in the state, and, therefore, in a sense, it may be stated that the state bar is a glorified law school alumni association, embracing the traditions and the ideals of the student years.

We like to think of our bar as possessing all of the best attributes of lawyers and their profession, and we must recognize that whatever we are, is the product of the law schools over the course of the years. The standing of the bar as a whole, the knowledge and efficiency of the individual lawyer, and the standards of ethics and ideals in the profession are determined, in large measure, by the background, the training, and the idealism which is instilled in the individual during his law school days.

One of the great needs of the profession today is a dynamic program which will place proper emphasis on the ethics of our profession, and which will demonstrate that the lawyers actually maintain the standards which they advocate, that they are alert

in protecting the public and the profession from the unscrupulous and unethical lawyer and in protecting the lawyer from unjust criticism which results from ignorance and misunderstanding. As a result of the establishment of the House of Delegates as a governing body in our State Bar Association, which has just been authorized by the vote of the lawyers of the state, there should be closer contact between the local bars, the individual lawyer, and the State Association, so that the problems which arise may be efficiently and properly handled. When the lawyers make adequate funds available through the increase of the dues to be voted on soon, it should be possible to inaugurate a comprehensive program covering the field of professional ethics and grievances, and the unauthorized practice of law.

Here again, to the law schools go the credit for the high standards of our bar, because it is under their care and direction that the importance of ethics and idealism of the profession takes its proper place. As the character and standing of the present bar is the reflection of the law school of the past, so will the law school of tomorrow determine and fix the character of the bar of the future.

At the entrance to the majestic building housing the United States Supreme Court in Washington is found the inscription,

“The heritage of the past is the seed from which comes the harvest of the future.”

And so the glorious heritage of the L.S.U. Law School, which today marks its Golden Anniversary, is but the seed from which the bench and bar of the future will reap the golden harvest of lawyers learned in the law and embracing the highest standards of the profession.