

DEAN ROBEL'S REMARKS
CONTINUING THE COMMUNITY CLASS OF 2004
FEBRUARY 12, 2004

- It is so wonderful to see all of you here tonight. I am just delighted to have this opportunity to thank all of you for helping us launch the first Class Pledge program in the history of the Law School.
- The Law School is a true community of students, alumni, faculty, and staff. We need every part of this community for the school to thrive. Tonight, I want to congratulate you on your coming graduation, welcome you into the community of alumni, and speak with you a little bit about the importance of alumni support to the law school.
- It may surprise many of you to know how much at the school is supported by alumni giving – after we pay assessments to the university, tuition and state appropriations combined cover only basic classroom instruction – professors' salaries, light, heat – the basics!
- The Fund for Excellence makes up the difference – it supports law journals, advocacy programs, clinics, lectures, student organizations, and many student services that enhance our academic programs.
- We have all benefitted from alumni support while students here in the building. I received emergency financial aid from Dean Fromm's office that helped me stay in law school during a difficult time. As an alumna, I give every year to the Fund for Excellence, because I feel very strongly that I have an obligation to give back to the school and make the opportunities that I enjoyed available for the next generations of students. And that is what the Continuing the Community is all about.

- The Class of 2004's pledges will help the school build the sustained support it needs to plan for the future of the school's student programs. I hope the pledges will also keep the Class more invested in the progress of the school, because the programs supported by the Fund for Excellence and the Class of 2004's pledges will help enhance the reputation of the school and the value of your degrees.
- As you leave the school and begin your new careers and next chapters of your lives, I want the Class of 2004 to remain active in the Law School community. Your financial support through pledges to the Fund for Excellence is wonderful, but I also hope you will continue to lend your talents to the school, because alumni are our best advocates and best critics.