Greeting
Dean Klint W. Alexander

Class of 2021 Speaker
Emily Katherine Sloan

Potter Law Club Outstanding Faculty Award Recipient
Professor James M. Delaney
Presented by Christina Porath, Potter Law Club President

Graduation Address
Catherine M. Fox
Wyoming Supreme Court Justice

Presentation of the Graduating Class
Dean Klint W. Alexander
Assistant Dean Lindsay A. Hoyt

Hooders
Professor James M. Delaney
Professors Lauren McLane and Jason A. Robison

CONFER DEGREES

Closing Remarks
Dean Klint W. Alexander

Recessional Songs Selected by the Class
Dear Class of 2021,

Congratulations to all of you who are graduating from the University of Wyoming College of Law! You should be proud of this achievement and commended for your hard work and dedication to make it through law school and this far in your lives.

All of you spent nearly half of your law school career on Zoom, which is unprecedented. You were asked to adjust your expectations and plans to accommodate a global pandemic, while still being held to the same rigorous standards as any other class to succeed in your coursework and graduate in three years. Words alone cannot express how appreciative and proud we – the administration, faculty, staff, alumni, and parents – are of you.

Today, the Juris Doctorate (JD) degree will be conferred upon you. The JD is the most flexible advanced degree in the world, allowing you to work in almost any profession, and the only degree that qualifies you to practice law before the judicial branch of government.

The conferral of the JD degree means that you are now part of an exclusive club of legal professionals. Less than one percent of the world’s population have a law degree. There are roughly 1.1 million lawyers practicing in the United States. That is approximately one for every 300 people, or approximately 0.36% of the total U.S. population.

From this day forward, you will carry a license that empowers you to represent others in their affairs, to stand up for those who need help and cannot stand up for themselves.

Charles Dickens once wrote that “If there were no bad people, there would be no good lawyers.” Lawyers are the lynchpin of society. They are advocates and advisors for our society. They give ordinary people a sense of security to pursue their goals in life knowing that someone will have their back when problems arise.

During these extraordinary times, the world needs more good lawyers. The COVID-19 crisis and growing problems surrounding health care, education, employment, immigration, environmental degradation, and inequality require a new generation of thinkers and problem solvers.

You, the Class of 2021, are part of this new generation, and it is your time to take the stage to make our country and our world a better place.

Congratulations again for this extraordinary accomplishment! We look forward to hearing great things about all of you in the future!

Klint W. Alexander, Ph.D., J.D., M.Phil.
Dean & Professor of Law
To the Class of 2021,

My heartfelt congratulations to you, the University of Wyoming College of Law’s Class of 2021. You did it! Thank you for your persistence, your grit, and your integrity throughout law school, particularly this final year. Personal triumphs and tragedies abound during students’ time with us, and I applaud the Class of 2021’s tenacity to see your degree through to the end, through all of the ups and downs. You are truly a class filled with doers, thinkers, and dreamers. I dedicate this poem to all of you.

Warmly, Dean Hoyt

FOR THE CHILDREN

The rising hills, the slopes, of statistics
lie before us.
the steep climb of everything, going up, up, as we all go down.

In the next century or the one beyond that, they say, are valleys, pastures, we can meet there in peace if we make it.

To climb these coming crests one word to you, to you and your children:

stay together
learn the flowers
go light

– Gary Snyder
Law Class of 2021

Kayla Ashlinn Albertson
Chad Auer
Jacob A. Ayling
Matthew Ayres
Kyle Barrett
Jacob Beckett
Donald Sergio Bellamy
Cal Botten
Joshua Michael Angier Brackett
Brittney Bulawa
Donovan Burton
Rachael Lauren Buzanowski
Mary Laura Catena
Stormi Chrest
Jacquelyn Cobb
Weston Connally
Nathan Robert Cowper
Ricardo B. De Jesus
Jennifer Dean
Carl A. Edelman
Erin Elizabeth Emanuel
Ryan R. Facinelli
Sarah Leslie Falen
Brenna Genevieve Fisher
Cooper Fogle
Zachary R. Fronapfel
Kaleb Gibertoni
Gregory Nathan Golyansky
Andrea N. Grave
Andrea Griena
TaLise Renee Hansen
Nicholas R. Hopkins
Joshua Howton
Dublin Dan Hughes
Morgan Jacobs
Ty Alexander Jensen
Hunter Bryce Dallas Jones
Warren Knutson
George Liddicoat
Stephen Lindburg
Robert Brian Gier Little
Edward Lopez
Amina Malik
Jewel E. Marsh
Michelle Mortimer
Wesley Gordon Neuman
Prentice B. Olive
Olivia S. Patenaude
Stefanie Jo Paxton
Rob Piper
Ashley Popek
Marissa A. Pridmore
Catherine L. Reeves
Haley Anne Richards
Matthew Steven Rogers
Rachael Elizabeth Romsa
Andrew (A.J.) Royer
Jessica Lynne Rubino
Joseph R. Rubino
Sinjon J. Ruesch
Savannah Marie Schmitt
Ryan C. Sedgeley
Todd J. Shaker
Andrew Sickenberger
Ciara Slife
Emily Katherine Sloan
Cameron Michael Smith
Jacob M. Spindler
Aubrey Marissa Staples
Jacob Steers
Erin Vargas Gutierrez
Augustus Wagner
Seth Mark Walker
Kohl Watson
Kristen Elizabeth Welch
Cole White
Nathan Yanchek
Autumn Young
William Talley Young

H Honor Graduate
Projected to graduate with a 3.400 GPA or higher and complete 59 hours at the Univ. of WY College of Law.

D December 2020
Graduate
J Joint Degree
Military Service
During my time in law school, particularly when I stumbled through a cold call or when I missed my husband, pets, and family in Colorado, I never envisioned a pandemic that would upend the second half of our law school careers. I mourn the loss we all suffered because of COVID. Many of us suffered personal losses and struggled with new realities. But we also lost time together — time to learn from each other in person, law week, the free food from events that sustained some of us, and just those simple and spontaneous social interactions in the hallways before and after classes.

However, I am an eternal optimist. Law school in a pandemic illustrated how resilient we are as a class and as individuals. We are now more prepared for court hearings and video conferences more so than any lawyers before us. We can also serve more people now that we have figured out how to utilize technology to reach people in more rural areas, which is critical in Wyoming. A pandemic has started to change the contours of the law in ways never seen. We as a class get to be on that cutting edge advocating for changes in the conduct of law.

Yet, we didn’t do this alone. I would like to say thank you to all the families. Sometimes it is easy to feel alone in law school and like your family or friends just don’t understand the dynamics and expectations. However, I know that without each one of our families, friends, extended families, and everyone watching this graduation, our class could not have reached this point without your deep reservoir of patience and support. Each one of you has given the support each member of this class has needed — whether that be financial or emotional. We are deeply grateful for what you have contributed to this endeavor.

Now, I want to thank each one of you. I have had the chance to get to know, and learn from, each of you in class, group projects, clinics, clubs, or social gatherings.

While law school can be competitive, I am grateful to have completed these last three
years with everyone in the class of 2021. We have felt the pressure of school on a daily basis, but I feel like we have handled that competitiveness with grace, candor, and respect towards one another. I am not competitive by nature — this rings true for some of you and others are the exact opposite. Regardless of how competitive or non-competitive you feel, I have witnessed many aspects of collegial attitudes and respectful collaboration with one another. Those are some of my most treasured and favorite memories. I was terrified to attend law school because all I thought it consisted of was ultra-competitive people and I would be devoured. I am so grateful for each one of you for showing me law school does not need to be cutthroat and that half of the law is respectful dialogue between classmates.

I am excited to see where each of our passions take us. It will be a privilege to see classmates like Haley Richards and Hunter Jones become prosecutors and Andrew Sickenburger practice criminal defense. We will read court decisions that were authored by classmates like Andi Grave and Cooper Fogle as clerks. Matt Ayres will continue to do interesting work at the county attorney’s office in the civil division. If we need a personal injury lawyer, we will be able to call AJ Royer or Kaleb Gibertoni. Nathan Yanchek will be my resource for constitutional law. I also know Michelle Mortimer and Matt Rogers are going to fight for water rights in the West. Nathan Cowper and Todd Shaker are going to deal with the business law I struggled through. I cannot wait to see what Mary Catena does in the labor law field, and Sinjon Ruesch become a patent lawyer. I could spend all my allocated time just highlighting each member of our class and the incredible passions they had coming into law school and continued to develop or the newly discovered passions in law school that have been embraced.

I think I speak for everyone in this class that law school has never been easy, and there have been times I have felt beyond drained by school. However, now that we have reached graduation, I hope you feel as I do — that I am leaving with an abundance of pride in my work, admiration for each of you, and hope for my future career that I did not expect when I walked into Orientation or that I could not always see while in the midst of school.

As we enter the legal field, I hope we all remember our passions even in difficult moments, remain ethical, admit our mistakes and shortcomings, and fight for fair laws and access to the courts for all. While you have all been my classmates for the last three years, I am honored to now call you colleagues in the legal field. Thank you.

Emily Sloan has served as the student director of the Family and Child Legal Advocacy Clinic, on the board of the Potter Law Club, and as a member of Wyoming Law Students for Equal Justice. She worked as a legal extern for the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commissions and as an intern for the Wyoming Attorney General’s Office Civil Division. She is from Centennial, Colorado.
Ladies and gentlemen, thank you all for attending this year’s ceremony to honor the class of 2021. Every year, the 3L class is given the opportunity to vote for a faculty member who has made a positive impact on their lives. Today, I am honored to introduce Professor James Delaney as the outstanding faculty member at the University of Wyoming College of Law. Professor Delaney began his academic career at the University of Washington, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in economics. Shortly after graduating from undergrad, Professor Delaney tailored his education toward law school. Graduating magna cum laude at Gonzaga University School of Law, Professor Delaney was not done yet, for he pursued his LLM at the University of Florida. Professor Delaney currently holds several honorable positions as being a Centennial Distinguished Professor of Law, member of the American College of Tax Counsel and a member of the American College of Trust & Estate Counsel. For many students, especially first year law students, this environment can be quite intimidating—especially if you walk into one of Professor Delaney’s 8 a.m. classes on Monday morning. For those of you who have taken a class from Professor Delaney, well, you know to avoid the back row. Professor Delaney’s teaching style is unique and effective. He is always there for the students and is willing to answer questions, even questions regarding how to decipher the UPC statutes. Please give a round of applause for the outstanding faculty member, Professor James Delaney.
I would like to congratulate the Class of 2021 for your success in overcoming many difficult obstacles in the time you have spent at the College of Law. I would also like to thank the Class of 2021 for the honor that you have bestowed upon me this year. During the years I practiced and taught law, I worked hard to serve my students, clients, and employers. As lawyers, we put forth an immense amount of thought and effort in our endeavors and, when things turn out right, it is very often the case that the people we serve expect nothing less than excellence. Notwithstanding all of our diligence, it is a truly rare and honorable moment when we are recognized for our efforts. My colleagues and I have worked hard to teach all of you to the best of our abilities and, again, I could not be more honored at your vote of confidence in me.

In congratulating all of you, I would like to note that the graduating class of 2021 is entering into the practice of law at a time when lawyers are needed more than ever. Our country along with most other nations face many issues that demand the law be applied in a just and fair manner. The United States is trying to navigate a worldwide pandemic, warming atmospheric temperatures, and divided political parties that question the outcome of our elections. Private companies are put in the position of trying to determine what constitutes free speech and how they might allow or limit communications on their websites. The actions of law enforcement are more often coming into conflict with individual rights. The right to keep and bear arms is being questioned as many innocent people die at the hands of individuals who would use such weapons for the wrong reasons. Our government is trying to determine whether private companies may be required to freely give up their valuable vaccine formulas which were invented through hard work and intelligence so that those who are less fortunate and less capable might have a better chance to survive and thrive. As a result of your hard-earned law degrees, many of you will become Judges, political leaders, business leaders, and advocates for citizens in all walks of the communities you will live in. Given the adversity that our society is encountering, your positions will require you to make difficult and demanding decisions every day. My colleagues and I have endeavored to teach you how to think and analyze these and many other important issues in a careful, fair, and thoughtful manner. It is my sincere hope and wish that all of you succeed in navigating the practice of law in the years to come and that you will rise to the demands that the practice will impose on you.

Finally, on this day of graduation and success, please do not forget the sacrifices of your families, friends, and loved ones who care about you. As the demands of your profession increase, never forget to remember and thank those who made possible the opportunities that you now enjoy.

Congratulations and best of luck to all of you in the years to come
Kate M. Fox was appointed to the Wyoming Supreme Court by Governor Matt Mead on January 24, 2014. Prior to her appointment, Justice Fox was in private practice with Davis & Cannon, LLP. She joined the firm after serving for one year as law clerk to Federal District Court Judge Clarence A. Brimmer. She received her J.D. with honors from the University of Wyoming College of Law and her B.A. (with a degree in journalism) with honors from the University of Wyoming.

After completing high school in the East, Justice Fox worked on her family’s dude ranch near Dubois, Wyoming, edited a small-town newspaper and a restaurant magazine, and was a ski bum for several years before going to law school. She graduated from the University of Wyoming College of Law in 1989 at the top of her class, was editor-in-chief of the *Land & Water Law Review* and was inducted in the Order of the Coif. She is the second woman to serve on the Wyoming Supreme Court.
Student Recognition

2020 Potter Law Club Executive Board and Representatives

- President – Emily Katherine Sloan
- First Vice President – Warren Knutson
- Second Vice President – Christina Porath
- Treasurer – Krystle Somers
- Secretary – Kyle Barrett
- Public Relations Representative – Brianna Duvall
- Student Faculty Representative – River Heide
- ABA/Public Service Representative – Celyn Whitt
- 1L Class Representatives – Michie Johnson and James Russell Twiford


- Editor-in-Chief – Jacob A. Ayling
- Managing Editor – Jewel E. Marsh
- Research Editor – Nathan Yanchek
- Article Editors – Brenna Fisher, Andrea Grave, TaLise Hansen, Haley Anne Richards

2020-2021 Legal Writing Teaching Assistants

Brenna Fisher, Andrea Grave, Jewel Marsh
Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA) Outstanding Student Award

Awarded annually to recognize law students who have excelled in a clinical course in law school. An outstanding clinical student is selected by the clinical faculty of each law school.

2021 CLEA Outstanding Graduate
Jennifer Dean

National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) Outstanding Law Student Award

Awarded annually to the graduating student who best exemplifies the following:

- Contributes to the advancement of women in society
- Promotes issues and concerns of women in the legal profession
- Exhibits motivation, tenacity and enthusiasm
- Demonstrates high academic achievement
- Earns the respect of the law school community.

Selected by the faculty.

2021 NAWL Outstanding Graduate
Olivia S. Patenaude
Student Recognition
2020-2021 Clinic and Practicum Programs

Civil Legal Services Clinic
Student Director – Jennifer Dean
Outstanding Students – Donald Bellamy and Augustus Wagner

Defender Aid Clinic
Student Director
and Outstanding Student – Andrew Sickenberger

Estate Planning Practicum
Student Director – Jacob Spindler
Outstanding Student – Kaleb Gibertoni

Family & Child Legal Advocacy Clinic
Student Director – Emily Sloan
Outstanding Student – Morgan Jacobs

Entrepreneurship & Business Law Practicum
Student Director
and Outstanding Student – Nathan Robert Cowper

International Human Rights Clinic
Outstanding Student – Marissa Pridmore

Prosecution Assistance Clinic
Student Director – Ciara Slife
Outstanding Student – Donovan Burton
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title and Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Klint W. Alexander</td>
<td>Dean and Professor of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sam Kalen</td>
<td>Associate Dean and William T. Schwartz l Distinguished Professor of Law and Co-Director, Center for Law and Energy Resources in the Rockies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lindsay A. Hoyt</td>
<td>Assistant Dean</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melissa Ballengee Alexander</td>
<td>Professor of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacquelyn Bridgeman</td>
<td>Kepler Professor of Law and Director, School of Culture, Gender and Social Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenneth D. Chestek</td>
<td>Professor of Law, Assistant Director of Legal Writing and Assistant Director of the Center for the Study of Written Advocacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Danielle R. Cover</td>
<td>Professor of Law and Director, Civil Legal Services Clinic</td>
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<tr>
<td>James M. Delaney</td>
<td>Centennial Distinguished Professor of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debra L. Donahue</td>
<td>Emeritus Professor of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael C. Duff</td>
<td>Winston S. Howard Distinguished Professor of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephen M. Feldman</td>
<td>Jerry W. Housel/Carl F. Arnold Distinguished Professor of Law and Adjunct Professor of Political Science</td>
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<td>Jerry Fowler</td>
<td>Assistant Professor of Law and Director, International Human Rights Clinic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvey Gelb</td>
<td>Emeritus Professor of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Glover</td>
<td>Professor of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Darrell D. Jackson</td>
<td>Professor of Law and Director, Prosecution Assistance Clinic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lauren McLane</td>
<td>Assistant Professor of Law and Director, Defender Aid Clinic</td>
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<td>George Mocsary</td>
<td>Professor of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Timothy G. Kearley</td>
<td>Emeritus Professor of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noah B. Novogrodsky</td>
<td>Carl M. Williams Professor of Law and Ethics and Director, Center for International Human Rights Law and Advocacy</td>
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Jerry R. Parkinson  Emeritus Professor of Law
Amy K. Pearce  Head of Public Services
Debora A. Person  Director, Law Library
Dona Playton  Associate Professor of Law and Director, Family and Child Legal Advocacy Clinic
Tawnya K. Plumb  Head of Collections
Dee Pridgen  Emeritus Professor of Law
Tara K. Righetti  Professor of Law
Jason Robison  Professor of Law
Alan Romero  Carl M. Williams Professor of Law and Social Responsibility and Director, Rural Law Center
Joel L. Selig  Emeritus Professor of Law
Michael R. Smith  Carl M. Williams Professor of Law and Ethics; Director, Legal Writing Program; Director, Center for the Study of Written Advocacy
Temple Stoellinger  Assistant Professor of Law, Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources and Co-Director, Center for Law and Energy Resources in the Rockies
Elaine A. Welle  Emeritus Professor of Law

**Adjunct Faculty**

Stephanie Bowman  Tom Fleener  Mario Rampulla
Sharon Buccino  Emily Madden  Tim Zimmerman
Matthew Chudacoff  Devon Peterson

**Robert J. Golten Fellow**

Jamie Crawford
## Law Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tammy E. Ackerson</td>
<td>Law Library Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michell Anderson</td>
<td>Student Services Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Armstrong</td>
<td>Law Library Shelver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Bluemel</td>
<td>Registrar and Director of Student Records</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tim D. Crawford</td>
<td>Director of Experiential Learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan Harper</td>
<td>Senior Accounting Associate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tazmine Haut</td>
<td>Office Associate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward Havugimana</td>
<td>Executive Information Technology Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chavawn Kelley</td>
<td>Marketing and Communications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laurie Kempert</td>
<td>Executive Business Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marguerite L. Latta</td>
<td>Law Library Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa M. Nunley</td>
<td>Director of Admissions and Student Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashli Tomisich</td>
<td>Director of Career Services and Professional</td>
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<td>Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan M. Wozny</td>
<td>Law Library Services Supervisor</td>
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### 2020-2021

#### Outstanding Staff Award

**Laurie Kempert**

Executive Business Manager

Selected by the graduating Class

[University of Wyoming College of Law logo]
Graduation Dedications

Kayla Ashlinn Albertson

The greatest adventure is what lies ahead.
Today and tomorrow are yet to be said.
The chances, the changes are all yours to make.
The mold of your life is in your hands to break.

-J. R. R. Tolkien

To begin, a huge thank you to my parents, Rebecca and Kennie. Thank you for spending every Saturday eating donuts with me. Thank you for your unfailing love. Without the two of you to remind me of why I started and to remind me to keep moving forward. Thank you for talking to me on the phone for an hour at a time just because and to talk about things beyond school. The two of you are part of why I am who I am today and I’m so grateful for that.

Thank you to Rachel, Mark, Gabby, Allie, Tori, and Zoe. Thank you for letting me raid your pantry and feeding me hot dinners. Thank you for watching TikTok with me until midnight and laughing so hard we are crying. Thank you for being my personal mechanic. Thank you for game nights. Thank you for teaching me patience. Thank you for always being there for me and loving me. I am so glad you live so close so I could always be with family when I needed it and when I wanted it.

Thank you to Jake. Without you I really would not have survived the past three years.

Thank you to the rest of my family for calling and texting me to check in. Thank you for sending me wine. Thank you for all your support and love throughout the past three years.

Thank you to Jonathan and your family. Without them I wouldn’t have even thought of coming to law school and making the leap into this adventure. Thank you, Jon for handling my ups and my downs for the past three years, thank you for always being there for me, and thank you for being my support and my rock. Finally, to our class. We struggled, we celebrated, and we finally made it.
Chad Auer

Truth is, without the support and encouragement of my family and friends, I would not have made it through law school. Megan’s patience and dedication made all the difference. My kids, Zach, Sophie and Ben helped me to stay focused on the big picture. My friends picked me up when I got thrown out of the saddle. The bottom line is this - I didn’t finish law school… WE finished law school. Thank you for helping me achieve a lifelong dream.

Jacob A. Ayling

First, I would like to thank my amazing wife for always being right by my side. Between COVID, my car accident, and other small issues, our time together has not been easy. However, I can’t help but express my sincere gratitude for these difficult times because with every challenge, our love for each other has grown much deeper. I couldn’t imagine having anyone else by my side during such difficult circumstances. I owe this amazing feat to you. I love you, babe!

Second, I would like to thank all of my family and friends. Thank you for being low-maintenance. I have devoted a lot of time and attention to law school the last three years, but I loved being able to talk or get together with each of you and pick up where we left off as if nothing had changed. I could always count on you to make me laugh and forget about law school. Law school was not easy, but your support and words of encouragement made a difference in my life.

Finally, I would like to thank the Wyoming College of Law Faculty and Class of 2021 for rallying around me after my car accident. During a very dark time in my life, each of you were a source of light, and I will be forever grateful for your influence in my life.

Matthew Ayres

My deepest thanks to Mom, Dad, and Grammy. Without your unwavering love and support I could not have accomplished this. Thank you for always believing in me and encouraging me to be my best self.

To Kristy, we’ve come this far, and I cannot wait to see how far we go. Thank you for everything over the past three years, I’m incredibly grateful for you.

To the pals, thank you for your friendship. You guys helped make this fun.
Kyle Barrett

Thanks to my friends and family for all your support these past 7 years, especially through law school. To my law school friends: we gave it the old college try. Haha, wow, law school was painful wasn’t it? But seriously, you all helped make law school into one of the most memorable times of my life. Much love. I hope we can keep in touch. If y’all are ever stressed with your new jobs just call me and we can go to a dive bar in nice suits and drink hard liquor. Also, I’d like to publicly say I do not live at the law school … anymore.

To my family: thanks for the shoulders to lean on, the free food, and spare cash. I’ve decided to turn my life around and not be a bum anymore, so at least you’ve got one less dependent to worry about. (Paige, Hannah, Jamie, this doesn’t mean I still won’t steal your food.) In particular, thank you Mom and Phil, Dad and Marie. Mom, I’m grateful for your love and support. You’ve always been there for me and wanted what is best for me. Phil, thanks for all the advice and paper revisions. You and Mom have always had my back. I still remember you both picking me up from LSN at my debate tournaments over 7 years ago. All your support during high school and undergrad will forever be dear to me, and of course your support during law school.

Marie, thanks for always talking current events with me, challenging me to improve, and giving me advice about people and life generally. I need to get my butt in gear so we can start speaking French together. Ben Voyons. Dad, I don’t know what I’d do without you. You have been a father, mentor, and friend to me all these years. You helped me make the move from MO to WY, gave me the opportunity to help build a house, and mentored me throughout law school. It’s your own passion to chase your dreams, work hard, and never give up that has resonated so much with me. You’ve also helped me set my life on a course for adventure. I will always owe it to you for teaching me how to take risks, challenge the status quo, and not let others put their own limitations on me.

Thank you all!
To my parents – You have both been a constant support every step of the way. I truly cannot thank you enough for always emphasizing the importance of education and continually pushing me to succeed in worlds you’re unfamiliar with. Your guidance, assistance, and confidence in my abilities have lifted me through stretches that I could not have overcome on my own. You are my rocks and my cheerleaders. Thank you so very much for all that have you allowed me to accomplish. I’m happy to finally share this long-awaited coda with you both. I love you.

To Sadie and Rusty – Thank you both for your endearing encouragement through these long years of schooling. From meals and treats when you visit, to a welcome home and giggly niece to visit, you have both given me so much to enjoy while I’ve continued with my education. Thank you both for your love and support.

To my friends – From nights out blowing off steam to nights in painting, I could not possibly thank those around me enough. Law school is not a journey endured alone, and those nearest me have truly done more than words can express. Countless adventures and misadventures made the morass that is law school more pleasant than I could have ever imagined. Whether it was a trip, a Zoom hangout, or a creative session, I value each and every experience that helped me through it all.

Donald Sergo Bellamy

I would not be here if it were not for the love of my family, the dedication of my teachers and professors, the support of my friends and other members of my community. I could fill this entire book thanking these people, but I do not have that space available. Since I do not have that opportunity, I will thank my mother who started my journey and has been with me through all of it. My mother took great effort in making sure I would not be a complete menace to society (at least not a criminal menace). She did much more than that. She taught me through her actions that it does not matter what great heights you reach, or what professional accomplishments you achieve, what does matter, however, is that your motivations are centered on loving your neighbor, supporting your friends, and being a positive force for good.

My mother is no great academic, nor is she a great leader in the business or legal community. She is much more than all of those put together. She is and will forever be my mother. The woman that loved enough and cared enough to adopt me and raise me even when both of those actions became overwhelmingly challenging. I write this in dedication in appreciation for her and her accomplishments. Thank you, Mom! Thank you for all you have done and continue to do with no expectation of anything in return.
Mary Laura Catena
To my kids (Amber, Ashley and Anthony) and my grandkids (Jeremiah, Yasmine, Cameron, Naomi, Gabriel, Noah, Mila, Lucy and Ruby): You are my world. I can’t imagine what this journey would have been like without you. Knowing you were waiting on the other side of each final exam week helped me make it through. I’m so thankful for every phone call, text and Facetime letting me know I was loved and encouraging me to keep pushing even when I felt I just couldn’t do it. I love you.

To Professor Alexander: Prior to law school, I had an idea in my mind what law school professors would be like. I envisioned stern, distant and unforgiving educators. You are the antithesis of what I thought I’d encounter. Your kindness and warmth have truly meant the world to me. Thank you for your encouraging words and kind heart.

To Professor Duff: There really aren’t words to describe what your mentorship has meant to me over the last three years. But, as you’ve come to find, I’ll write a bunch of words anyway. You are an incredible teacher and wonderful person. I can honestly say that I don’t think I could have made it through without your guidance, encouragement and willingness to go above and beyond any expectation a student should ever have of a professor. Your patience knows no bounds. You inspired me to reach further and push harder. For this, I am truly grateful and forever in your debt.

To all my amazing classmates: I thank you for being such an awesome and supportive group of people. I didn’t know what to expect attempting law school as a non-traditional student, but y’all have made this an incredible experience and never made me feel like the “old lady” in the room. Except for Autumn, Autumn made me feel old.

To the Friday Breakfast Club: Thanks for allowing me to be a part of your Friday morning. I will cherish our interactions for years to come.

To Lorraine Saulino-Klein: Thank you for providing a home away from home. Your willingness to take in a sad college “kid” for the holidays and beyond and to provide more food than any person should ever eat will never be forgotten. You’re a gem!

To Mandi Atwater: You have been the best friend a person could have for the past twenty years. Your encouragement and spiritual wisdom over the last three years have been invaluable and I appreciate you more than words could ever express.

To Vince Russo: Bro, what can I say? If it weren’t for you, I never would have even attempted this journey. Your kindness and encouragement have meant the world to me.

Lastly, to my mom: You are the strongest person I’ve ever known. Your faith and love for God shaped me into the person I’ve become. Not a day goes by that I don’t think about that great big hug you gave on my way out of Dallas headed to Wyoming for my first semester of law school. If I’d have known that was our last hug, I would’ve squeezed a little harder and held on a little longer. When I got “the call” a few months later, I thought there was no way I’d be able to finish this journey with all the pain in my heart. But I was reminded of your favorite verse, Jeremiah 29:11, and I’ve kept those words close to my heart. No matter how much I may have felt like giving up, I kept pushing through because I wanted you to know that’s the daughter you raised. I know you’d be proud.
Jacquelyn Cobb

Mom and Dad,

Thank you for supporting me through everything. You two are the real reason I am where I am today. Without your unconditional love I would have never made it to this point. You have provided me with every skill and the determination I’ve needed through all the challenges I have taken on. No words will ever be enough to express my gratitude. Love you both!

Chet,

Thank you for loving me through it all. Your patience and unwavering support of my dreams have brought us where we are. I thank you for being my partner for life and showing me great things come when we trust God’s timing. You are my rock. I love you and thank you for supporting me!

To my brother, sister and all of my family and friends,

Thank you for believing in me and supporting me 100% of the way. I will never be able to repay you all for everything you have done for me and continue to do. Thanks for joining me on this ride and keeping me on the right track.

My law school friends a.k.a. my forever friends,

Thank you for becoming a part of my family and helping me get through the biggest challenge of my life. I literally couldn’t have done it without you!
Jennifer Dean

To My Parents – You believed in me when I didn’t, and you carried me when I couldn’t. You answered every phone call, got me every flight home that I needed, and sent countless care packages for that extra bit of love. The values you have instilled in me are what guided me to this accomplishment. Dad and Mama, over the 25 years of education our family has experienced together, and the 14 graduations we have celebrated, your excitement, motivation, and understanding has always been unwavering. Mom and Bill, you have always fostered my passion to help those in need and to reach whoever I am able to. I love, and thank, you all!

To Hannah – Thanking you through a graduation program feels like an understatement, so let me emphasize just how thankful I am for your patience, kindness, and encouragement. You came into my life at the perfect and craziest time, and you were the one who was here with me in the trenches. Thank you for making countless dates out of coffee runs, late night studying, and last minute take out. Balancing our lives and both of our degrees was challenging but effortless with you! I love you and thank you for sharing another accomplishment with me.

To My Siblings – the Whole Damn Clan – Despite being in three different time zones across three states, there was never a time I felt unheard or unsupported by any of you. Thank you for spending the last three years listening to me gripe, traveling across the country to visit me, and showering me with inspiration. I am grateful that my siblings are also my best friends and role models.

To Tim Crawford – Thank you for being the rock for the entire Clinical program. You always fought to keep everyone’s spirits high, and you always had an open door. In a program that is so intense, thank you for offering students a place to breathe!
Carl A. Edelman

To Bill, Kathy, and Rachel: Thank you. You all have proved to be a better support system than any son or brother could ask for. From allowing me to fall when I needed to learn a lesson to showing me the right way to do things, I can’t imagine how I would have made it as far as I have without you. Words cannot explain how grateful I am for you three.

To Callie: You helped me in oh-so-many ways as I tripped behind you through this little adventure. I cherish the time we have had and look forward to all the time we will share. To the next place and beyond. I love you.

To all my friends and family: Thank you, to each and every one of you. Without the impact you had on my life, I would not be where I was at today.

To my classmates: WE. MADE. IT. I wish all of you good luck in whatever life has planned for you next. ‘til I see you again.

Erin Elizabeth Emanuel

To Mom, Dad, & Jack: I’m grateful for your unwavering support and encouragement during the last 20 years of school. Thank you for always making sure I have what I need to succeed in life. Thank you for instilling strength and determination in me and helping me move halfway across the country to chase my dreams. I couldn’t ask for better role models, a better support system, or a better family. You are the backbone of my successes in life.

To my Grandparents: Thank you for your continued financial support and encouragement. It was Grammy’s dream for me to complete law school and become an attorney, and I wish she was here to celebrate this accomplishment with all of us.

Thank you for everything. Here’s to the next adventure!
Ryan R. Facinelli

Mom – It’s impossible to thank you adequately for all that you have done for me. Your kindness and generosity will always be appreciated. I would not have been able to attend and complete law school without your continuous love and support.

Breezie – Thank you for being my rock. Words can’t explain what your unconditional love has meant to me throughout law school. Thank you for always pushing me to be the best version of myself. P.S. You’re next!

Trenton – Thank you for being my best friend and role model. Your strength, courage, and ability to overcome adversity are second to none. I can’t wait to witness the remarkable accomplishments in your near future.

Grandparents Anne, Shirley and Rob – Each of you have influenced my life values in countless ways. Thank you for your endless love, support, and encouragement.

Friends and Classmates – I have sincerely enjoyed my time with all of you while in law school – it’s been one hell of a ride. I consider myself lucky to have created many personal and professional relationships for years to come. I am eager to witness the outstanding endeavors from the class of 2021. I am truly honored to share this moment with you.
I have been so fortunate to have such amazing support throughout my law school career. First, I would like to thank my parents, Frank Falen and Karen Budd- Falen who are both UW College of Law alumni and have always supported me in my dreams. My parents have been so influential in my life and helped me become the woman I am today.

I also want to mention my brother, Isaac Falen, sister-in-law Reva and nephew Wesley who I could always count on to take my mind off of schoolwork and make me laugh.

Second, I would like to thank my roommate and law school classmate Savannah Schmitt. Sav has been one of my biggest supporters. I didn’t meet Sav until we moved in together at the beginning of law school and I couldn’t have been luckier with choice of roommate. Now that we have studied together, been in weddings together and worked through the difficulties of personal lives outside of law school, Sav is one of my closest friends that I will have for the rest of my life. I truly don’t think I would have made it through law school without such an amazing roommate and friend!

Lastly, I would like to thank my other law school friends. I have made such a wonderful group of friends in my law school career. Brenna, Tanner, Britney, Ryan and Breezie have made law school so much more enjoyable and after annoying them for the last three years, I plan to continue doing so for many years to come!

I am so excited to start my career as an agriculture attorney working in our family business at Budd-Falen Law Offices, as well as continue working on our family’s Wyoming ranch. I am lucky to have such love and support in my life. Thank you to everyone who has helped me achieve my dreams! Love, Sarah
To my classmates and friends: I didn’t think law school would be the place I met some of the best, most genuine people (in fact, I expected the opposite), but you all proved me wrong. Thanks for making these three years bearable and even fun (sometimes).

To my family: Thank you for all your love and support, and for reminding me that no matter how many degrees I get, there are lots of reasons for me to stay humble (like my dancing skills). To my mom, for bringing me into contracts classes as a baby, which definitely gave me a leg up on the competition. To my dad, for making the road trip in a U-Haul three years ago to help me move to a place I had never been (on the other side of the country). I am so lucky to have you all here today cheering for me. To Brody—we miss you like crazy but I’m glad the whole family gets to be together and watch both of us graduate this weekend. I wish you were here to tell me that law school isn’t as hard as aerospace engineering. Reflecting on the road to graduation, law school has taught me that nothing is more important than family—unless you’re in court litigating over a will, then money is always more important.
Cooper Fogle

To my mother and father, your unwavering support throughout my life has allowed me to explore, learn, and seek to find myself. I love you all so much, and I am forever grateful to be your son.

To my brothers Logan and Isaiah, you are my two best friends in this world. I learn from you both every time we talk, and I look forward to growing old together.

To Ben and Nicole Erwin, thank you for always being there for me throughout the past three years. Your love for one another and for life inspires me each time I see you.

To Ryan Facinelli, thank you for welcoming me into southeastern Wyoming and for always providing insightful advice when I ask for your opinion. Tell your mother and Trenton thank you from me as well.

To my classmates, I am thankful we have been “together” for three years, and I have learned so much from each of you.

Gregory Nathan Golyansky

One of the most cherished gifts one can receive during this life is a friend! This is someone very special whose integrity is beyond reproach...who is always there to listen, offer encouragement and support. My best friend is Kareen, and I am most fortunate to have her as an integral part of my life!
Andrea N. Grave

To Lance: You have been my rock, my cheerleader, my shoulder to cry on (more times than I’d like to admit), and my best friend. I could not have done this without your unwavering support and endless love. I came to Wyoming for a law degree and ended up with so much more. I love you.

To my parents: There are not adequate words to describe how grateful I am for you. You have given me every opportunity I have ever wanted. From my wildest horse dreams to this law school adventure, you have never stopped supporting me (in more ways than one), encouraging me, and, most importantly, loving me. I look up to both of you so much and am eternally grateful to call you my parents.

To my sister: I am so lucky to have you. You are consistently there to listen to my problems and offer the best advice. I have leaned on you for so many things throughout law school, and you effortlessly and enthusiastically helped me every time. I can’t thank you enough for everything you have done, and continue to do, for me.

To my in-laws: Thank you for welcoming me into your incredible family. Thank you for opening your home to me (and my law books). I am so blessed to be surrounded by such loving and supportive people.

To all of my other family and friends: There are so many people that have been an influence on my life. The list is too long to put here, so to everyone: thank you for being on my team. Your love and support mean the world to me.

To the College of Law faculty and staff: Thank you for your guidance these past three years. Many of you have been such an influence in my life. I am grateful to have learned from so many incredible professors and attorneys, and to have been surrounded by such kind people. I can’t thank you enough for your leadership and mentorship.
**Ty Alexander Jensen**

To my parents: I cannot begin to express my gratitude. You’ve always been there for me and believed in me. Thank you for your never-ending support and love. I would not be here without you.

Thank you to all of my family, friends, and to Alex for your support. Whether it’s advice when I’m lost, an escape when I’m overwhelmed, or comfort when I’m exasperated- you’re always there when I need it. I am eternally grateful for each and every one of you.

To the faculty, staff, and fellow classmates at the University of Wyoming College of Law, thank you for making this experience so rewarding.

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**Hunter Bryce Dallas Jones**

We did it, guys! Three long years have finally paid off. I don’t think I could have asked for a better class to graduate with. I was a little bit nervous going into law school. I was worried that I wouldn’t be accepted and respected by my peers, for obvious reasons. I had nothing to worry about though. I have made some of the best friends. It’s bittersweet graduating. I’m ready to start my career, but I’m not ready to leave everyone behind. I’m going to miss seeing people every day and hanging out every weekend. I don’t think I could have made it through law school without the support of my friends. This sounds cliche but we have to stay in touch. Maybe we should have class reunions?

I also couldn’t make it through law school without my family. Mom and dad, thanks for everything you’ve done. I appreciate how hard you’ve pushed me.

Good luck in the real world, everyone!
Edward Lopez

Mom and Dad – thank you for pushing me to be the best that I can be in life. Thank you for being my support system, allowing me to pursue my hopes and dreams. This accomplishment is as much yours as it is mine. I cannot have asked for better, more loving parents. I only hope I can make you as proud and happy in life as I am to have you as my parents. Dad, thank you for being my coach, mentor, and role model in life. If I can strive to be at least half the man you are, I will be a success as a husband and a father. Mom, thank you for being the loving, beautiful heart that you are. You have shown me what I should look for in a partner in life. I love you more than can be described in a single paragraph.

G-ma, G-pa, Nana, and Tata – I thank god every day for having the most loving of grandparents. The memories I have with you will be cherished forever. I hope, above all that I have made you proud. I love you all so much.

G-ma, G-pa, Nana, and Tata – I thank god every day for having the most loving of grandparents. The memories I have with you will be cherished forever. I hope, above all that I have made you proud. I love you all so much.

Aunt Tanya and Uncle Tim – Thank you for being the most loving of godparents. Aunt Tanya, you have shown me so much love and care over the years. Your intelligence, moxie, and fun-loving outlook are something I always try to emulate. Uncle Tim, you are one of the kindest, most generous people I know. I am so grateful for your support and opportunities you have provided me through undergrad and law school. I love you guys!

Dallas and Sheridan – Two of the best siblings I could ask for. I love you both and am so proud of both of you. Thank you for always being there for me and pushing me to be a better person.

To my friends – All of the connections I made in life have made me who I am today. You have all helped keep me sane and have such a fun and wonderful life. I look forward to the future adventures and endeavors we will share in the coming lifetime. No matter where life takes us, I will forever love all of you and appreciate the memories we share.
Amina Malik
Mom, Abbu, Aaiza, and Zimmy: Thank you for your unconditional love and support, especially through the highs and lows of the last 3 years. I know I couldn’t be where I am today without you all, and I am eternally grateful.

Nano: I miss you more and more every day, but I know you’d be so proud to see me graduating. Thank you for your support throughout my educational endeavors. I love you.

Jewel E. Marsh
There are so many people I would like to thank in this dedication, but since nobody signed up for a novel-length graduation program, I’ll try to keep it brief-ish.

To Momma, Dad, and Brosky: There is no way I would have made it without you three. From the many, many phone calls and care packages, to the Thanksgiving near-misses and meet-ups at the airport – thank you so much for believing in me, rooting for me, and giving me all those metaphorical kicks to the rear when I needed them. I love you all so much, and I am eternally grateful to be your Sis. <3

To Andi and Lance: You are two of my favorite humans on this planet, and I’m thankful that law school brought us together. Andi, thanks for being a fantastic roommate and late-night Bluebooking buddy! And Lance, thanks for always listening and validating us during our many law school venting sessions! I am so proud of you both and can’t wait to see you take this world by storm!

To TaLise: If not for you, Chicky, I probs would have just failed out of 1L year – who else would’ve kept me up to date on all the ridiculous-but-important group emails that I couldn’t be bothered to read? You’re a boss babe, and I will always be rooting for you!

To Sinjon, Jacob, and Michelle: I’m so grateful for our study groups, game/movie nights, Thai Spice dates, and church foyer ranting sessions, all of which kept me sane these last few years! I love you three a lot, and I can’t wait to see all of the good you do in this world!

To Rhett Michael Miller: Thank you so much for being a great mentor and friend during these last three years. From filling me up on pumpkin bread, to always answering my law school questions, to helping me fix my Jeep – you are one of my heroes, and I love you tons!

To my Class of 2021: I am so grateful I’ve had the chance to be part of such an awesome community of people! I love so many of you for so many different reasons, and I want you to know that you are all ROCKSTARS in my books! <3
Olivia S. Patenaude

To my gracious and ever-supportive husband, WE did it! It really was a team effort, with you carrying me most of the way. Your endless commitment in aiding me in the accomplishment of my goals is a debt that can never be repaid. Thank you for your grace, generosity, and compassion, I love you.

To my loving family, your consistent encouragement and love made this all possible. Thank you for your support and dedication to my success.

Jake, we spent WAY too much time in the car, commuting and laughing. Your support was unparalleled, and I feel incredibly blessed to have had you as a friend to lean on during this crazy time!

To Hunter, thank you for letting me crash at your house, almost freezing me to death, and always remaining a steadfast friend and motivation.

It is true when they say that Law School is a marathon, not a sprint. My team of friends and family truly made this possible for me and for that, I am eternally grateful.

Rob Piper

Many thanks to my wife Patti and daughter Katie who have been incredibly patient and supportive throughout this process, and to Professors Duff, Delaney, Romero and Glover who provided such an excellent foundation in the black letter law.
Stefanie Jo Paxton

Thank you to my mother and grandparents, who have always supported my thirst for knowledge and my drive to succeed. Who have always been there for me and never failed to tell me how proud of me they were. I would never have made it this far without your love or your support. I can never express how much I love you and how much all of that means to me.

To my best friend Jenna Krieschel: I would not be the person I am today without you. You have been an absolute rock and I would have washed away if you hadn’t been there to anchor me during the storms of law school and during my life. You have taught me so much just by being my friend and you have always had time — made time — for me. I cannot put into words the weight of what our relationship means to me.

To Autumn Young for ensuring that I remember I am more than a name on a computer screen or penned on a page. For reminding me how to live and find joy in the world. I look forward to seeing our friendship grow and what we truly make of it. Thank you for being there.

And to all the other people in my life that lifted my spirit when it was down and kept me going when I felt like I couldn’t. To the other family I’ve found throughout the years, in odd corners of the country and the world. Distance doesn’t mean the bonds we form are any less strong.

I love you all.

To all the faculty and staff at the University of Wyoming College of Law, none of us could have done it without you.

My most sincere gratitude to each and every one.

Marissa A. Pridmore

Thank you, Cody, Mom & Dad, Halle, Elspeth, Olivia, Philip, Ethne, Owen, Gideon, Edwin, Scout, Cora, Clair and Noble. Love you all!

Thanks also to my fellow Jessupians: Addie, Greg, Kara, Cal, KC, Ruth, Hannah, JR, and Novo.
Haley Anne Richards

To my husband,
Through the triumphs and the pitfalls you've been there for me no matter what. "Thank you" doesn't even begin to scratch the surface of what your love and support has meant to me. Thank you for being my rock, my confidant, and my security blanket through the roughest years of my life. Thank you for the weekend adventures, answering endless law questions, movie nights, and late-night talks. Thank you for making me feel like I could really do this. I am so grateful for you. I love you, babe!

To my mom,
Thank you for seeing the potential in me that I could not see in myself. No matter what obstacles I have faced, you have always been there to dry my tears, alleviate my fears, and inspire me to pick myself up and keep going. I cannot express how much I love you or am grateful for you. Thank you for seeing me through this, and everything else in my life. I love you!

Bob,
You certainly did not sign up to deal with an emotional twenty-something-year-old in law school, but by god you have taken it in stride. Thank you for always finding a way to cheer me up, make me laugh, and make me feel loved. Thank you for being a part of my life. I love you, buddy!

Jen,
Or should I say Jennithon? Thank you for taking a chance on the shy kid and forcing me to be your friend. I simply cannot imagine what this journey would have been like without you.

You are the best friend I've ever had. When I look back on the memories of law school, I won't be thinking of the classes we took or the professors that drove us crazy- I'll be thinking of emotional support macaroni, mario kart decompression sessions, and all of the times that we laughed so hard, we cried. Your friendship was the single best thing to come out of my law school experience and I am so profoundly grateful that I met you. I love you!
P.S. EEEEEEEEE!

Chris, Loren, Brittany, Alex, and Charlie,
Thank you all for your love and support through this process. While I know having three lawyers in the family can make dinner conversations downright boring at times, I'm so happy to be a part of the Richards' legacy. I love you all.
I want to give a huge shout-out to my number one supporter Colby Shytle. Thank you for moving across the country with and for me to take on this whole law school thing. I don’t know how I would have gotten through these past three years without you. You helped me navigate through a million emotions and reminded me that there are so many more things in life to care about in addition to law school. Your support as my boyfriend and best friend means everything to me. I love you so much!

Big thanks to my mom and dad. I am literally here today because of you. Thank you for everything you both have done for me. I love you both so much!

Ashley, Stephen, and Kaleb - I love you three dearly, and thank you for giving me friendships that I will have and cherish the rest of my life!
Andrew (A.J.) Royer

Dear Mom and Dad:
Thank you for supporting me through this journey. I wouldn’t have been able to do it without your help. I also want to thank my brother, Dan, for giving me a place to stay in Colorado over my 2L summer to work at my clerkship in Denver. Without your gratitude, I wouldn’t have my current job today.

Additionally, I want to thank my former boss, Matt Crowther, for mentoring me, preparing me, and pushing me to go to law school when I was a paralegal. That experience was forever valuable.

Finally, thank you classmates for making law school such an enjoyable ride. WE DID IT!!!

–Matt Rodgers
To my husband and fellow graduate Joe Rubino: Few of us are lucky enough to say they went through law school with their best friend. I remember not so long ago talking LSAT tactics and reading over each other’s law school application materials. Now, over the next few weeks, we’ll be preparing for the bar exam. Look how far we’ve come! Without your support, your example of hard work and dedication, and your never ceasing optimism, I would not be where I am today. Thank you for being my study partner, my proof-reader, my encourager, and my greatest motivation.
To my amazing parents: I want to say from the depths of my heart, thank you for all you have done and continue to do for me. I would not be where I am today without your love and support. A special thank you for all your help over the last three years. From moving me into my apartment, traveling between Colorado and Wyoming to visit, sending care packages and notes, buying groceries and gift cards, and encourage me through all the tough times, you both have been my rock. You are the best parents and support system a girl could ever ask for. I love you very much.

To my better half: I am endless grateful for your unwavering love and support. Together we survived long distance, a pandemic, one and a half Rockies seasons, and all of my ups and downs during law school, yet somehow we are stronger than ever. Thank you for encouraging me and believing in me even when I didn’t believe in myself. You are my best friend, and I don’t know what I would do without you. I am so blessed to be loved by you and I absolutely love being a part of your family too. I am so excited to close this chapter of our story and continue to build our life together in Colorado very soon. I love you Adam.

To my brothers: Thank you for encouraging me and showing me what it means to never give up on your dreams. And of course, for bragging about me to your friends. A special thank you to James for helping me move into my place and putting up with me as a guest over breaks. You guys are the best.

To my Aunt Karen: I am so grateful for the extra love and support that you have given me during my time in law school. Thank you for blessing me with so much encouragement in many different ways. You are loved.

To Erin: Thank you for surviving law school with me. We shared so many memories over the last three years. I am glad that we got to go on this crazy roller coaster ride together. In the words of Elle Woods, “We did it!”

Finally: In loving memory of my Grandpa Don, Grandma Lyda, and my deer friend Micheel who passed away during my time in law school and did not get to see it through with me until the end. I know that you would all be so happy for me today if heaven wasn’t so far away. I hope I make you all proud. I miss you every day.
Emily Katherine Sloan

To my husband, Alex: When I told you I was going to take the LSAT, you bought me LSAT books. When I decided to go to Wyoming, you supported me even though it meant we would be living apart for three years. When I felt like I would not be able to get through law school, you were always there for me through all the tears, fears, doubts, and accomplishments. You were and are my voice of reason. Thank you for your patience with me these last three years. You have tolerated weekends of me being cooped up inside studying, taken care of the dogs, fed me, let me get a cat when I had a breakdown, and made many drives between Wyoming and Colorado. My life is better with you, and this graduation is your accomplishment as much as it is mine.

To my parents, Marcia and Michael: Thank you for all the emotional and financial support at all times. You both created a strong foundation of tenacity, dedication, patience, and work ethic in me that has allowed me to persevere through the last three years.

To my sisters, Liz and Nora: Thank you for putting up with your older sister. I know at times I have been testy, stressed, and selfish. Your patience with me throughout this process has not gone unnoticed.

To my aunt, Sheila: Thank you for all your support so I could achieve this milestone.
Cameron Michael Smith

I would like to thank William for his support in achieving this goal. He encouraged me to apply for law school after I expressed an interest. He accompanied me to take the LSAT and patiently waited for me to finish—even though I was off by about 3 hours on how long it took to finish. During law school, I have been grateful for his words of encouragement along the way, the patience he has shown when I couldn’t do things because of school or when I was busy studying, and his willingness to listen to my struggles with classes and school in general. I am excited to finish this journey and start our next.

Of course, I am also extremely grateful to my family. From the moment I told them I was thinking of going back to school, my family has been nothing but excited and supportive. When I started school, both my siblings were also in school. I know that was stressful on my parents. However, my parents have stood by me and supported me along the way. Thank you for always being excited and willing to help me achieve my goals. I am also grateful for my sisters for helping me, giving me a place to stay in Laramie, and watching the dog when I was busy. Thank you to my grandparents for their support and for paying for gas as I commuted. Thank you to my aunt, Gwen, for her support as well.

Finally, I would be remised not to thank my friends. Thank you for your willingness to listen and for your words of encouragement during school. To my friends at Zubrod Law Office, thank you for the opportunity to intern with you and for the invaluable experience that I needed during law school.

Jacob M. Spindler

Darian: I could not have made it through law school without all your help and support. You’ve stood by my side for these three years of hell of constant studying and late nights. You encouraged me to keep a level head, ensuring that I take mental health days, and to not get caught up in the struggles, but rather celebrating the small victories. You have allowed me to pursue my goals even though we had to put our lives on hold for three years. Looking back over the past three years, it is crazy how much our relationship has grown as well as each of us individually. We are finally seeing the results of all our hard work. I can’t wait to see how much more we grow throughout the next few years. I love you!

Liv: I also could not have made it through law school without my commuting and study partner. Spending 12+ hours a week in the car together and laughing until we cried or sitting in complete silence after terrible exams, or almost running out of gas several times are memories I will never forget. I remember one of our first weeks of commuting together we discussed that we weren’t here to make friends, rather to put our heads down to get through school and get that JD, which makes me laugh now as you have become one of the best friends I have ever had. Thank you for “talking me off a ledge” when I have been stressed with school and your willingness to always help. We are finally here! We did it!

To all of my friends and classmates: I never thought I would make such great friendships throughout law school, but I have made several lifelong friends. I could not have made it through school without the support and fun times with you all. Come visit me in Missouri!
Aubrey Marissa Staples

Mom and Dad—You are the best parents that an ambitious girl could have asked for. Your love, support, and insistence to do and become better have guided me to this moment in life. You taught me countless lessons. Most importantly that kindness and assertiveness can co-exist, always do what is right even if it is unpopular or inconvenient, and work hard when others are not. You always went along with my crazy ideas as I went from wanting to be a SeaWorld dolphin trainer in first grade to being a lawyer in undergrad. Both were paths we had no idea about, but you never once told me to try something different. Regardless of my wish to be in a wetsuit throwing dead fish to ‘Flipper’ or to be like Jim Carrey in Liar Liar, you encouraged and supported me along the way—and still do. As I sit here reflecting upon the amount of time you have sacrificed and the opportunities you made me find or earn, I want you to know that I am here today because of your devotion and encouragement over the years. No one knows what is coming next, but I hope it is in my cards to help you get your beach house.

Sisters—I still remember the day you taught me to throw my first punch. I have no idea how this came about, but little did you know you were teaching me not only to stand up for myself but for others. To this day I am still too much of a marshmallow to throw any fists, but the concept still applies. Protect yourself and protect others. Thank you for setting an example for me. I was always watching . . . still am and always will be.

James—Who knew you would embark on this crazy journey with me? We both took a risk, and I say it was well worth it. Thank you for the endless amount of support, flowers, random surprises, long conversations, and FaceTime dates that eased my homesickness and stress. You showed me great patience as I navigated law school, which I greatly appreciated and have incorporated into my life. Patience is truly a virtue. Thank you for your continued love and support.

To everyone I call family and friends, thank you for pushing me to grow into the person I am today and for paving a path for who I want to become. I write this dedication to you expressing my heartfelt gratitude for everything that you have done for me and for others. I am so excited to see what the future holds for all of us! I love you all.

Cheers, Aubrey
Augustus Wagner

To my parents Jim and Kelly: Your unwavering support, love, and encouragement are the reason my graduation is possible. Without it, I doubt I would have made it this far. There are no words, and there never will be, to accurately represent how thankful and appreciative I am of you. Being your son is the greatest blessing I have ever received. It would be an understatement to say without your guys’ encouragement and support I wouldn’t have made this far. I couldn’t ask for better role models in my life, and I’m eternally grateful for you two.

Kristen Elizabeth Welch

To Mom and Dad: Thank you for always believing in me, teaching me to question everything, encouraging my activism, nurturing my writing, and supporting me along the way. I’ll make sure you have a really nice nursing home. I could not have done this without you. I love you both so much!

To Grandma and Grandpa McRoberts: Thank you for your love, support, wisdom, and generosity. Your Christmas gifts have gone a long way towards keeping a roof over my head and food on my table. “Thank you” doesn’t even cover it. I love you very much!

To Brad, Laura, and Christopher: Thank you for housing me for a whole summer, in a pandemic, so I could complete an internship. A special “thank you” to Brad in particular for making me a bacon sandwich every morning so I could eat breakfast even in traffic. I am so lucky to have you! I love you!

To Matthew: Dear, I did not know you when I started this journey, but now that I’ve met you, I could not imagine completing it without you. I am so glad that we could rely on each other throughout the last three years, and so glad that we are starting the rest of our lives as a team, my love! You have eased every challenge, brought joy to the greatest difficulties, and reminded me daily that there is hope in our future. You have been my coach, my confidant, my editor, my study buddy, and my best friend. We are stronger together than apart. “I love you” is an understatement.

To the “pals”: You are friends that have become family.
Autumn Young

To my family which cannot be described solely as the people I share blood with, but rather all of the people I would give blood for...

To my friends for coming into my life, telling me they’d stand by me no matter what, and proving it...

To each of the truly incredible women in my life that have helped to fill an impossible void...

To my sage mentors that continue to give their council freely and patiently...

And to my father who remains the standard against which I judge all men...

Thank you.

William Talley Young

To my parents: Words cannot begin to describe how grateful I am for the opportunities that y’all have provided me throughout my life. Everything you have taught me and everything I have learned as a result of these opportunities has enabled me to reach this milestone. I love y’all, and I hope that this will allow me to provide even half of the same opportunities to my children.

To my grandfather: You are my hero. Throughout my life, you have shown me the importance of working hard to accomplish your goals, doing things the right way, and offering to help others in the process. Undoubtedly, these admirable qualities that you have instilled upon me from a young age have helped me in my journey through law school and will continue to help me as I venture out into practice. Thank you for being the best role model that a young man could ask for.

To Jordan: You are my rock. Thank you for always being there for me through the late nights and long hours, and thank you for providing a voice of reason and a shoulder to lean on during those difficult times. I am so glad that you took a leap of faith with me three years ago to move across the country from Tennessee to Wyoming in order to start a new chapter of our lives together. I honestly could not have accomplished any of this without your love and support, and I’m so excited to see what the future holds for us.

To my brothers: Thank you for teaching me the importance of being tough and persevering in the face of adversity. Y’all have always been the ones pushing me to go bigger and reach higher in many aspects of life, and this has certainly transcended into my journey through law school. This drive and perseverance that you have helped forge within me has been instrumental in allowing me to accomplish this academic achievement.
Life in Law School
CONGRATULATIONS!

UW College of Law
Class of 2021