

UNIVERSITY OF
WYOMING
COLLEGE OF LAW
COMMENCEMENT

MAY 16, 2026

COMMENCEMENT

**Buchanan Center for the Performing Arts
May 16, 2026**

Processional

“Trumpet Voluntary,” David Plank

Greeting

Dean Julie A. Hill

Class of 2026 Student Speaker

Carson R. Lougee

Outstanding Faculty Award Recipient

James M. Delaney

Presented by McKenna Kail, President, John Burman Student Bar Association

Graduation Address

Honorable Lynne Boomgaarden
Chief Justice, Wyoming Supreme Court

Presentation of the Graduating Class

Dean Julie A. Hill

Hooders

Professor James M. Delaney
Professors Jacquelyn L. Bridgeman and Melissa B. Alexander

Confer Degrees

Kermit Brown
Chair, University of Wyoming Board of Trustees

Closing Remarks

Dean Julie A. Hill

Recessional

“Trumpet Fanfare,” David Plank

Reception for Family and Guests in the College of Law Lobby

LAW CLASS OF 2026

Maggie Arlene Asay
Joshua Rhys Ayer **M**
Adam E. Baker
Connor J. Balliet **H**
Sanford Frederick Ballou **H**
Cormack S. Bardol
Daisy E. Bearden
Bleu Duncan Bennett **H**
Streeter R. Boatright **H**
Britanie N. Bonaguidi
Anthony Jens Bonfiglio
Phillip Robert Borlet
Michael Boyce **H**
Tyler Bradshaw **H**
Molly Bretthauer **J**
Reina Britt **H**
Sierra Burleigh **H**
Kenneth Charles Burns
Marie Burton **D**
Connor B. Campbell
Jordan Carlson **H J**
Megan Leah Carter **H**
Caylie L. Coffelt-Schulz **J M**
Yessica Contreras Vargas **H**
Isabelle Josephine Marie Cruz **H**
Junuenth Alexandra Daniels
Ethan C. Drewes **H**
Tori A. Dunivan **H J**
Gabriel L Ewing **H**
Tianne Marie Fischbach **H**
Colton Goldfarb **J**
Nayely Gomez **H**
Andrew J. Goodpaster **H**
Josephine C. Griesinger
Sean R. Hall **H**
Shifa Hamid
Michael Hammer **H**
Chance Harper **H**
Luke Francis Haug **H M**
Lisa Nichole Hoffman
Ryan T. Jenson **H**
Marshelle Nicole Johnston
Kayla M. Jones
Allison E. Karasiewicz **H J M**
Ryan W. Killpack **H**
Nicholas F. Kipp
McKyla Knight
Clayton W. Long **H**
Madison McKenzie Looper **H**
Carson R. Lougee **H**
Isibeala Aurora Manayan Moody
Tanner L. Martin
Kylie Elizabeth Mathews-Worthen **H**
Aidan Scott McCurry
Kaileigh Mae McNellis **H**
Isaac Peter Meline **H**
McKena Metzger-Coyle
Heidi Mirabal
Jesse Nelson **H**
Abbey Pederson
Kyla S. Pull
Natalie D. Quillen
Jessica P. Ralston
Mavjuda N. Rassel
Joshua Ricker **H D**
Haley Marie Rockwell **H**
Paolina Rose **H J**
Francesca I. Scheitler
Sophia Sgarrella **H**
Matthew Sharp
Jessica L. Shelby **H**
Kurtis Silvernale **H M**
Ryan Michael Slattery **H M**
Kali Soudani **H**
John R. Sparks **J**
Mason Teague
Kennedy Elizabeth Templeton **H**
Olivia R. Thomas **H J**
Banaz Wadi
Emily Jo Wangen **H J**
Alexis Weekly
Gregory Wyche **D**

H Projected Honor Graduate: Projected to graduate with a 3.400 GPA or higher and complete 59 hours at the University of Wyoming College of Law. Official Honor Graduate calculations will be determined after final grades have posted.

D December 2025 Graduate **J** Joint Degree **M** Military Service

John Burman Student Bar Association

OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD

Carson R. Lougee



Carson Lougee was born in Laramie, Wyoming, and raised in Casper. After high school, he served a two-year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Philippines. He later attended the University of Wyoming, where he earned a degree in criminal justice with a minor in Spanish. While at the University of Wyoming, Carson met his wife, Julia. They welcomed their son, Jack, just weeks before Carson was accepted into the University of Wyoming College of Law. During law school, Carson has been actively involved in competitions, both competing and hosting events that provided fellow students with opportunities to develop their skills. He spent his second year in the Family and Child Legal Advocacy Clinic, where he developed a passion for working with victims of domestic violence. During his second year of law school, Carson and Julia welcomed their daughter, Jane, into their family. Carson takes great pride in his wife, children, and the relationships he has built with his classmates, whom he describes as “the most impressive group of people he has the privilege to know.” After graduation, Carson and his family plan to move to Sweetwater County, Wyoming, where he will serve as a deputy county prosecuting attorney, fulfilling his lifelong goal of working as a prosecutor and trial lawyer.

John Burman Student Bar Association

OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARD

James M. Delaney



Professor James M. Delaney is the Centennial Distinguished Professor of Law. Despite teaching in the areas of tax, estate, and business law, he has been a beloved classroom instructor at the University of Wyoming for more than two decades. His scholarly work includes research in both domestic and international tax law. His expertise has earned him recognition as an American Fellow of both the American College of Tax Counsel and the American College of Trust & Estate Counsel. From 2013 to 2016, Professor Delaney served as the Associate Dean of the College of Law.

Prior to entering the legal academy, Professor Delaney worked in the tax group at Perkins Coie, LLP and served as an Attorney Advisor to Judge Robert P. Ruwe on the United States Tax Court.

Professor Delaney holds a juris doctor degree from Gonzaga University School of Law and an LL.M. in taxation from the University of Florida – Fredric G. Levin College of Law.

GRADUATION SPEAKER

Honorable Lynne Boomgaarden

Chief Justice, Wyoming Supreme Court



Chief Justice Lynne Boomgaarden of the Wyoming Supreme Court began her legal journey as a student at the University of Wyoming College of Law, earning her juris doctor degree with honors in 1991. Since then, Justice Boomgaarden's distinguished career has demonstrated her commitment to excellence in the legal profession. Following law school, Justice Boomgaarden clerked for Judge Wade Brorby of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit before practicing at Holland & Hart LLP and Crowley Fleck LLP. She also served as an assistant professor at the University of Wyoming College of Law.

From 2003 to 2010, Justice Boomgaarden was the Director of the Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments, overseeing about four million acres of state trust land and chairing the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. Justice Boomgaarden was appointed to the Wyoming Supreme Court in 2018 and became Chief Justice in 2025.

Justice Boomgaarden passionately supports the rule of law, access to justice, the University of Wyoming College of Law, and all things related to rodeo and the outdoors.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

2025–2026 Brimmer Scholars

Brimmer Scholars exemplify dedication to excellence and service, as the award honors the career and service of Judge Clarence A. Brimmer. The selection committee includes representatives from College of Law faculty, the judiciary, the Wyoming Bar Association, former clerks of Judge Brimmer and members of the Brimmer family.



Brimmer Scholars Ethan C. Drewes and Tori A. Dunivan



Brimmer Scholarship Finalists Connor J. Balliet, Gabriel L. Ewing, Madison McKenzie Looper, Emily Jo Wangen

STUDENT RECOGNITION

2025 John Burman Student Bar Association Executive Board and Representatives

President – Connor B. Campbell

First Vice President/Treasurer – Josephine C. Griesinger Second Vice President – McKenna Kail

Secretary – Brayden Fox

Public Relations Representative – Gracie Barrett

Student Faculty Representative – Chance Harper

ABA/Public Service Representative – Sam Walker

1L Representatives – Duncan Turnbull, Evan Vigil



STUDENT RECOGNITION

2025-2026 Clinic and Practicum Programs



Clinic Legal Education Outstanding Student

Banaz Wadi

Awarded annually to recognize a law student who has excelled in a clinical course in law school. The outstanding clinical student is selected by the clinical faculty.

Civil Legal Services Clinic

Student Director – Mason Teague
Outstanding Student – Mason Teague

Defender Aid Clinic

Student Director – Maggie Arlene Asay
Outstanding Student – Maggie Arlene Asay



Family & Child Legal Advocacy Clinic

Student Director – Haley Marie Rockwell
Outstanding Student – Phillip Robert Borlet

STUDENT RECOGNITION

2025-2026 Clinic and Practicum Programs

Prosecution Assistance Clinic

Student Director –

Banaz Wadi

Outstanding Student –

Banaz Wadi



International Human Rights Clinic

Outstanding Students –

Kali Soudani

Kennedy Elizabeth Templeton



Business Planning Practicum

Student Director –

Isabelle Josephine-Marie Cruz

Outstanding Students –

Connor J. Balliet

Olivia R. Thomas



Estate Planning & Probate Clinic

Student Director –

Tori A. Dunivan

Outstanding Students –

Tianne Marie Fischbach

Madison McKenzie Looper



STUDENT RECOGNITION

2025-2026 Editorial Board, Wyoming Law Review Volume 26

Editor-in-Chief – Ethan C. Drewes
Managing Editor – Isabelle Josephine Marie Cruz
Research Editor – Connor J. Balliet
Article Editors –Tori A. Dunivan, Gabriel L. Ewing, Ryan T. Jenson, Madison McKenzie Looper,
Kaileigh M. McNellis, and Emily Jo Wangen
Senior Staff Members – Bleu Duncan Bennett, Ryan W. Killpack, Ryan Michael Slattery,
Kennedy Elizabeth Templeton



2025–2026 Board of Advocates

Natural Resources Law Moot Court Competition
Streeter R. Boatright, Carson R. Lougee, Emily Jo Wangen

ABA Negotiation Competition
Carson R. Lougee

Wyoming Trial Lawyers Association Voir Dire Competition
Ryan Bainter, Michael Hammer, Carson R. Lougee, Isaac Peter Meline

LAW FACULTY

Julie Andersen Hill	Dean and Wyoming Excellence Chair
Alan Romero	Senior Associate Dean; William T. Schwartz Distinguished Professor of Law; Director, Rural Law Center
Danielle R. Cover	Associate Dean of Academic Support; Professor of Law
Klint W. Alexander	Professor of Law
Melissa B. Alexander	Carl M. Williams Professor of Law and Ethics
Jacquelyn Bridgeman	Kepler Professor of Law
Kipp Coddington	Professor of Practice; Director, Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Clinic, and Director, Externship Program
James M. Delaney	Centennial Distinguished Professor of Law
Stephen M. Feldman	Jerry W. Housel/Carl F. Arnold Distinguished Professor of Law
Jerry Fowler	Associate Professor of Law; Director, International Human Rights Clinic
Darrell D. Jackson	Winston Howard Distinguished Professor of Law; Director, Prosecution Assistance Clinic
Tracey McCormick	Assistant Librarian for Public Services
George Mocsary	Professor of Law; Director, Business Planning Practicum; Director, Firearms Research Center
Rachel Ngo Ntomp	Assistant Professor of Law
Noah B. Novogrodsky	Professor of Law; Director, Center for International Human Rights Law and Advocacy
Dona Playton	Dyekman Professor of Law; Director, Family and Child Legal Advocacy Clinic
Tawnya K. Plumb	Director, Law Library
Mario Rampulla	Professor of Practice; Director, Estate Planning and Probate Clinic
Tara K. Righetti	Occidental Chair in Energy and Environmental Policies; Professor of Law
Jason Robison	Carl M. Williams Professor of Law and Social Responsibility; Co-Director, Gina Guy Center for Land and Water
Grant Smith	Assistant Professor of Law; Director, Defender Aid Clinic

Michael R. Smith

Professor of Law; Director, Legal Writing Program; Director, Center for the Study of Written Advocacy

Temple Stoellinger

Associate Dean, Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources; Associate Professor of Law; Co-Director, Gina Guy Center for Law and Energy Resources in the Rockies; Wyoming Excellence Chair

Emeritus Professors of Law

Kenneth D. Chestek
Debra L. Donahue
Stephen D. Easton

Harvey Gelb
Timothy G. Kearley
Debra A. Person (Librarian)

Dee Pridgen
Elaine A. Welle

Adjunct Faculty

Eric Alston
Keith Aurzada
Brian Blumenfeld
Kenneth Chestek

Walter Eggers
Becky Farley
Toni Hartzel
Jeremy Kidd

Michael Sims
David Singleton
Jeff Van Fleet

Director, Summer Trial Institute

Stephen D. Easton

LAW STAFF

Tammy E. Ackerson	Law Library Specialist
Tim D. Crawford	Director of Experiential Learning
Ryan Harper	Senior Accounting Associate
Edward Havugimana	Executive Information Technology Specialist
Laurie Kempert	Executive Business Manager
Kristin Lanouette	Director of Career Services
Marguerite L. Latta	Law Library Specialist
Josef LeBeau	Coordinator, College Affairs
Jennifer Martin	Registrar
Lisa M. Nunley	Director of Admissions and Student Services

2025–2026 John Burman Student Bar Association
OUTSTANDING STAFF AWARD
Laurie Kempert



GRADUATION DEDICATIONS

Maggie Arlene Asay

To my Mom & Dad, my achievements are your achievements. I wouldn't be here without your love, support, and sacrifice. All that I am is because of who you are. I love you endlessly. Thank you.

To my siblings, Glen & Megan, Mandie, Dusty & Amber, Cole & Amanda, Ayz & Doug, Emilie, and all my nieces and nephews, thank you for always loving me, believing in me, and encouraging me. Whether I need advice, a laugh, a shoulder to cry on, help with my kids, or someone to listen, you are there. Not just through law school, but through everything. Each one of you hold a special place in my heart and in my life. I love you.

To my Grandma & Grandpa Asay, Grandma & Grandpa Shoopman, and Uncle Heber, I wish you were here. Your love and your influence made me who I am today. I carry you with me always.

To Elizabeth, Kelsey & Jake, Lauren, K'Lee, Laramie, Cassidy, and all my family and friends that have supported me through law school, a million thank yous could never be enough. You've answered a million and one distress calls, checked in on me, taken care of my kids, and held me together when I thought I'd fall apart. Thank you for supporting me through the good and the bad. Your friendship means everything to me. I love you.

To my law school friends that became family, Megan, Molly, Daisy, Allison, Sophia, Kurtis, Jesse, Tanner, I am forever in your debt. Not only did you show up for me, but you showed up for my kids and I can't thank you enough. Megan, you sat down next to me at orientation the first day and I will always be thankful that you did. I started law school with no intention of making friends. I was so afraid that people would think my life with four kids was just too chaotic. But the chaos called to you, and you always answered back (sometimes at the wrong door). You didn't just change law school for me, you changed it for my kids, too. My kids and I needed you and I will be thankful forever that you found us. Because we knew you, our lives have been changed for good. Thank you for too many things to list, but especially for dragging me to the study group during 1L year where I met everyone else, because that never would have happened without you. To all of you, we came to law school as strangers, we left as a trauma bonded group of weirdos, and I wouldn't have it any other way. You will always have a place in my life. We learned together, laughed together, raged together (and at each other), and cried together. I will never forget what you have done for me. I love you all.

To Lori Utsinger, Meredith Esser, & Grant Smith, thank you for believing in me and for giving me the courage to believe in myself.

Most importantly, thank you to my kids, Noah, Chloe, Terra, and Jonah. Without you, all of this would mean very little. Law school was hard for me, but you were the ones behind the scenes. You encouraged me, supported me, forgave me when I couldn't be there, and celebrated all the big and little wins with me. When I broke down behind closed doors, you lifted me up. Whenever I felt defeated or wanted to give up, you were the reason I kept going. No matter where life takes us from here, raising you will always be my greatest accomplishment. There is nothing that you cannot do, no dream you cannot achieve, and I will always be cheering for you in the front row. I love you more than I can say.



Joshua Rhys Ayer

Decades ago, my father, Stuart, told me that, in the end, we are all just stories, so make yours magnificent. The practice of law is, in essence, the practice of storytelling. But my graduating today is more than my own story; it is a synthesis of countless people— each one a story— to make my story magnificent. Foremost, I proudly thank my Mommalou and Pappylou (and little Tinkylou), who made a family of us after all we lost. Thanks as well to the family that is my Pack— Kristin Hamilton, Mikki Melosevic, Mike Huff, CJ Larsen, Keith Schott, and (our newest member) Jenny Solis, and many others; Pack is pack, and you all know what that means. My thanks as well to Susan, Meghan, Jonna, and the rest of the staff at UW Student Health, who have somehow held together this aging body and broken mind for over a decade now. Finally, if counterintuitively, I must thank my antagonists— every good story needs villains. As the smith to blade or battle to warrior, you have honed me.

As the breadth of my gratitude defies even my capacity for wordsmithing, I offer instead an oath: The story that is my life will magnificently tell the stories of yours. *Ex aris et scientia, honos, virtus, et victoriam.*



Adam E. Baker

To my family—Therese, Gerard, and Sarah Baker: Thank you for your unwavering support. I could not have survived the long days of legal writing and case briefs without hearing about life back home. Your excitement for my future kept me grounded when I wanted to give up; this achievement is as much yours as it is mine. Love you all!

To my grandparents, Lloyd and Barbara Hall: Thank you for always encouraging me to follow my dreams without fear. Your calls and prayers over the past three years made a profound impact on my journey. I would not be here today without your love and guidance.



Connor J. Balliet

To my mother, father, sister, and family as a whole:

Thank you for your constant support. Not a single day passed when I didn't know you were standing with me.

To the '1L of a Ride'-ers:

John named it, and we surely lived it. From day one, you've been there. These three years were some of the best because of you all.

To the Friends we made on the way:

You all were the cherry on top. We have made some great memories and I look forward to the ones yet to come!



Daisy E. Bearden

To Bobby, thank you for taking on more than your fair share the past three years. Your encouragement and patience have been a source of stability for me. You handled things without hesitation and allowed me to focus on achieving this ridiculous goal. I would not be here today without you. Full stop. I love you.

To my four beautiful children, thank you for sharing in my complaints and accomplishments as we went to school at the same time. What a wild and odd thing to do with your mom! You all now know for sure that it is never too late to work hard for something that matters (you know, like dismantling systems of oppression).

To my mom, you showed me that you're never too old to go back to school. You set a great example of what a strong woman can accomplish.

To my family, thank you for cheering me on and providing reprieve when I needed it most. You gave me things to look forward to. Your support made this endeavor survivable.

And to my law school friends, thank you for study groups, lunch dates, outlines, trips, and laughter. I am grateful to have shared this trauma with such amazing people! And, I could not have asked for a better carpool friend than Jessie. I won't miss the drive, but I will miss all that time with you.

"We did it!"



Bleu Duncan Bennett

To Mom and Dad: I cannot thank you both enough for everything you have done for me. There are not enough words to explain how much you have given me in this life. All the lessons you have taught me have gotten me this far, and I will always cherish them. Your unwavering support and belief in me (even when I did not believe in myself) have carried me through all the challenges I have faced. You both have always been there for me and I could not have asked for anything more from you. You are the reason I have made it this far and I love you both so much.

To Mary: Thank you for always being someone I can lean on for advice and help. Having you around during my first two years of law school was the best thing I could have hoped for. You guided me along this journey, and I could not have done it without you. I love you.

To Peter: Thank you for always being there for me. Thank you for teaching me how to be tough in a world that is not always easy going. I have always looked up to you and I love you.

To Amanda: You are my rock. Thank you for always sticking by my side and putting up with me when I know I was hard to be around. You have shown me a love and compassion that some days I'm not sure I deserve. You are the most hard-working and caring person I know, and I would not have made it this far without you. You inspire me to be a better person. I cannot wait to build our future together with Lucy Biscuit. I love you to the Moon and back.

To David: You have done so much for me. You have always supported me and believed in me. No matter what, I always feel like I can reach out to you for help and guidance. Thank you so much for everything you do, and I love you.

To all my Friends: You are such an important part of my life. Without all of you, I probably would have gone crazy long before making it here. No matter how hectic life felt, I could always count on you all to make things feel normal again. Thank you for being the best people a guy could have around.

Above all else, I thank God for blessing me with such amazing people and opportunities. I know none of the things I have achieved would be possible without Him. He has allowed me to live such an amazing and blessed life.

Streeter R. Boatright

Mom and Dad

Thank you for supporting me. Thank you for encouraging me. It was easy to complete this special project because you two were on my side. You each have a bright fire within you. I'm so proud to be your son. Mom—thank you for improving our house in Laramie and making it feel like home.

Emma

For taking a huge risk and holding the center. I love you.

Carter

For unwavering friendship and camaraderie. Thank you brother.

Ben and Max

My best friends. Ben- I'm proud of you. Max- thanks for being on chill mode.

Arthur and Carly

Thank you for making the long trip! Love you both.

Britanie N. Bonaguidi

To Mom and Jon—no words can truly describe how thankful I am for all you have done for me. I know I would not be here if it wasn't for your unwavering love and support. You both have taught me that with hard work and dedication, the sky truly is the limit in what I can do. I know this journey hasn't always been easy, but you were always there to help when I needed you. I am so blessed to have such amazing parents, and I love you both so much!

To Noah—from the moment I told you I wanted to be a lawyer and that I got into law school you were always there to support my dreams, no questions asked. I know I haven't always been the easiest to deal with over the past few years, but you always made me feel loved and supported every step of the way. I hope you know how thankful I am for everything you have done for me because you truly did all you could to help me on such a hard journey. I love you more than words can say, and I am so lucky I get to spend my life with you!

To Tianne and Kayla—your friendship has meant the world to me, and I could not have asked for better friends to experience this journey with. Tianne, from the moment we met at the coffee shop, I knew you were going to be the friend I needed to get through these next three years. You stood by me through everything, from scary cold calls 1L year to my wedding. You truly are a lifelong friend and I am so blessed the world brought us together. I hope you know how much your friendship means to me and even though law school is coming to an end, I will always be here for you. I sure am going to miss seeing you every day, but I can't wait to see all you do because you are such a smart, dedicated, and caring person I know you will go so far! Kayla, you brought light and fun to my life that I didn't even know I needed. You showed me how to have fun in law school and to take time for myself. From the moment I picked you up on that snowy day you have been there for me ever since, and words cannot describe how grateful I am. I could not have survived this journey without our adventures and all the laughs we shared, and I am going to miss you so much! You have truly been an amazing friend, and I can't wait to see what journeys we go on next.



To all my other friends and family—I am so lucky to have such an amazing support system! Everyone in my life has been so amazing in supporting me in this journey and I couldn't have done it without any of you. I love you all so much!

Phillip Robert Borlet

To my Mother, Carmen Borlet, whose patience, love, and steady belief in me made this journey possible. Thank you for the countless ways you supported me, both seen and unseen. This achievement belongs as much to you as it does to me.

To my best friend, Dayen Krausert, who has stood beside me chapter after chapter of my life. Your loyalty, humor, and constant encouragement made even the hardest moments easier. I'm grateful to walk through life with you at my side.

To my brother, Nick Borlet, whose commitment to his path reflects courage, purpose, and strength of character. I admire the conviction you carry into this next chapter of our lives, and am ever inspired by you.

To my brother, Luke Borlet, whose quiet strength and perseverance remind me that people can overcome more than the world ever sees. We have both walked through difficult seasons and come out stronger on the other side. I'm proud of the man you've become. To Professor Dona Playton, whose mentorship and confidence in me made the transition from student to advocate possible. Working under your guidance has shaped not only my legal education, but the lawyer I hope to become.

To my Father, Commander Brian Borlet, whose integrity and unwavering belief in brought me here today. I'm grateful for everything you've done, and I have always been proud to be your son.

Michael Boyce

To My Parents:

Thank you for your tireless support to me throughout these last 3 years and all my years before then. I never could have done this without your guidance and unconditional love.

To My Friends:

Thank you for teaching me to live through and not just survive this experience.



Molly Bretthauer

I moved to Laramie, sight unseen, to make the best decision of my life, but I wouldn't have found myself at 7,200 feet without many people guiding my way. I only applied to one school and knew exactly what I wanted to do. However, it was my professors who truly exceeded my expectations. I am forever grateful for this institution's infinite gift of legal education.

The person I need to thank the most cannot be here, my mother. She will forever be the most influential person in my life. She insisted on teaching unconditional love by modeling it herself. Her compassion was endless and I aspire to be close to the woman she was.

I want everyone to know that I am a spoiled brat. My parents always loved me and believed in me, even when my dreams were unconventional. Libby, thank you for literally taking me in, multiple times. Melinda, thank you for telling me to go for it, I really needed to hear that. Dad, thank you for the notes, money, and conversation. Having a father who truly loves and respects smart, strong women is the most priceless gift a woman could receive. You are probably why I am not afraid to argue with men. Excellent work Dad. In general, I'm so very lucky to have a family that reads, thinks, and cares.

Renee and Kerry, thank you for teaching me about family and having faith in me. It was more than a job; it was a daily practice in advocacy.

I'm also spoiled because I have so many friends. My friendships truly fuel me and remind me, time and again, that I have more to learn from others than I could ever learn on my own.

My study group and friends were exactly what I hoped for. I heard someone say that you'll make the best friends in your life in law school. That better be right, because I want all those jerks to keep talking to me after this. I really do love them. I would not be here without the people who brought me here.

*Every leaf is from the rain;
a single seed begets the grain.*

Everything on earth that grows was spun from space long ago.



Reina Britt

To my family: I am so incredibly thankful for all the support and love that I've gotten from you all throughout the years.

Mama: Thank you for everything. You showed me what it meant to be a strong woman who leads with love. You taught me that saying you stand for something means nothing unless you actually get off your butt and do something about it. You helped push me to grow into the greatest person that I could be. I wouldn't be at this point had you not made countless sacrifices over the years. Thank you for helping to shape me into the woman I am today. I love you more than words can express.



Rex (Buddy): I am forever thankful for you coming into my life (thank god the "Rex Repellant" didn't work). It means the world to know that I am always able to count on you for your love and support no matter what. Thank you for everything, I wouldn't be here without you. <3 Buddy

Grams and Papa: I cannot express how thankful I am for you both. You both have made such an immeasurable impact on my life. Ever since I was little, you both have been some of my biggest cheerleaders and have showered me in so much love. Whether its Papa helping me fix something on my car or Grams teaching me her kimchi recipe, I'm so thankful that I can always count on you to be there for me. I love you 사랑해요



Dad and Joni: Thank you both for all the support and pushing me to do my best. I appreciate everything you have both done to help me reach this point and I truly could not have made it here without you. I love you both.

T and Z: Thank you for being the best brothers I could ask for. I'm so excited to see where life takes you both and just know I'll always be cheering you on no matter what. I love you two so much!

Clinton and Steve: Thank you for being the world's best guncles. Your love and support over the years has meant the absolute world to me and I am so thankful to be able to share this milestone with you both. And now that I have a law degree, you don't have to worry about me "galivanting" around the neighborhood ;)

To the Boys: I wouldn't have made it through without you guys. We came into law school as complete strangers, but somewhere throughout these three years you all became some of the greatest friends I've ever dreamed of having. I'm incredibly thankful for all the memories we've made- from sitting through almost three full playbacks of the Polar Express at Applebee's after the Torts final, just trying to comprehend what the heck just happened, to surviving one of the most awkward dinner parties to ever exist with a full grown adult throwing a tantrum over a birthday card. To boating days, backpacking through the Tetons, and the 12oz Curlers taking home gold as the 2025 intermural curling champions. We had countless nights of CJ taking all our poker money, Sean doing too many Irish goodbyes, the eventual evolution into full time "Fun Ryan," and John almost killing us the one and only time he was trusted to lead a hike.

We made it. I truly couldn't have asked for better people to share this experience with, and I am proud to have gotten to know each and every one of you. No matter where your careers take you, I know that you will all make the world a better place. I love you all so much.



Sierra Burleigh

Mom and Dad – Being here today is only possible because of the never-ending support that you both have given me throughout my entire life. Thank you for always picking up my phone calls, taking me on trips, and coming up here to Laramie to see your favorite child. Your unconditional love and support have not gone unnoticed. I am forever grateful to call you my parents, and I love you both so much!

Spencer and Camry – Both of you got to firsthand experience the hardest year of my life (1L year), and I thank you for keeping me sane during this challenging time. These last three years have been a whirlwind and have flown by, but I would not have had such a smooth journey without both of you by my side. Love you guys!

Rylie – I could not have made it through these last few years without you by my side. You made sure that I stayed fed and consumed more than just energy drinks. You encouraged me to keep going when things got hard and to always continue following my dreams. Thank you for always being patient with me and for being my rock these last seven years. I am so happy to have shared this journey with you. Love you long time!

My Friends – I am grateful to share this accomplishment with all the friends that I have made along the way. I cherish all the adventures we went on and the memories that we made. I will forever remember the endless chats at the library desk and my besties (Abbey, Carson, Frannie, & Heidi), who traveled to Cheyenne to watch me argue a case. Love y'all!



Kenneth Charles Burns

To my loved ones — I couldn't have made it without you, thank you for all of your support!



Jordan Carlson

To my parents: Thank you for all of your love and support. Thank you for always believing in me and giving me the foundation to chase big goals. Your push for me to try my best was the best thing that's ever happened to me.

To my Grandma Sharon: Super pre-school really paid off! Thank you for being one of my earliest and best supports.

To my Aunt Shelley and Tom: Thank you for always being in my corner and cheering me on.

I'm also grateful for my entire family. This accomplishment is built on the support you've all given me.



Megan Leah Carter

Mom and Dad: Nothing I have achieved would have been possible without you. Through every challenge, every late night, and every moment of doubt, you believed in me and stood beside me with unwavering love and support. Your sacrifices, encouragement, and faith carried me further than I could have gone on my own. You have taught me the value of perseverance, integrity, and hard work. This achievement is as much yours as it is mine. Thank you for always believing in me and for your unconditional love. I love you more than words can express.

Julia: To my built-in best friend. Your constant support has meant more the world to me. You have always been my biggest cheerleader, and I could not be more grateful for you. And even though you chose to graduate at the exact same time as me, I can't wait to see all the amazing things you will accomplish as you begin your career.



Skylar, Jared, Tanner: Your friendship has been one of the most constant parts of my life over the years. Even though we now live miles apart, your support and friendship continue to mean so much to me. I know that whenever I need a good laugh or just a break from the stress, you all will come through. I am incredibly grateful for the memories we share and for the lasting bond that distance will never change.

Kenah and Allison: What started as a little trauma bonding quickly turned into a friendship that has meant so much to me. I may not say it often, or really ever, but I truly love you both and am endlessly grateful for your friendship. Your presence in my life has made even the toughest days a little better, and I can't imagine having gone through this journey without you by my side.



Maggie: From our very first conversation you have been by my side through every step and meltdown of this journey. You have been able to keep me grounded even though I try to run away quite often. Thank you for all that you have done for me and for trusting me enough to be part of your family. I could not have survived this experience without you, and honestly, I wouldn't want to. I am so grateful for you, and I can't wait to see you the amazing things you are going to do.

Yessica Contreras-Vargas

Para mis Padres, que llegaron sin nada y me lo dieron todo: Gracias por enseñarme a soñar sin fronteras, a trabajar por lo que quiero, y a siempre sentirme orgullosa de donde vengo. Dejaron todo atrás para que mis hermanos y yo no batalláremos igual, demostrando una valentía llena de esperanza que nunca nadie podrá igualar. Se han callado sus miedos para dar nos seguridad y guardado por dentro todas sus batallas para poder estar presente. Y aun así, después de todo lo que han tenido que pasar, ahora están presentes aquí como los padres de una licenciada en derecho apunto de ser abogada, una maestra con maestría en educación, y un estudiante universitario.

Los quiero más de lo que las palabras pueden expresar y siempre estaré agradecida por tenerlos a ustedes como papas. Ojalá algún día podré llegar a ser por lo menos la mitad de las personas que son.





To my Husband, my rock: I sincerely could not have made it this far without you. You have supported me in more ways than one and for that, I will never be able to begin to thank you. You have kept me sane throughout these past three years, always making sure I wasn't alone whenever I had to pull an all-nighter or study my flashcards, and reminded me of the end goal anytime I wavered. Our journey together started just weeks before my first day of law school, it probably wasn't the best timing, but you made it work, even if that meant that at any given time, it would be either you or me (usually you) driving an hour to see each other. I will always cherish this time in our lives for bringing us closer together and showing us exactly how much we couldn't live without each other. Getting to walk the stage knowing that I am now married to the most amazing man makes me so incredibly excited to see what the future holds for us.



To Jennifer, my built-in best friend: I think you knew before anyone else that I was destined to be a lawyer and argue for a living. Although we grew up pulling each other's hair and fighting over who's wearing whose clothes, growing up with you by my side has been the biggest privilege. I will never get tired of telling you what an amazing woman, sister, and now mother you are. We've truly been able to experience every chapter of life together and through every single one of those, you've single-handedly paved the path for me. No one is better than you at making sure the ones you love feel supported. Your random "good morning" messages always seemed to have perfect timing and meant more than you know. I love you so much and can't thank you enough for being the best big sister anyone could ever ask for.



To Salvador, my not so little, little brother: I know that growing up in the shadows of a pretty, smart, and hilarious sister must be really hard—KIDDING! But in all seriousness, I hope you know that you can, and will, achieve great things. Your talent is like no other and it will take you very far. Little brothers have a unique way of turning dull moments into lifelong memories and in that way, I am so lucky that you're mine. I love and appreciate you so much for all the times you made life feel a little lighter by simply coming upstairs and making me laugh or making sure I had good music to listen to while I studied.

Y para el resto de mi Familia y Amigos: Nunca dejaron que su apollo se dejara de notar. Gracias por recordarme que soy mas de lo que mis logros demuestran y por no dejar que la escuela me consuma. Me han enseñado a vivir y disfrutar de la vida, en las buenas y en las malas. Los quiero.



Isabelle Josephine Marie Cruz

To My Family

Mom and Dad: There will never be enough words to express my gratitude for all you have given and done for me. Mom, I would give anything to have you here today. I love and miss you every single day. Dad, you've taught me the value of hard work and patience, and you've never let me forget that I can do anything in life if I put my mind to it. Thank you for all of our evening phone calls and your unending encouragement. I love you both.

Kevin and Laura, and Sarah: Thank you for always cheering me on over the years. Even when life has been so busy and we've all been doing our own things, I've always felt your support. It's meant more than each of you know.

To My Friends

I truly couldn't have done this without you all. Thank you for keeping me grounded and reminding me there's a world beyond law school. Thank you for the check-ins, the weekend plans, and for loving me through every finals season. I'm so lucky to have people who show up for me the way you all do.

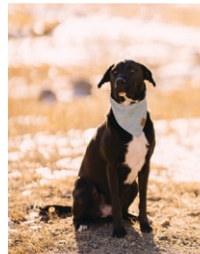


Junuenth Alexandra Daniels

To my husband and greatest supporter, **Ty**, the most selfless man I know: Thank you for your constant patience, your grace and your unwavering love. Thank you for the many sacrifices you made along the way and for always believing in me. Thank you for making sure Loki was properly cared for and loved while I spent countless hours reading and studying. This accomplishment is as much yours as it is mine. I love you, always.

To my **family and friends**: Thank you for always believing in me and constantly supporting me. Even though you never let me forget how often my phone was on DND, you still understood and cheered me on through the busiest and most stressful times of each semester. Law school may be over, but I suspect my phone will still remain on DND.

And to my brother **Andy**: my best friend, my law school experience would not have been the same without you. Thank you for the countless late nights you stayed up with me running through flashcards and helping me study. At this point, I would say you know just as much about Criminal Procedure as I do. Thank you for the study breaks on nights we ran to the gas station for snacks and binge watched J.Lo movies and Love Island. I could not have asked for a better study partner or brother.



Ethan C. Drewes

To my family: Throughout my life, you have supported me, taught me, and encouraged me to challenge myself in pursuit of becoming a better man. Without you, I wouldn't be the person I am. Today marks a significant milestone, and I am beyond grateful to share this moment with you all. I love you, and I look forward to continuing to make you proud.

To my classmates: Without you all, law school would have sucked. Thank you for weathering the storm with me. I will cherish for life the memories we have created, and I can't wait to see what you all do in the future.

To my beautiful fiancé, Kylie: You amaze me every day. You are kind, caring, diligent, and generous. Five years ago, you left behind your friends and family to join me on this adventure to Laramie, and I will be forever grateful for your daily sacrifices. You have supported me in more ways than I can count, and I know you will continue to do so for the rest of our lives. I am beyond grateful for you and your family and the love you all show me every day. I love you all, and I can't wait for what the future holds.



Tori A. Dunivan

Dear Mom, Tucker, Tanner, Lindsey, Moli, & Family: I'm standing here today because you helped me find my way. Everything I've done here carries your fingerprints. You believed in me long before there was anything concrete to point to, and you never let me forget what I was capable of. I am so honored to be sharing this day with the people who mean the most to me. Thank you, truly. P.S. No, I cannot get you out of jail, but thank you for asking.

Dear Mick: You deserve so much thanks, and probably a few apologies. You've seen the best and worst of me during this time—up close and personal. Your best line so far is: "It's not my job to know what you do in law school; it's my job to support you." True to your word, you have been one of my biggest supporters. Thank you for being you (feralness and all) and for reminding me there's more to life.



Dear Friends of the Law: I never would have made it out of here without you (and our shared libations). You are all destined for great, great things.

Dear EPPC Crew: The Clinic has been the best part of law school. Thank you for all your inside jokes, unlicensed therapy, and your remarkable tolerance for heckling.

Gabriel L. Ewing

Thank you to my family, friends, and church for all of the support and encouragement you have provided to me. I couldn't have done it without you, so thank you!

Tianne Marie Fischbach

To my parents: There are no words to thank you enough for everything you have done for me to get me here. Your unwavering and unconditional love and support has meant the world to me and has not gone unnoticed. There is no doubt that I would not be here today had it not been for both of you. Mom, you've been there for me and answered every phone call when I need someone to talk to, someone to cry to, or someone to listen to. You are the most kind, caring, and selfless person I know. Dad, by your example, you instilled in me the work ethic and drive that have carried me through law school and helped me overcome every challenge I have faced. I am blessed in every way to have you both as my parents. I hope you know this is as much your accomplishment as it is mine because I would not be here without you. I love you both endlessly and am forever grateful for you.

To my fiancé, Hunter: As my final graduation has approached and is now here, I have often found myself thinking back to the day you and I walked across our high school graduation stage together. That feels like just yesterday, and yet at the same time, a lifetime ago. You have been by my side and there for me through it all. There is no one that I would have rather gone through this journey with. It has been such a joy to watch you accomplish your goals and is a blessing to have you by my side as I accomplish mine. You have been my rock through law school and life and have been there for me through every high and every low. Your unwavering support means the world to me. I truly could not have done it without you. I am pretty sure that our weekend fly fishing trips are the sole reason I retained my sanity during law school. I honestly can't thank you enough for the endless love, support, encouragement, and patience you have shown me throughout this journey. Thank you for always being my best friend and biggest supporter. I love you, and there is nothing more that I look forward to than a lifetime with you.



To my siblings: Thank you all for the love and support you have shown me. You all have been there for me since day one. It has been such a blessing and joy to watch all of you in your successes in life. Thank you for being there for me for my successes. Trell, having you as a little brother and watching you grow up has brought me some of my absolute greatest joy in life. You mean the world to me, and I am so proud of you. I hope you always know that you can do and be whatever you set your mind to. Work hard towards your dreams, and they are bound to come true. I hope that Trey, Tacey, Talissa and I have paved the road for you and are your role models as you grow up. I love you all, thank you for being the best family I could ask for.

Britanie: I will always say that the one thing I am most thankful for from law school is my friendship with you that it has brought me. There are no words to thank you enough for the unwavering support, encouragement, and friendship that you have shown me every day throughout law school. When I first applied to law school, I don't think I expected to meet my best friend, but I am forever grateful that I did because I truly could not have done this without you, nor would I have wanted to. I am so incredibly proud of us for getting through law school together, it is such a joy to walk across that stage with you, and a memory I will forever cherish. Thank you for carrying me through law school and for becoming my dearest friend. I love you.

To my grandparents, family, and family friends: Thank you all for your love, support and encouragement that you have shown me, it has truly meant the world to me. I could not have done this alone and am forever grateful for the support system that I have. I love you all and am so blessed to have you all in my life.



To my in-laws: You have welcomed me into your family with love, support, and open arms, and for that I am deeply appreciative. I am so honored and excited to become part of your family and am thankful to have been blessed with such wonderful in-laws. Thank you for all of your love, support, and encouragement. I love you guys.

To the law school staff and faculty: Your help, support, and guidance are deeply appreciated and do not go unnoticed. Thank you for being there for us and supporting us through these past three years of our lives. I could not have asked for a better law school experience thanks to all of you.

To those who have given me legal experiences and opportunities: I am forever grateful for the experiences and opportunities that you all have given me to prepare me for the career I am about to step into. Thank you for taking a chance on me and for giving me the opportunity to learn from you. Thank you for investing so much time and effort into me and my career development. I am extremely appreciative and truly could not have asked for better mentors.

Colton Goldfarb

To my parents, Andy and Torey,

This accomplishment belongs to you as much as it does to me. For the past 8 years you stood behind me through every step: multiple schools, endless travel, long seasons of college baseball, and the grind of law school. You never asked for guarantees and never stopped believing I would succeed. The example you set for Taylor and I has shaped our lives and accomplishments, and we would not be here graduating today without your love and support. I love you both, thank you for everything.

To my grandparents, G and PawPaw,

Through every step of the 8 years of school, numerous baseball seasons, and the demands of law school, you were always there with steady encouragement and confidence. This accomplishment, the first Juris Doctorate in our family, was possible because of the foundation you built for Taylor and I. I love you both, thank you for everything.

To my brother, Taylor,

We did it. We worked so hard to get our degrees and pursue our professional dreams. I wonder what they will all say about us now? I appreciate the support and encouragement you gave all along the way, even though you got a little loud sometimes when you and Dylan got smoked in Rocket League when I was trying to study. Love you bro, thank you for everything.

To the Big Dawg, Haley,

I could not have done any of this without you. My life changed when I decided to play beer pong at Mingles (of all places) with that one girl from class during our 1L year. You have supported me through the ups and downs of this journey and together we have accomplished so much. I cannot wait to see where life takes us after this, and I am so thankful I get to do it with you. Love you Big Dawg, thank you for everything.

Nayely Gomez

Pops:

I am so lucky to have the best dad in the entire world. Pops and chango for life. From the “echemele ganas” to the “cuideseme mucho” you have been there for me no matter what. You will always be my hero and the person I look up to. You are the best person I know, and I can only hope to be half the person you are someday. This isn’t my accomplishment; it is our accomplishment. I know abuelito is so proud of you. Thank you for everything pops. I love you.

Bubby:

I am so beyond proud of you. Watching you become the person you are today has been one of my favorite things. You are the smartest and most dedicated person I know. I can always count on you to make me laugh. I will always be here for you. Thank you for being the best little brother.





Elizabeth:

Thank you for always being there for me. You became such an important part of my life and I couldn't have made it through law school without all of our laughs and "buenos diass." I love you so much. I am so lucky to have you as a prima.

Lucero:

Thank you for being the best twin a girl could ask for. All of our late nights and hang outs are some of the best memories I have. I love you so much.

To the rest of my family and friends:

Thank you for your unconditional love and support. I without a doubt have the best support system. You all believed in me even when I didn't believe in myself and for that I am eternally grateful.



Andrew J. Goodpaster

To My Parents, thank you for all the support you have given me throughout law school! You have taught me the value of hard-work and dedication which has pushed me to be the best the best possible version of myself. From the moral support to the constant encouragement, I couldn't have done this without you both. I am beyond blessed to have you both as my parents, and I love you!

To my friends for joining me throughout this journey! You all made law school enjoyable and pushed me towards success. I couldn't have asked for a better group of guys to survive this wild ride with!

To my brother and his family, thank you for the help, support, and reminders of what really matters. I couldn't have reached the finish line without you all! Love you all!

Most of all, I thank God for all the blessings he has bestowed up me during my time here. I am so thankful to God for guiding my steps, opening doors I didn't think were possible, and teaching me humility along the way. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.



Josephine C. Griesinger

To my mom:

Words cannot even begin to describe how thankful I am for you and your support. Thank you for your unyielding support and the unwavering confidence you have in me. Thank you for answering every phone and talking me down all the time. For reading every paper and listening to me rant about class or student government and everything else, thank you. Thank you for helping me study for tests and the MPRE. Your support has not gone unnoticed. You have shown me what it means to never back down and to chase my dreams. You inspire me to be better every day, and your confidence inspires me to be stronger and be true to myself.

To my dad and Sammie:

Thank you both for your constant support and for always being in my corner. You have believed in me through every challenge and milestone along the way. Your encouragement, patience, and love gave me the confidence to keep pushing forward, even when the road felt long. None of this would have been possible without you, and I am so grateful for everything you have done for me.

To my grandma:

Thank you for always believing in me and cheering me on through every stage of this journey. Your love, wisdom, encouragement, and school break trips have meant more to me than words can express.

To Trac:

Thank you for being by my side since we were twelve. Since the awkward middle school days to today, you have seen me through every stage of life along the way. You have been there for every high, every challenge, and everything in between. Your constant support, honesty, and friendship have meant the world to me. We are for lifers, and I am so grateful to have you by my side through it all.

To all my law school friends:

We started this journey as strangers, and we are leaving as a family. Thank you for the countless study sessions, the support during stressful moments, and the laughter that made even the hardest days manageable. Law school would not have been the same without the friendships we built along the way. I am so grateful that we were able to navigate this wild journey together, and I will always appreciate the memories, encouragement, and camaraderie we shared throughout these years.



Shifa Hamid

To my friends and family- thank you for all of the support and for putting up with me having no life. To my Khala Arshi and Uncle Rob, you truly made this possible and I could not have done it without you. Thank you for climbing all those stairs for me, (twice!) To my mom, I love you so much, thanks for being the biggest pain in the butt and my biggest cheerleader. Lots of love to Ren, for pushing me forward.

Chance Harper

To Cheyenne,

Thank you for being the partner I needed, a friend always in my corner, and the love of my life. Throughout this journey, there were plenty of times when I found myself struggling to continue and unable to accept that I could be a lawyer. Despite this, your belief in me and my ability was always constant. From pep talks to distracting conversations, you built me up and gave me a reason to get back on my feet.

Success is never the doing of one person. That is why I want to celebrate us today. I am so excited for tomorrow, because I know you will be there. Thank you for filling each day with hope, happiness, and sunshine. I love you.

To Mom,

I'll never be able to repay you for all of the work you put in to give me the opportunities I've enjoyed. From driving me to and from every game of every sport I wanted to play, to buying me my first car, moving me into my dorm, and teaching me how to act and write like a professional as I prepared for my career. You've done it all and never asked for anything in return. I am so lucky to be your son.

To Aunt Cathy, Grandma Donna, and the rest of my family,

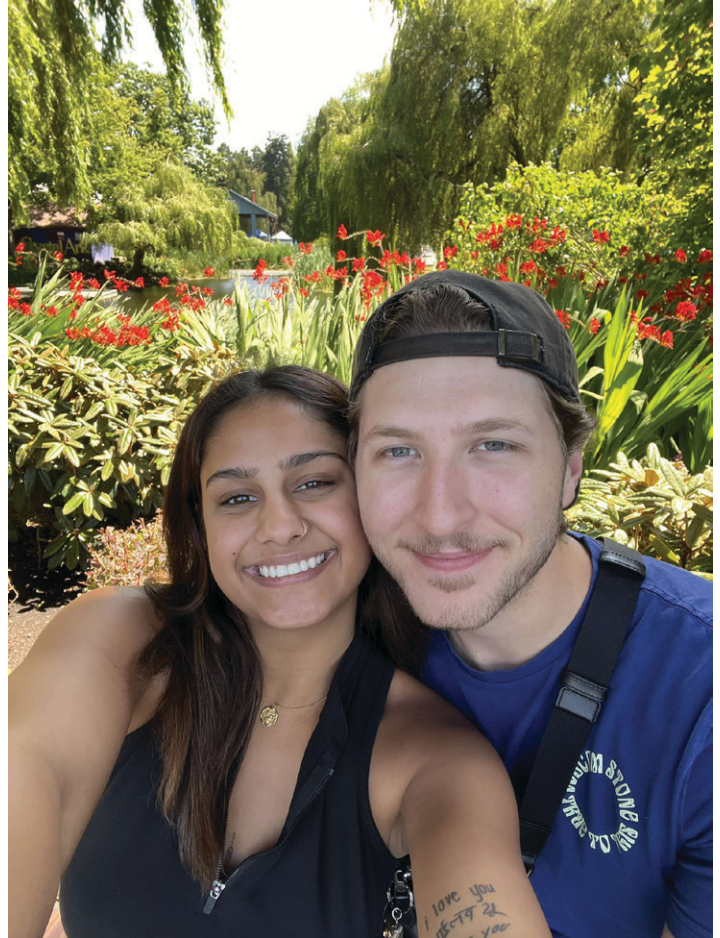
Even from a distance, you've given me so much love and support. I would not be the man I am today without your influence and guidance. I hope you all know how much I appreciate you. I can't wait to continue to make you proud.

To my friends and new family,

Whether I've known you all my life, for a few years, or just met you in law school, I want to thank you all for the memories. I was able to get through the toughest parts of life and law school with all your help. Thank you for the support and lifelong memories. I can't wait to continue enjoying life with each and every one of you.

Luke Francis Haug

I would like to thank my family for their unwavering support over the past three years. To the friends I have made throughout law school: thank you for making this journey so memorable. Lastly, I am deeply grateful to the professors who guided me; your mentorship made this experience truly meaningful.



Lisa Nichole Hoffman

To my family:

To my godparents, Dale and Kathy Gibson. *Praise the Lord. God is good. Amen.*

To my parents, Nick Hoffman and Ronda Walker. *Thank you for everything.*

To my sister, Stephanie Williams. *I am glad you are here with me today. Life is full of second chances. Have as much faith in yourself as you have had in me.*

To my cousins, Duke Walker and Ricky Walker. *Duke, I know you never got to fulfill your dream of becoming a lawyer. This one is for you, and for all of the Walker family.*

To my friends:

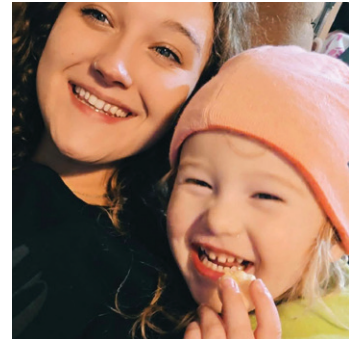
From Shoshoni: No matter how far away I am or how long it has been since we last spoke, you can always count on me. To Miss Oaklie, you can be anything you want. You are strong, smart, and beautiful, and Auntie Lisa will always be here when you need help.

From Laramie and beyond: *Words cannot describe how very thankful I am to each and every one of you.* You have seen me at my highest highs and my lowest lows, and you have supported me unconditionally. It's important to remember who you are when you are lost in the stress and intensity that is law school, and you all helped me stay true to myself.

To my peers and professors from the University of Wyoming College of Law:

I look forward to working with you again soon.

Thank you all for believing in me.



Ryan T. Jenson

As I have reflected on the past few years and everything that it has taken to get to this point, I have realized that it is not so much about what things you have in your life and where you've been and what you are going to do, but rather it is more about who is a part of your journey with you. These past few years have been full of twists and turns and have led me to places that I have never thought I would have ever ended up (yes, that includes South Africa so Reina doesn't have to point that out for the 10,000th time) but my favorite memories of the past few years have been because of the people that have become a part of my life, and those that have always been there.

To my family – Mom and Dad, each of you have supported me in this journey in more ways than you could ever know. I could not possibly list every single way that you have supported me here, but I want you to know that I would never have gotten to this

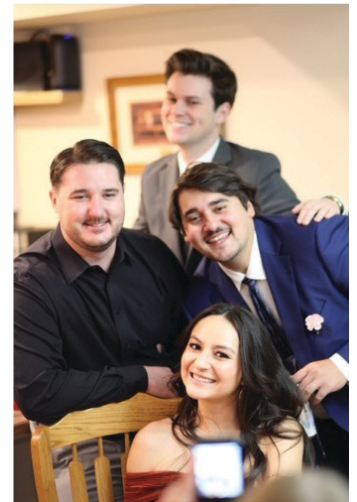


point without each of you. So much of who I am today comes from you both, and I am eternally grateful that I have had you both to support me in your own ways these past few years. Kyle, I always appreciate your humility in everything that you do. Your ability to persist even when things do not go the way you thought (which, as I have learned in my own life, seems to be more often than not) is incredibly inspiring and something that I have learned to bring into my own journey. Keep your head up and I cannot wait to see where your baseball career takes you. You've got what it takes. You three have been a rock in stormy seas these past few years, and I am eternally grateful for all your support as I move into a new season of life.

To my friends – I cannot believe that we can finally say we made it, but somehow the day has finally arrived, and we are all graduating. Each of you has been so supportive in ways that you'll never know. Sean and CJ, I am so grateful that I had you guys as roommates these past three years. Having my roommates going through the minefield that law school can be sometimes along with me (especially 1L) made it more fun than I thought because we all knew that

we didn't know anything anyways. It was good to know that if I got cold called, I would not be the only person in the room who had no idea what was going on. John, your grit to continue on the path even when life throws a curveball has been an incredible inspiration to me. While we may joke all the time and take absolutely nothing seriously, your friendship means a lot to me. I also appreciate someone that can respect the stealth archer build. Reina, you have been an incredible friend these past few years. While we also take pretty much nothing seriously and make fun of each other 99 percent of the time, your friendship has meant a lot to me. I have absolutely no doubt you (and everyone else) are going to do incredible things in the future. You also have the same grit to continue when life throws a curveball, and it inspires me to do the same. I appreciate your uncanny ability to remind me of my time abroad in a certain country in the southern hemisphere. Oh, also, it does not suck to be a CSU Ram. By my count, there is only one of us that got to hold the Boot. Finally, there are so many more people that have been a part of this story, and I am grateful for all of you. Gabe, Ethan, maybe one day we'll actually get that cover band going and just be professional musicians, because you know, that's the real reason we went to law school so that no one could steal our music. (anyone play bass??)

Lord, thank you for this degree and the steady hand that You have been in my life. Because of You, I have known a peace that I never could have possibly known otherwise. Thank you for the community that I have been given. Send me from this place and continue to guide me in everything that I do, because it is all for You.



"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves."
–Matthew 10:16

Marshelle Nicole Johnston

To my fiancé, Tyler: What a wild time to meet me, and yet here we are, planning our wedding. I'm sure at times it has felt like you were in law school too: the endless drives back and forth to Wyoming, late-night Target runs for "emergency" snacks and school supplies, and staying up with me through finals week spirals. You even hosted my friends in the mountains for my birthday weekend while I missed my own birthday, staying up for 36 hours to finish a paper. Through all of it, you have been steady, patient, and endlessly supportive while I tried to juggle law school, running a business, and being a good partner, and you never once (okay, maybe just once) questioned me when I spontaneously booked trips to leave the country in the middle of it all. You are my calm in the chaos, the best dog dad, and the kindest partner I could have ever dreamed of. I am so grateful we found each other, and I cannot wait to begin this next chapter of our lives together.



To my parents: Thank you for your love and support. There truly are no words big enough to fully express my gratitude. From every hard lesson growing up to every accomplishment along the way, I learned from you both. You instilled in me the courage to chase big dreams and the grit to never quit. That is why I am here today. Dad, thank you for supporting my spontaneous decision to go to law school and for helping me buy my perfect Laramie house. I genuinely do not think I would have survived these last three years of chaos without your steady help and belief in me. Mom, thank you for being such a strong role model and for always showing me how proud you are of me and my accomplishments, especially through all of your enthusiastic Facebook shoutouts. No one celebrates like you do, and I love you for that. I am so grateful to have parents who always have my back and believe in me every step of the way.



To my grandparents: Thank you for always encouraging me to follow my dreams, even when those dreams changed drastically over time. I wanted to be a ballerina, a veterinarian, a tornado chaser, a fashion journalist, a personal trainer, and finally, a lawyer. Through every phase, you believed in me and trusted that I would eventually find my true calling. You encouraged me to enjoy the journey and to have fun along the way. I know you are all watching over me. While you cannot be here in person, I feel you with me in spirit every single day. I also have a feeling you are probably smiling, and maybe just a little relieved, that I finally chose a career with a steady paycheck.

To my friends: From the friends I made during 1L year to the ones I have made this year, thank you. I truly could not have made it this far without everyone's support and our shared suffering. From late-night study sessions for Torts, photoshoots outside Prairie Rose, parties I somehow convinced other people to host, random hikes, and all the everyday camaraderie in between, those moments created friendships that will last a lifetime. And somehow, in the middle of all of that, we earned law degrees too, which is pretty cool.



Kayla M. Jones

To my mom, dad, brother, and sister, thank you for aiding in my pursuit of a dream I've had for as long as I can remember. From the late night calls to help me figure assignments out to helping me relax on the few breaks I had, this family has gotten me through this hard journey. Through all the highs and lows of life and law school, you all helped me realize that law school was not only something I wanted to do but was something I could do.

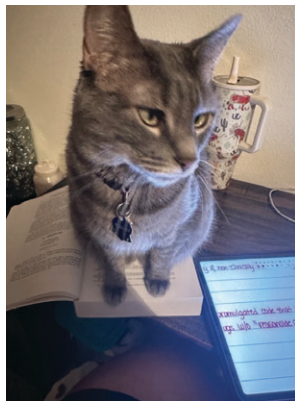
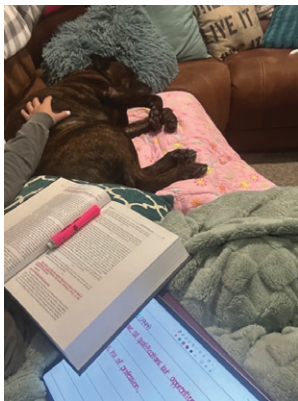


Achieving my dream could not be done without you, and I love you all for it. Kyle and Eden Joy... you know what I want to say.

To my supporters at the Weld County District Attorney's Office, words cannot express how thankful I am for you. All of you showed me that even when I feel lost, practicing criminal law is where I want to be. From watching trials to working on them myself, I have learned more than I ever could have imagined from all of you. Learning from this office has and will continue to shape who I am as a person and a future practicing attorney. Patrick Roche, you are the best boss I have ever had, and I am so honored to learn from you. You are truly an inspiration. All my fellow Wyoming College of Law grads working in Weld County, thank you for taking me under your wing and pushing me every day to be the best I can be. Allie Parker, you went in blind with me and came out as someone I am proud to call my friend and fellow future attorney. We may be the "loud" ones in the office, but you always made work fun. Makena Cormack, thanks for always keeping the bullpen entertaining.



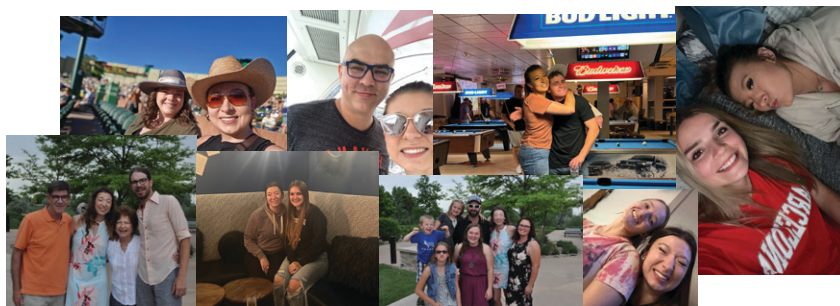
To my law school friends who are now lifelong friends, thank you for the support in ways that people outside of this world can't understand. This is such a unique experience, and I would not be standing here today without you. From the breakdowns about finals to the excitement of moving to the next chapter of our lives and all of the fun times outside of class, you have stood beside me in ways I can never repay you for.



To my furry friends, Mommas and Major, the unconditional love of an animal cannot be replaced. This support has helped me through some of the hardest times in law school, and I don't know what I would have done without it. The studying done with my four-legged friends is some of the best studying I've done.

To all the other supporters in my life, while you may not realize how your small acts helped me, everything matters. Whether you've been in my life for decades or more recently joined my life, every little piece of support has helped me get here today, and I am forever grateful. From simple messages to forcing me to have fun outside of school, every act of kindness during this journey has been greatly appreciated.

It hasn't been easy, but all of the support has gotten me through this chapter of my life. While moving to the next I will continue to be grateful for every ounce of support I receive from these and so many other people. Go Pokes!



Allison E. Karasiewicz

First and foremost, I thank God for all his blessings and the plans He holds for the future.

To Dad and Mom: Thank you for all your sacrifices that allowed to me to chase my dreams and especially for taking care of my favorite companions, Louie and Honey. Each word of encouragement has not gone unnoticed. Each visit filled my heart with joy and strength to carry on. I could not have achieved this without your support and guidance.



To Liv: Thank you for encouraging me to pursue my goals and reminding me how far I've come.

To Jonny: Thank you for lifting me up through patience and compassion, for believing in me when I did not, and for celebrating all my small wins along the way. Thank you for watching over the flock and the rest of the animals while juggling the rest of life's responsibilities. Thank you for supporting me without hesitation and for making sacrifices few others would make.



To Uncle Tom and Aunt Nan: Thank you for each joy filled phone call, laugh, and encouraging note.

To Lon, Laurie, and Hunter: Thank you for each prayer, thoughtful word, and for cheering me on throughout my journey.

To my friends: Thank you for each memory, story, and spontaneous adventure, but most of all for letting me be me.

To Dean Romero, Professor Delaney, and Dr. Jabbour: Thank you for your knowledge, wisdom, and all your time dedicated to my thesis allowing me to bridge a gap between chemistry, honeybees, and the law. It is the little things that can make a big difference. I've truly appreciated each conversation along the way.



Ryan W. Killpack

To my wife Tiffany, thank you for all that you have done for me. All the little notes, the nights spent helping me memorize, listening to my explanations to make sure that I understood things right, and being my biggest cheerleader as I was going through this. Thank you for your example as you went through law school and all the things that you taught me before I even started. You inspire me to be better every day.

To my mom and dad, Allison and Byron Killpack, thank you for preparing me to do hard things. I could not have asked for better parents and better support. Thank you for always supporting my many dreams and encouraging me to excel in all that I do. To my siblings, thank you for all your support, love, and prayers during the last few years. Abby, thank you for letting me spend time with your girls and for being an example of a successful mom and nurse. Conner and Spencer, school ends one day I promise. You will both do great things.

To Nan and Dan, thank you for all the support and love that you have shown me over the past few years.

Without any of you, I could not have done this. I love you all very much.

McKyla Knight

“I want to thank me for believing in me, I want to thank me for doing all this hard work. I want to thank me for having no days off. I want to thank me for never quitting. I want to thank me for always being a giver and trying to give more than I receive. I want to thank me for trying to do more right than wrong. I want to thank me for being me at all times”

— Snoop Dogg



Clayton W. Long

To Samuel Clayton and Anna Marie – This accomplishment belongs to our family as a whole. I know it has not been easy to put up with my vacillations on whether or not I wanted to complete this boondoggle of an idea to get a law degree, but we have grown through this shared adventure, and I value you both very much – even more – knowing and seeing your truly strong we are. Thank you both for the sacrifices you made, the encouragement you gave, and the love. This degree represents our shared journey, our shared resilience, and our shared future. Anna Marie, your faith

carried me through late nights, many moments of doubt, the long season of sacrifice. You have been my steady ground. Your strength and love made this journey possible. If nothing else, I can depend on you to always work hard, and with diligence unsurpassed, for the benefit of Sam and me. I remain thankful daily to have walked into the barber shop to find you. I love you. GWBIWTIL. Samuel, you have been my daily motivation and joy. Even on the busiest days, you reminded me what truly matters. I hope that as you watched me study, write, and persevere, you saw that big goals are worth chasing—and that with dedication and heart, they can be achieved. Carry yourself with your head very high, because, although we share stubborn genes, weak confidence, and struggle to appreciate our achievements, I know you are stronger, smarter, and more capable than anyone. I love you, son.



To my brother Patrick – You have been a part of my life since I was only 5, and you're all I have left of that core little unit that made me who I am. I can't help but think momma, grandpa, and grandma live through us, and I smile when I see them shine through you or I's actions. Thank you for letting me see you fight through your own tribulations. Thank you for being there when I needed a helping hand, a truck, and a babysitter. I remain thankful you're part of my life.

To those who helped me study the law – I can't really explain how important it was to feel part of your group and something bigger than me. Per my usual tendency, I stepped away from groups, my savage independence shining, but know I won't ever forget how intelligent, strong, and powerful you all are.

Madison McKenzie Looper

As the law school chapter of my life is coming to a close, I am extremely proud of what I have accomplished. But I did not get here on my own, and those around me have provided the support and the love that have gotten me where I am.

To my Dad and Niki, thank you for always being there for me. Whether it was making me a home-cooked meal, doing a load of my laundry, or simply talking to me on the phone, you guys have been my rock. I couldn't survive without you both.

To Colter, thank you for driving thousands of miles over the past three years to be here with me and for me. You never complain when I rant on and on about exams or studying. There is no one else I would want to be by my side throughout my life.

To my friends, thank you for your never-ending friendship. Hadlee, despite being hours away, you have never failed to support me and cheer me on and answer my calls whenever I need. I can't wait to be back in the same town! And who knew law school would bring me one of my best friends? Nayely, whether it was game nights, overeating buffalo chicken dip, shopping nights, or procrastinating studying, you have truly been the greatest friend a girl could need.

And with that: Be Good, Do Good, God Bless, and Go Bills (and of course Pokes)!

Carson R. Lougee

To my beloved wife, Julia: All I am, all I have, and all I have accomplished that is good, is because of you. You have led and pioneered our small family to a place of security and happiness. Before meeting you, law school was never something I seriously considered, but your belief in our vision for our family has led me to accomplish things I never thought were possible. Because of you, I have two amazing children and a purpose. I am so excited for our family's next chapter, but I will miss our early marriage college days in Laramie. I love you.

To my parents, Mike and Heidi Lougee: Thank you for your belief and support in me and my small family. It is not easy to go to law school with two small children. Throughout the past three years I have been comforted by the knowledge that no matter how hard things got you would be there to help us achieve our dreams. I wish all my classmates had that comfort. Thank you for being the best parents and grandparents to my children that I could ask for.

To Sierra & Abbey: Your friendship has sustained me through law school and is the reason I genuinely was excited every day to go to law school.



To my Children, Jack & Jane: You gave me a reason to try harder every day. Coming home to you every day kept me grounded and focused on what is truly important. You two are my best friends and just writing this makes me want to come home and hang out with you. We did all this together, you, me, and mom. I love you.

To Professor Dona Playton: It would be impossible to navigate a legal career without a good mentor. I feel so blessed that I can call you my mentor and my friend. Your support and guidance have meant the world to me.

To my Class of '26 Law Dawgs: I can't wait to see all you accomplish. My heart is full, because of all of you.

Isibea Aurora Manayan Moody

To my parents, Eric and Roslyn,

Thank you so much for being you. Thank you for being the inspiration, motivation, and encouragement that carried me through to this day. I'm endlessly grateful for everything you gave to help me get here. Connor and I are only able to accomplish great things because we have your traits of integrity, perseverance, sincerity, boldness, and wit instilled in us. I'll let you know as soon as that tiny house on the back forty is ready.

To my brother, Connor,

Thank you for all the laughs, support, and encouragement. Special shoutout to all the pictures you sent of the view from the bucket truck at ungodly hours, when it was well below freezing with snow blowing sideways at highway speeds. Seeing you work so hard without a single complaint helped me through these three years more than you know.

To my Grandma Aurora, PharmD, and my late Grandpa Bienvenido, MD,

Thank you for everything you sacrificed in the Philippines so that we could chase extraordinary dreams in your honor. I felt your courage, resilience, and strength here with me every day.

To Aly, my sister from another mister, and Paoli and Gianna, my favorite Italian gangsters,

Thank you for being such beautiful and radiant lights in my life. I'm looking forward to the chaos yet to ensue.

Lots of love,

Isibea Aurora Manayan Moody, JD



Tanner L. Martin

Havana, Toasty, and Hazy: Words cannot express the love and support you have given me throughout my law school journey. Havana, you have seen me stress about the LSAT, and now you are seeing me walk the stage! No matter where you were, near or far, you never stopped believing in me, never stopped encouraging me, and never stopped being my biggest pillar of strength day in and day out. My biggest privilege is sharing this accomplishment with you and continuing our journey together. I love you, Ladybug. To Toasty and Hazy, thank you for your (sometimes) quiet company, walks, laughs, judgmental side eyes, sharing your Frenchie secrets with me, and for reminding me to step away from the books when I needed it most.

Mom, Dad, and Bayleigh: Mom and Dad, I am at a loss for words. For years, we have talked about it, and here we are. There is no doubt that if it weren't for your love and support, I wouldn't be here today. From little league games to high school tournaments, graduations, and everything in between, your love for me and support of my happiness is more than any kid could hope for from their parents. I love you both!

Bayleigh, thank you for all the sibling arguments over the years. Winning all of them convinced me I should be a lawyer.

Family: To my family everywhere, those here and gone, thank you for everything. I carry each of you with me every day.

Friends: To all of my friends, from my day ones to the friends I share the stage with, I cannot thank you enough for your impact on my life. I was once told, "Show me your friends, and I'll show you your future." All I have to say is this: if that's true, then my future looks pretty bright.



Kylie Elizabeth Mathews-Worthen

I could not have gotten here without the incredible support system that stood beside me every step of the way.

First, I want to thank Connor. Your constant belief in me, steady encouragement, late-night pep talks, reading all of my papers while not understanding half of them, and patiently letting me explain legal concepts until they finally made sense to me made this journey possible. Your support, humor, and patience helped keep me sane over the last three years. We did it!!

Second, I am deeply grateful for the people I'm lucky enough to call family. Your guidance, support, and the values you instilled in me have shaped the person I am today. Thank you for the support and gentle reminders to keep everything in perspective. I am incredibly fortunate to have my family cheering me on.

Third, to the law girlies: thank you for all the laughs, the encouragement, the study sessions, and the constant reminders to keep going when things felt overwhelming. You helped get me through the long days and made the hard work so much more manageable.

After 19 years of school, it all came down to this moment. Thank you to everyone who supported, encouraged, and believed in me along the way. Because of you, I made it through law school, and somehow we all made it out to the other side.

Aidan Scott McCurry

To my family: thank you all for what you have done for me. Without your support, I'm not sure I would be where I am today. Having all of you in my corner has been such a blessing that I am truly grateful for every day. Thank you for always believing in me and knowing I could do whatever I wanted. I love you Mom, Dad, Patrick, Colleen, Katie, Avery, Bridget, Maison, Everly, Cora, Logan, Josh.

To Kaitlyn: you have truly been my rock since day one. Every time I feel doubt, anger, and annoyance in myself, you are always there to guide me back to where I need to be. You have shown me unconditional love in ways I was unsure were possible. Thank you for always being my biggest fan and I'm so grateful you are always there to make sure I have fun and laugh even in the hardest times. I love you more than you know.

To the Motschalls: you guys have truly been a family away from mine. Each and every one of you have impacted my life in ways I struggle to explain. From remodeling kitchens, to game nights, and late night Dairy Queen runs, I have cherished every second I have spent with all of you and would not trade any of our time for anything. Thank you for everything.



Kaileigh Mae McNellis

To my Mom and Dad: Thank you for every ounce of support, love, advice, and guidance you have given me throughout my entire life. You never prevented me from pursuing my dreams and encouraged me to be myself every step of the way. The morals and values you have instilled within me have shaped me into the woman I am today. I know it was a massive change for all of us when I decided to move halfway across the country and pursue law school in a state that no one knew anything about. While we tried to manage it with grace, there were times that being so far from home made it hard on all of us – missed birthdays, holidays, family moments, etc. However, I can confidently say that this moment – graduating law school – has made all the hard times worth it. Still, you supported me, made me feel like you were only a phone call away, and took every decision made in stride. I love you. I could not have done this without you both. Thank you.



To my sisters: Thank you for the endless laughs you have given me, especially on days when I felt like breaking down. The stories, text messages, and Facetime calls helped me through the hardest moments of law school and always put a smile on my face when I'm knee deep in reading, class, and other law school stress. Thank you for being my built-in best friends and never judging me for moving away from home to pursue my dream. Our friendship and sisterhood are the most important things I have and I never want to lose. Being the oldest is hard as well as the pressure that comes with it, but I hope that I can lead by example for you both and show you that your dreams are achievable. You are accomplished. You are enough. I'm excited to support you both in your own life achievements just as you have supported me through all of mine. I love you guys.



To Shane: Thank you for coming on this crazy journey with me. Even if it was you that had to convince me to move halfway across the country for a new start and new opportunity for both of our careers, I have no regrets and would do it again in a heartbeat. Laramie has become like home to us. We've established roots, made friends, and so much more than we both imagined. I know it was not always easy and there were times where we struggled with the distance from home and being on our own, but we've managed to work it out together just like we always do. You've been my biggest supporter throughout law school. I hope I've done a fraction of that for you as you pursued your Master's, and now PhD, degree here. I'm so excited for what comes next. I love you.



To my friends and family: Thank you for being my escape away from law school! For reminding me to go out and live life in the moment. To those of you that I met through law school or when moving here, thank you for making Laramie feel like home. I would not have been able to get through moving across the country and finding a second home without the amazing people who welcomed me in with open arms. You and Laramie will always have a piece of my heart. To the friends and family that knew me before I trekked across the country: thank you for the endless words of encouragement and support you gave me, and your willingness to stay in touch through long distance. I value our friendships and relationships and hope they have only grown stronger.



Isaac Peter Meline

Elissa, thank you for working so hard to make this dream a reality. I am a profoundly lucky to have you in my life. Thank you for the sacrifices you made for me to be successful, I could not come close to finishing something this monumental without your companionship. In the words of the Hawaiians, you bring pono to our marriage and my life. You are my best friend, closest confidante, and most trusted advisor. I am forever indebted to you for your love and support. From the adventures behind us, to the great unknown ahead, I want to face this life with no one else. I love you. This degree, in all but the ink on the page, has both our names on it.

Wrangell, from the day you were born you have been teaching me to have a greater appreciation for the joy of living. Your smiles and laughter made those burdensome days in law school bearable. Thank you for already being an example to me from day one on how to live this life.

Mom, your love and support are irreplaceable. Part of my graduation from law school is dedicated to you. Who would have thought a young boy who needed extra tutoring to learn to read and write would one day graduate with a law degree? Thank you for not giving up on me then, and your support on every step along the way to today. I love you mom. Dad, like the song *Watching You* by Rodney Atkins, I have been keenly observant of the way you have chosen to live your life. I want to be like you. Your influence, character, and teachings gave me the tools to succeed throughout law school and will continue to help me until the day I depart this life. Thank you for always being an example of true masculinity, I hope to one day be a husband, father, and leader like you. I would follow you into battle.

Boyd and Mary Ann, thank you for supporting Elissa and me before and throughout this law school journey. Your help made this day possible. You have enabled us financially, intellectually, and spiritually to prepare for the storms of life and your generosity and kindness have held our world together. Thank you for raising one of the greatest women this world has known and welcoming me into your family.

Rachelle Spencer, thank you for being a second mother to me and always making your home a refuge for Elissa, Wrangell, and me from the winds of life. I am so grateful for your love and example. Uncle John Spencer, finding words to describe the influence you have had on me is difficult. Simply put, I would not be here without you. You planted the seed and showed me the vision for attending law school. You have influenced me to be a better man and have taught me the power of precision. These are things that will bless my life forever. Thank you for your wisdom and friendship. I am honored to now stand next to you in the Law and to pass the lessons you taught me on to others.

Oma, thank you for constantly checking up on me and encouraging me through this law school journey. Your calls, words of encouragement, and prayers were felt and needed these past three years. I love you!

Jared, Jacob, Rachel, Joseph, Mary, and Sam, we did it! Thank you for your love and patience while I continue to learn to be a better brother and friend. I am excited for the road ahead for each of us and am eager to support you as you have supported me; you all have, whether you realize it or not.

Carson Lougee, J.D. Corson, Zach Thomas, Caleb Smith, Carter Robinson, Jesse Neslon, Kurtis Silvernale, the Law Dawgs, the class of 2026, and the College of Law staff and professors, thank you for your invaluable friendships. I will forever cherish the time we had together studying the law and the teammates we became. Your smiles and support made going to school each day something I looked forward to. I dedicate part of my graduation to the many more happy memories to come.

McKena Metzger-Coyle

To my daughters, Penelope and Scarlett.

You two were the blessings I never knew I'd receive during this time, but I'd come to realize you were the blessings I needed. While unexpected, I will forever cherish that I was able to bring you along this phase of my life.

Penelope, you entered my life at a time when I was still figuring out how to chase my dreams. Your kind heart and gentle nature kept me grounded when the stress of school and life would mount. You taught me how to stay calm during chaos, a skill you naturally possess. You quickly won over all of my classmates and professors with your presence and became a class mascot. Your law aunts and uncles cherished your class visits.

Scarlett, you came when I needed to learn to use my voice and stand strong in my convictions. You gave me a sense of purpose in standing by my beliefs, the ability to speak with strength, and newfound devotion to my faith. Your fire is inextinguishable, and I pray it always stays that way. I cherish your tenacity, even if it outpaces mine at times. Although you didn't get to visit class with mom like your sister, you still are so loved by your law aunts and uncles in Wyoming.

You girls were always the reason I kept showing up, kept pursuing my dream, and found a new piece of myself that fills my heart with so much joy, motherhood. Being your mom has given me more courage, strength, and resilience than I ever thought possible. I pray that you will always follow your dreams and trust in God in all that you do. I love you both more than my heart can hold.

On my very first day of law school, I wrote on a poster board that my purpose was to show my daughter(s) that motherhood is a superpower, never a hindrance. I pray that I will always carry that purpose to set that example for you both each and every day.

To my husband, Drew.

Thank you for being by my side through the ups and the downs these past three years. It wasn't always easy, but we made it and came out the other side stronger for it. I will never be able to put into words how much I love you for being by my side as I followed my dreams. You not only supported me through law school but gave me two beautiful daughters that fill our lives with joy. Laramie will always hold a special place in our hearts for the friends we made, the memories we share, and the birth of our children.

As this next chapter comes to an end, I know that we are ready to tackle whatever life throws at us through our faith in God, our unwavering commitment to each other, and learning to laugh at the chaos. Here's to us and the next 50 years, love. I couldn't imagine going through this phase of life with anyone else by my side. I can't wait to see what we accomplish next.

To Mom and Dad.

I don't know that I will ever be able to accurately put into words the thanks that you two deserve. You have stood by my side through thick and thin throughout my entire life. Picked me up when I fell, cheered me on even from afar, and taught me the true meaning of what it takes to be resilient in life.

It is because you love me so steadfastly that I was able to make it to this point, not only in my academic career, but also as I grow and learn how to be a mother. From babysitting so I could study, giving me the truth even when it stung, or simply being a shoulder to cry on, you two were there through it all. Thank you for being my example in so many facets of my life. Love, your Itty Bitty.



Heidi Mirabal

To my wonderful husband, Jaxson,

Through the years, I have shared some seemingly crazy ideas and dreams with you; yet you never laugh or scoff at them. You never roll your eyes, at least when I am not looking. While a few of those dreams may have caused the slightest arch of your eyebrow, you are always ready to support me in whatever endeavor I pursue. There is much in life I know to be certain. I know that you are my best friend, an incredibly loving husband, and the best dad in the world. But today, I am immensely grateful for all that I did not know. Because what I could not have realized is the impact that you would make simply by offering me the gift of encouragement in all that I do – in being a student, a wife, and a mother. For it is your constant encouragement that has helped me find my purpose. Your unwavering belief in me has helped me find my way. You believe in me when I do not believe in myself. When I tend to step back, you hold my hand and step forward with me. When I want to quit, you show me the way forward. When I feel less-than or inadequate, you remind me of what my full potential is as a daughter of God. You are my rock. Every day with you is a gift, and I am endlessly thankful to do life by your side. Thank you, Jax, for being my greatest encourager. I love you, endlessly, eternally.



To my daughter, Jorgia Pearl,

You turn 7 months old tomorrow! It feels like just yesterday that you were born, and I was emailing my professors that I would not make it to class that day. Even though you can't read, I am writing this to you because I never want to forget this uniquely special time in our lives. You are the most jubilant little blessing in my life, and you are quite literally my entire world. Life just got better the day you were born. I will love and cherish every moment I spend with you. Especially those moments in my last year of law school, taking you to class with me, watching you sleep in the library, listening to your little snores and coos while I study, and just simply having you by my side to constantly remind me what really matters. Finishing law school will always be special to me, not just because I graduated, but because you were part of the journey. One day, I hope you know how much you inspired me during this time, and how proud I am to be your mom. I love you with my entire heart, Peaches.

To my parents,

The day that you guys helped me move to Laramie to start law school was such a wonderful day – so wonderful that I never wanted it to end, and I did not want you guys to leave. I have lived away from home for some time, but leaving you guys has never gotten easier. Wherever I am, you both will always be my home. Wherever I am, I always know that I can count on you. You have taught me, mostly by example, never to give up, to be diligent, to work hard and laugh even harder, to be kind and to serve those around me, and to find joy in the things that truly matter in this life. You taught me that I could be anything I put my mind to. You guys are the best parents, and even better grandparents. I hope one day to be as good a parent to my own children. Thank you for being the steady foundation that I can always lean on. I am so lucky to have parents who support me the way you do. I am so grateful for the love, patience, and sacrifices that you have made to help me get here. I hope you know that this accomplishment is just as much yours as it is mine. Thank you for being my Mom. Thank you for being my Dad. I love you both, endlessly.



To my grandparents,

Well, after three years of learning that lawyers really do love using ten words when one would suffice, I am officially graduating from law school. As I am preparing to graduate, I have been thinking a lot about the people who have helped me get here, and the two



of you are at the very top of that list. Someone needs to come up with a better phrase than “thank you,” because it simply doesn’t do justice to express how incredibly thankful I am for all that you guys have done for me. I would not be where I am today without all the love and support that you have given me. Thank you for always believing in me, encouraging me, and standing by me when I questioned my sanity for going to law school in the first place. And now that I am officially a law school graduate, I guess that means you will get to have a lawyer in the family. Don’t worry, Grandpa, I promise to keep my hourly rate very reasonable for my favorite clients. I love you both so much and feel incredibly lucky to have you as my grandparents.

Abbey Pederson

To my Mom – Mom, I cannot begin to thank you enough. You were the first person to teach me what hard work truly is. The lessons started on the volleyball court and have carried far beyond it and into every stage of my life. Watching you in your own field showed me that good things in life are earned, not given. You have been my example of hard work and commitment for as long as I can remember, and I know that will never change. I love you.

To my Dad – Dad, you have been my rock for as long as I can remember. No matter what life throws my way, you are always there. Whether it was a car issue or needing someone to talk through a volleyball game, without the coach :) you have always been there. No questions asked. The love you hold for every member of our family is so strong with how you support each one of us. Thank you for the constant support throughout law school. I love you.

To my Sister – Layna, you have been my best friend for as long as I can remember. You have supported me, loved me, and have never judged me. Knowing you were always in my corner, and that you were only a phone call away, helped me through more moments in law school than you probably realize. Thank you so much for your constant support these last three years. I love you.

To my Brother – Jake, I don’t even know where to begin. Somehow, you have managed to put up with me your entire life. You’ve listened to me vent, given me advice when I needed it, and reminded me not to take life too seriously. You always have a way of bringing things back into perspective and reminding me to just live life the way I want to. You are one of my best friends and I couldn’t have gotten through three years of school without you and your spontaneous trips to Laramie, I love you.



Jessica P. Ralston

To my husband, Kyle: Thank you for the 2am paper editing, the backup alarms, the animal selfies, the study snacks, taking work off just to drive me to school, and so much more. Law school was a joint effort, and I couldn’t have done it without you. I love you, I love you, I love you.

To my family: Thank you for the encouragement and support, through law school and life. Especially to my mom and dad, who have always been willing to make the trip to Colorado to lend support whenever needed over the last 10 years.



To Daisy: My law school experience would not have been the same had the stars not aligned to set us up to carpool together. I’ve loved having you as a law school friend and look forward to having you as a lawyer friend!

Haley Marie Rockwell

Mom, Dad & Jess

There truly aren't enough words to capture how grateful I am for the three of you. From the very beginning of this journey, you have been my foundation — the people who answered every call, listened to every stress-fueled rant, celebrated every small win, and reminded me who I am when law school tried to convince me otherwise. You believed in me on the days I didn't believe in myself. Your encouragement carried me through the long nights, the hard exams, and every moment of doubt in between. I would not have made it through these past three years without your constant love, patience, and reassurance. I love you all more than I could ever fully express. This accomplishment is as much yours as it is mine.

Nonie & Papa

From sitting at your kitchen table refreshing the page and waiting for my first semester grades to post, to giving you the full thirty-minute grand tour of Laramie, Wyoming, you have been by my side every step of this journey. Your steady support, pride, and reassurance grounded me throughout this wild and challenging experience. I love you both so much and I am endlessly thankful for the way you have cheered me on through every milestone.

Colton

If someone had told me on the first day of law school that I would walk away not only with a degree but with my life partner, I would not have believed them. Yet somehow, this experience brought me you, the greatest gift of all. Through the stress, uncertainty, and the victories, you have been my constant. You made the hardest days manageable and the best days even sweeter. You've seen every version of me these past three years — exhausted, overwhelmed, stressed, determined — and you stood by me through all of it. Every part of this journey has been better because I got to share it with you, and I am endlessly grateful that law school brought us together. I love you deeply, and I am so thankful I get to build this life with you.

Carson & Kayla

Law school is known for being competitive and intimidating, but somehow it gave me the two best friends I could have asked for. I truly cannot imagine being thrown to the wolves that summer in the clinic with anyone else. We learned everything the hard way together, from the late nights to the “are we doing this right?” moments. You both made it safe to ask questions, to mess up, to laugh at ourselves, and to grow. So much of my confidence (and honestly so many of my practical lawyer skills) came from those long days figuring things out side by side. You both turned one of the scariest parts of law school into one of the most meaningful. I am endlessly grateful that this experience brought us together, and I know the friendships we built will last far beyond these three years.



Paolina Rose

Launching into the caliginous waters of this educational gauntlet, law school invoked an ouroboros cyclically presenting an endless, insurmountable undertaking. Now, as we land upon graduation, that long awaited shore, I look back upon these past three years with fondness – the tribulations washed away by the same waves that harbingered them. To the professors who guided me on my way, thank you for your mentorship. To my friends who stand here with me today on the brink of the title esquire, thank you for your companionship.

To my brother John, I wish you peace as you contemplate this same journey. I am indescribably proud of you and even further excited to see what you decide to do next.

To my brother Nicky, in these three years you transitioned from a kid in high school to an adult. Though a bitter reminder of time's ceaselessness, so too does it bring me joy to have had the privilege of continuing to be in your life.

To my sister Gianna, my closest friend and comrade, perhaps the fact that this marks the end of our college years together is the most mournful aspect of this final mooring. I will forever treasure this period in our lives and eagerly anticipate our future years of grem-linry.

Finally, to my parents, John and Nina, I am profusely and eternally grateful for the sacrifices you made such that I could have this opportunity. At every juncture in both my education and life, you provided me with unconditional support, regardless of internalities wrought. You gave me more than I could ever ask for or repay. From every facet of my being, thank you.

The past is agathokakological and the future uncertain, but do know that I love you all. God Bless.



Francesca I. Scheitler

To my parents, thank you for all your sacrifices that have gotten me where I am today. Without all that you do I would not have all the opportunities I have today. Thank you for all your continuous support and words of encouragement. You are the best role models any child could ask for. I have always admired your strength, kindness, courage, and love. You have taught me that when facing adversity to proceed with strength and poise. You taught me that I can do anything I put my mind to and that there was no battle I could not overcome. I hope to live up to the example that you set and become people like you. I love you both very much.

To Joe, thank you for always being by my side. I know that through both life's challenges and its greatest blessings, I will never be alone. You inspire me to be a better person and to approach life with a smile. You bring joy to everyone you interact with. Thank you for your support and guidance especially through law school. Ily

To my girls, my friends who have been there for me through life. You have seen and supported me through every chapter. You gave me the perseverance to make it through law school. I am grateful to be supported and surrounded with such amazing friendships. I am proud to have such strong and beautiful women in my life. Eternally grateful for our sisterhood.

To the Law Dawgs, thank you for all the incredible support, laughter, and friendship you have brought to my life. I would not have had the same law school experience I did without all your friendships. I will forever miss the yapping pit and all the memories and time spent together in the library, at football games, or wherever life took us. I can't wait to see all the amazing things you do in the future and will cherish all our memories forever.



Caylie L. Coffelt-Schulz

This accomplishment represents far more than the completion of law school—it represents the unwavering support, sacrifice, and love of the people who carried me through this journey.

To my family, thank you for believing in me even on the days when the finish line felt impossibly far away. Law school demanded long hours, countless sacrifices, and moments where the weight of it all felt overwhelming. Yet through it all, you stood beside me.

To my husband, Mike—your support made this dream possible. Time and time again you stepped in without hesitation, carrying the responsibilities I could not so that I could continue forward. Your patience, encouragement, and belief in me never wavered, even when I questioned myself. This degree may bear my name, but it was built on your strength as much as my own.

To my children, who have been my greatest inspiration—thank you for your patience on the days when studying, classes, and deadlines took time away from you. Every late night and every difficult moment was fueled by the hope that one day you will see this journey and understand that perseverance, hard work, and determination can make even the most daunting dreams possible. More than anything, I hope you are proud to call me Mom.

To my parents and my in-laws, thank you for stepping in whenever I needed help with the kids so that I could attend class, prepare for exams, or keep moving forward when the demands of law school felt relentless. Your generosity and willingness to support our family made this achievement possible.

While my name may appear on this degree, this accomplishment belongs to all of you. It truly took a village, and I will carry your love and support with me in every step of the journey that lies ahead.

With Love, Caylie



Jessica L. Shelby

To my parents, thank you for inspiring my path into the legal profession. Growing up around the law showed me early what this career could be, but watching my mom in practice showed me what it should be. Seeing her run her own law firm while practicing full time as a mother and a wife has been one of the greatest examples in my life. Her strength, grace, and dedication to her clients and family are something I will always strive to emulate.

To Matt, thank you for standing beside me through every challenge that came with this journey. Your support, patience, and encouragement made it possible for me to keep moving forward when things felt overwhelming.

To my daughter Adeline, you are the reason behind everything I do. You arrived during one of the most meaningful seasons of my life and reminded me every day what truly matters. I hope one day you see this moment and know that anything is possible with hard work and determination.

To my brother Jack, thank you for showing me that moving across the country without knowing anyone was possible. Your example gave me the courage to take that same leap and trust that things would work out.

And to Olivia, my first friend in law school and now my future sister-in-law, there is no way I would have made it through these years without you. Your friendship, encouragement, and the countless moments we shared along the way meant more than you know. I am grateful law school brought you into my life.

Kurtis Silvernale

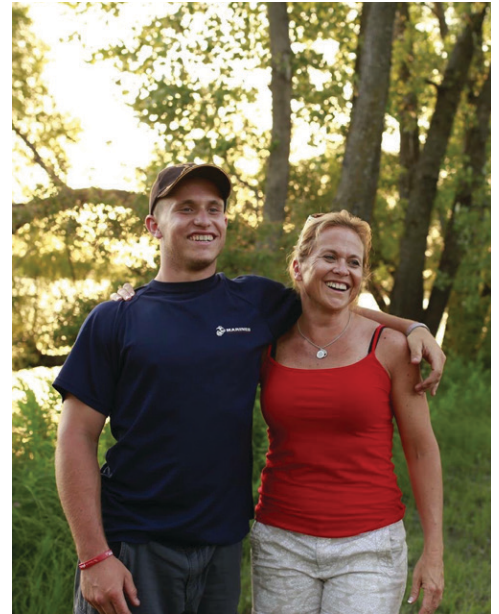
To my mother, Karla. You have always been a constant pillar of strength, motivation, and unwavering support in my life. When I was young you pushed me time and again far outside my abilities until I thought I could do anything. Those lessons have shaped who I am and given me high reaching goals that I know are achievable. As I move forward, I will carry your guidance with me and strive to use what I have learned to advocate for the betterment of society. I am endlessly grateful for everything you have given me.

To my study crew Jesse, Megan, and Maggie. Law school would not have been the same without you. In the moments when we were all feeling stressed, you were always there to lighten the mood with laughter, conversation, or Starbucks. When it was time to focus, we pushed each other to work harder and do better (even though our study sessions often drifted far away from the casebook). We supported one another through every challenge and somehow made it through without failing a single exam. What began as a study group became genuine friendship, and the time we spent together will remain one of my most cherished memories from law school. You are all my people.

To Grant Smith. You were the first person that challenged me to consider what direction I wanted my career to go in and that I needed to lay that foundation now. Your mentorship and experience became an influential aspect of where I envisioned my career heading.

Most importantly to Kenzie. It is difficult to put into words how much your love and support have meant to me throughout this journey. In ways both big and small, from Costco runs and weekend outings to simply cooking dinner after long days, you helped create the balance and encouragement I needed to keep moving forward. Your belief in me, your patience, and your constant presence made this experience not only possible but meaningful. I truly would not have achieved the same success without you beside me. Thank you for everything you have done and continue to do for me. I love you.

Finally, to my Grandpa. I wish you were here to see this, but I know you are looking down proud.



Ryan Michael Slattery

For God.



Kali Soudani

To My Father: You were my inspiration and my biggest supporter throughout my journey. Although you are not here to see me finish this chapter, your belief in me never left. I carry the lessons you gave me and the confidence you instilled in me every day. This accomplishment is as much yours as it is mine. This is for us.



To My Mother, Angel: Thank you for your unwavering love, strength, and encouragement throughout my life. Your belief in me has carried me through every challenge along this journey. You have always supported my ambitions, even when the path was uncertain, and I am endlessly grateful for the foundation of love, resilience, and determination that you gave me (you finally made it to a dedication, and first no less!).

To Cowboy Joe: Thank you for being part of one of the greatest parts of my college experience. Football season brought some of the best memories, the loudest cheers, and the moments that reminded me to step away from the books and enjoy where I was. I think we single-handedly kept the baby carrot economy alive!

To My Dog, Kida: Thank you for the unconditional love, the much-needed study breaks, and the laughter your goofy personality brought into my life. Through every long day and late night, your loyalty and joy reminded me that sometimes the best thing to do is step outside, take a walk, and keep going.

To My Loved Ones: Thank you for your patience, encouragement, and kindness throughout these past years. Your support meant more than you know, and I am incredibly grateful to have you beside me.



John R. Sparks

To my Parents,

I honestly don't even know where to start. "Thank you" just doesn't seem big enough for everything you've done, every sacrifice you've made, and every ounce of encouragement you both have given along the way. When I was younger, there were plenty of moments when I doubted myself, times when law school felt like something other people did. But you both believed in me long before I had the courage to believe in myself, and that quiet, steady faith became the foundation that got me here. These past three years have absolutely flown by, a blur of late nights, endless reading, stress, laughter, and entirely too much caffeine. Through it all, you have both been a constant. Whether it was a late-night phone call, a pep talk when I was convinced I had done the worst humanly possible on an exam, or a simple reminder to breathe (and maybe eat something besides coffee), you both were always there. I cannot even count how many times your support carried me through when my own energy ran out. And of course, thank you for surviving my post-1L transformation into a full-fledged "armchair attorney." You both deserve honorary law degrees for suffering through me babble incessantly. I am endlessly grateful for both of yall's love, patience, humor, and belief in me, even when I was too tired or too overwhelmed to see the finish line myself. You've taught me what unconditional support looks like, and that's something no degree could ever measure. I couldn't have made it through this journey without you, I love you both!



Sarah and Megan,

Weird, who would've thought that out of all the siblings, I'd end up with the most degrees? (Kidding... mostly). Megan, you've always been someone I look up to. Your drive, your kindness, and your constant push to chase what matters to you have inspired me in ways I probably haven't said enough. You showed me how to dream big, and more importantly, how to actually go after those dreams. I'll always be grateful for that example. Sarah, your determination and grit are on another level. Watching how hard you work and how much heart you put into everything has made me want to raise my own bar higher. You've both taught me so much more than I could've learned from any textbook (trust me, I have read too many at this point). Keep crushing it in law school! You only got two more years left haha. I also owe both of you an apology for enduring the countless "legal debates" I insisted on having after 1L year. Thank you for putting up with me and pretending to be interested. You two have been some of my biggest supporters, and occasional reality checks — and I'm unbelievably lucky to call you my sisters.

Love you both!

To my Friends,

Well guys, we finally made it!? Three years, countless outlines, gallons of coffee, and a few minor existential crises later, and here we are. I still remember meeting up with you all for one of the first times at 3rd St (a place I think we can all agree we became exceptionally well acquainted with). I remember feeling both excited and a little terrified about what the next three years would bring. Looking back now, I honestly couldn't have asked for a better group to survive it all with. It really is bittersweet being here now. On one hand, I'm beyond excited to see each of you go out and absolutely crush it in whatever comes next, whether that's a law firm, a courtroom, a government post, or maybe just a well deserved nap that lasts several weeks. On the other hand, it's hard to imagine not seeing you all every day. I am especially going to miss just going for a "a beer or two" that turned into full blown nights at 3rd. What's wild is how fast it all went; how people who started out as classmates turned into family. Every one of you made these years something special. You pushed me when I needed it, laughed with me when things went sideways, and reminded me that there's life (and humor) outside of the classroom. You each brought something unique and irreplaceable to this journey, and I'll always be grateful for that. I don't say it enough, but I truly cherish you guys. You've done more for me than I could ever put into words: kept me sane, kept me grounded, and probably saved me from an early burnout more times than you know.



Ellie,

Honestly, there should be some kind of award, or, at the very least, a national support group, for people who have their significant other in law school. You've truly earned honorary bar membership just for surviving three years of hearing about torts, civil & criminal procedure, and the endless saga of "what my professor really meant by that exam question." Thank you for being my rock through it all, for listening to my rants about cases that made no sense, for talking me down from caffeine-induced panic spirals, and for pretending to be interested when I would spend 40 minutes talking about some esoteric legal principle. I know it couldn't have been easy being on the receiving end of my endless stress, complaints, and occasional dramatic meltdowns. Your patience, kindness, and love have been the steady foundation that got me through these last three years. You have always celebrated the little wins, pulled me through the rough spots, and reminded me who I am when law school made me forget. Thank you so much for all that you have done and still do. I am excited to see what the future has in store for us! Thank you for believing in me when I did not believe in myself, for loving me through every exam season mood swing, and for being my person through it all, I love you!



Mason Teague

Dad and Keila: I don't even know where to start. I could write this whole thing saying thank you for everything you two have done for me. However, I don't think there is enough space in the world to explain how grateful I am to have you behind me. You have given me nothing but support and guidance through this wild journey to become an attorney, and I can assure you I will do everything in my power to return that favor one day.

Dad, I hope you know how proud I am to be your son. I am not sure if you remember, but there was a time when we were arguing in the truck about something (Go figure right? Probably something stupid), and you said something about "your dad being a hero." To which I responded, "well he isn't mine." I lied. You always have been and will be my hero, and the person I look up to and strive to model myself after. Thank you for being a great father and my best friend.

Keila, thank you for stepping up and being a great mother when you didn't have to be. Lord knows where Dad and I would be if he wouldn't have met you that day. This past year has been tough, but you have helped me through it in ways you'll never know. Mostly by helping Koda with wedding planning. Just kidding!

Koda: We did it! Like I told Dad and Keila, there isn't enough space here to give you the amount of thank you's you deserve. I'm sure you know, but this has been one of the hardest years of my life. I know for a fact I would not have been able to get through it without you. I cannot wait to see you walk down the aisle and eventually call you my wife. God could not have put a stronger, smarter, and more supportive angel in my life than he did. I love you.

Maggie and Colin: Shoutout to two amazing siblings that always make me laugh. Maggie, don't worry. I know that I will soon be an attorney and everything I do will always be harder than anything you do. Keep trying though. ;) Colin, thank you for always making sure we never have a dull moment. Dad and Keila are going to lose their minds when all of us are out of the house, so make sure to use the remainder of your time wisely. Both of you, although I am finally going into the real world and leading a busy life, know that I will never be too busy for either one of you. I'll always be your older brother before I am anything else. Love you both.



Kennedy Elizabeth Templeton

To Andrew, today truly would not be possible if it wasn't for you. You have helped give me everything I need to get through school and have provided for our beautiful family. Today is not just a special day for me, but it is a special day to honor you and the sacrifices you've made along the way. Your dedication every day to help this community and build your own business has encouraged me so much.

I am so grateful for the patience you have shown me and the encouragement you have given me to keep going even when it was hard. So, thank you for your kind words, shoulder massages, trips to Maui, and spontaneous coffees over the last three years. I suppose it is time to start working to buy that truck I promised you ;) Pistachio!!



To my family, thank you for being here today. The support all of you have shown me, the check-ins and the prayers have meant so much over the years. I am deeply grateful to celebrate this achievement with you all <3 Also, just because I'm a law school graduate now does not mean I no longer accept Christmas gifts. Thanks in advance!



Olivia R. Thomas

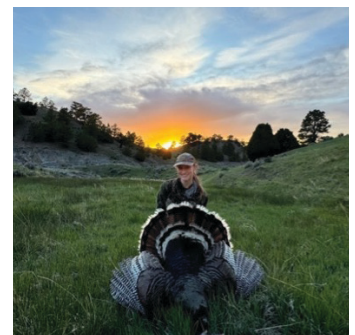
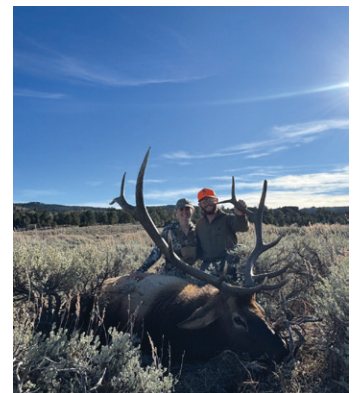
To My Parents: For constantly reminding me of your presence. Mom, it is not lost on me that you answered calls at the most inconvenient times and still gave me your full attention, always meeting me exactly where I was. Dad, your monthly post-it note messages always arrived in the mail at just the right moment, somehow saying exactly what I needed to hear. Throughout my life, those quiet, consistent acts of love have carried me much further than I can put into words. My achievements are yours.

To My Brother: For affirming my sanity. There were plenty of moments when I convinced myself I was out of my depth, but you never let me stay there. Through wise words and wit, you made me feel capable. Your guidance and perspective made this journey feel not only possible, but shared.

To My Grandparents: For showing genuine interest. It is no small thing to read a 20-page water law paper for fun — and an even greater gift to call afterward eager to talk through the details. Your curiosity gave me a rare, guilt-free outlet to talk about school with people who were truly invested. While I may not miss the coursework, I will always cherish my grandfather's familiar question each semester: "What classes are we taking?"

To My Soon-To-Be In-Laws: For welcoming me from the beginning. David and Lea, thank you for the home-cooked meals, for thoughtful career and law school advice, and for treating me like family long before it was certain. You made Wyoming feel familiar when it wasn't, and ensured I never questioned that I had people here. Jessica, you kept me on track more times than I can count, and I am better for it. Thank you for being my accountability partner and for shifting our focus just long enough to introduce me to your brother. (Even though that decision may have only further complicated my concentration).

To My Fiancé: For always knowing when I needed an adventure. Thank you for pulling me out of my head and into something bigger when the weight of school felt heavy. You never failed to remind me that there was more to life — and it often meant you and fresh air (...and usually a successful hunt!). You steadied me when I felt overwhelmed, believed in me when I questioned myself, and made every challenge feel lighter. Of everything the last three years have given me, you are by far the greatest.



Banaz Wadi

To my sister and the person paramount to my success in becoming a lawyer, Qamar: you are the person who saw me struggle through the beginning of law school and reminded me never to let anything get in the way of my goals. You celebrated every single accomplishment with me while keeping me sane during every challenge. You have been instrumental in my success, and so much of it is attributed to your influence in my life. You were there for me while also being a student yourself, I owe many of my achievements to you. I know that our bond will continue to grow as we both accomplish our goals. As my sister, best friend, and mentor, thank you.

To my dad, aunts, uncles, grandma, and Ari: thank you for constantly supporting me throughout school and life. Thank you for the many phone calls, emotional support, and words of advice. Your support and love continue to push me to be better each day. I am here because of you.

My aunt Ekhlās and my best friend Mina: you make life easier. Thank you both for the many laughs, phone calls, support, and closeness you bring. You have always been there to remind me that I was almost at the finish line and how proud you were of me. That meant everything. You are my closest family.

To Topaz, Ruby, and Star: you have been my therapy throughout school.

To my law school friends, faculty, and mentors: thank you for the experiences and opportunities. You made law school feel like a breeze at times, and the bonds we created will forever hold a special place in my life.

To my clinic: you made being a student and a leader some of the best and easiest years of my life. Between the work we did, the trips we took, and the inside jokes we shared, I truly appreciate you. A special thank you to Professor Jackson, who gave me the room to grow and learn what it's like to be an attorney. You gave me space to make mistakes, guided me when I was uncertain, and reminded me what it meant to work hard. The things I've learned, I owe to you. Thank you to Tim Crawford, the person who was always there for me, whether it was to share my excitement or frustrations and who was always on my side. You guided my success. Lastly, thank you to Matthew; you are the person who always believes in me.



Emily Jo Wangen

With so many incredible people in my life who have helped me succeed, I could easily double the pages of this program. But to quote the great Kipp Coddington, I will be exceedingly brief. First and foremost, I want to express my deepest gratitude to Herbie, whose constant support has made all of this possible. Reflecting on the past three years and preparing for (yet another) cross-country move, I am beyond thankful to have my best friend by my side and for his unwavering patience. I am also grateful to my parents for always being my personal cheerleaders and sparking my love for national parks and other public lands all those years ago on our family vacation to Yellowstone. Finally, I would be remiss not to mention Joey, Kylie, Tori, and Connor. From 1L orientation to today and the years to come, I will always be grateful that they were my first friends in law school. All of you, and many others, have made this journey possible. Thank you for everything ♥

Alexis Weekly

To my husband: Thank you for supporting me in going back to school. You have carried the financial burden of our family and allowed me to dedicate my time fully to my studies and our family. Your help with the kids let me chase this dream and pursue opportunities. I am aware of the sacrifices you made, so thank you. You believed in me during times when I didn't believe in myself. I appreciate you more than you know. I am so grateful to have had you by my side during this period of my life and I'm excited for this new chapter we're entering. I love you. Xoxo

To my mother-in-law, Jamie: Without your help and support, I'm not sure I could have gone back to school. Your help with the kids allowed me to travel to Laramie for classes without worrying about them getting to school safely. I cannot thank you enough for taking them to school, picking them up, and staying home with them when they were sick. I appreciate you, and I'm grateful to have you as my mother-in-law. Thank you beyond words. Love ya.

Bobby: Thank you for always being interested in my law school stories and helping with the kids when they went over on weekends.

To my mom: I am the woman I am today because of you. Your strength and determination have always empowered me to strive for more, even when times are difficult. Without your help during my undergraduate days, I would not be where I am today. Your selflessness and willingness to always help others have shaped me as a person and encouraged me to do the same. I am honored to be the first in our family not only to complete college but also to become a lawyer. I would not be here without your endless words of encouragement and support. You have always been there when I needed you. Thank you for being someone I can look up to and aspire to be like, not only as a person, but as a mother. I love you, Mom.

Lastly, to my sweet Bubba and Millie: I love you both more than you'll ever know. You are my greatest accomplishment, and it is an honor to be your mother. My law school journey was not a typical one, but I am grateful I got to take three years away from school to focus on you both and watch you grow. Being your mother has taught me so much and has helped me become a better student, lawyer, and person. I am so lucky to have both of you here to celebrate this accomplishment. From sitting on my lap while I typed essays, read cases, or even joining me in class a couple of times, you were part of this journey with me. It was a difficult decision to go back to law school, but I am so glad I did, not only for myself, but to show you both what hard work and dedication can achieve, and how you should always strive to make the world a better place. Motherhood is scary and challenging, but the good times outweigh the hard ones, and this moment of graduating from law school, with you both here to witness it, is one I will never forget. Mommy loves you both! Xoxo

To all the mothers: Including those in law school, those just starting their motherhood journey, those in the thick of it, or whatever stage of motherhood you're in, remember that you are more than just a mom. Times can be challenging, and you may find yourself wondering who you are. It's important to remember that there is always a light at the end of the tunnel, and that finding yourself and chasing what you want will only make you an even better mom.



Mavjuda Rassel

“To my mom, Nasiba: Thank you for everything you’ve given me. All of your love, your strength, and sacrifices have shaped me into the woman I am today. Thank you for pushing me toward law school and showing me what hard work really looks like. Honestly, everything I’ve accomplished traces back to you. I wouldn’t be who I am without you. I dedicate this diploma to you. I love you so much.

To Mohira: Thank you for your love and your support. You mean more to me than I have said out loud. You are the best role model, mentor, and sister anyone would be lucky to ever have. Thank you for always making me laugh and giving me your shoulder to cry on when life gets hard. I could not have done this without you. I love you.

To Greg: Thank you for being such an amazing life partner. You are my everything. Thank you for sticking with me through the late nights, the stress, the commute every week, the mental breakdowns, and everything in between. You kept me grounded with your patience, your support, and even your jokes when I needed them most. I love you immeasurably.

To Mana and Pada: Thank you for your love, generosity, support, and guidance throughout my law school journey. I would not be here without your constant love and support. I am blessed to have gained such an amazing set of grandparents. I love you both very much.

To Zoe and Chloe: Thank you for being the best doggies in the world. I could not have completed law school without your love and constant requests for pets. I love you both.

To friends and family: Thank you for your encouragements, guidance, and care throughout the past 3 years. I love you all so much and would not be here without you.”

LIFE IN LAW SCHOOL



























