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Notre Dame Law School Sesquicentennial Reception

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Notre Dame Law School Sesquicentennial Reception

Oct 4, 2019 – University of Notre Dame

Notre Dame Law School is celebrating its 150th year in 2019. Alumni, students, faculty, and staff celebrated the sesquicentennial with a reception on September 27, 2019, in the Dahnke Ballroom in Duncan Student Center.

G. Marcus Cole, who was appointed as Notre Dame Law School's Joseph A. Matson Dean and Professor of Law earlier in the year, delivered the keynote speech at the reception. His speech starts at the 7:40 mark in this video.

Transcript – English (auto-generated)

Errors have not been corrected.

0:00

my name is Nancy Gargula I'm a member of

0:04

the law school class of 1981 and I have

0:09

the honor of serving as the president of

0:11

the Notre Dame Law Association board so

0:15

what an exciting time to be a Notre Dame

0:18

lawyer and and what a momentous occasion

0:20

in Notre Dame Law School's history that

0:23

we celebrate tonight the one hundred and

0:25

fiftieth year of the University of Notre

0:28

Dame Law School this is a time to

0:36

appreciate the people who built a great

0:38

law school at the heart of our ladies

0:41

University and it's also time to think

0:44

about the future of the law school we

0:49

can see the law schools future tonight

0:51

in this room in our students who have

0:54

joined us for the celebration welcome to

0:57

all of our students these talented

1:00

hard-working women and men they're

1:05

embracing and carrying on the Notre Dame

1:07

tradition of educating a different kind

1:11

of lawyer also gathered here tonight our

1:15

alumni including members of the law

1:18

school Advisory Council and the Notre

1:21

Dame Law Association who have guided and

1:24

supported the law school and our

1:27

students for decades we have faculty and

1:30

staff here this evening who work day in

1:34

and day out to prepare the next

1:36

generation of Notre Dame lawyers and

1:40

deserving of a special round of applause

1:43

are two of our former Dean's who are

1:47

with us tonight

1:48

Patti O'Hara and Father David Link

1:57

and in a few moments we're going to hear

2:00

from Notre Dame Law School's newly

2:02

appointed Dean Marcus Cole but first but

2:09

first as we begin our program let's take

2:11

a moment to give thanks Reverend William

2:13

Beauchamp the law schools chaplain and a

2:16

member of the law school class of 1975

2:19

will lead us in prayer at this time let

2:28

us pray just and merciful God you have

2:35

blessed this law school with your good

2:37

gifts and your loving care you sent your

2:41

spirit to be among us and you bring us

2:44

together to share in your goodness and

2:46

to be mindful of your love you have

2:50

blessed this law school with outstanding

2:52

young men and women who have come to be

2:54

what to have come to us with dreams

2:56

goals and aspirations you will bless all

3:00

of us with many good gifts that we might

3:02

generously serve you you bless us with

3:05

faith we might always trust in you most

3:09

of all you have blessed us with your son

3:11

that we might come come to understand

3:14

how much you love us we gather in

3:18

celebration and Thanksgiving for the

3:19

hundred and fifty years of this law

3:21

schools existence we look to the past

3:24

and the many things that have been

3:25

accomplished to the many dreams and

3:28

aspirations that have been fulfilled we

3:31

look ahead to the future to dreams still

3:34

to be realized to new dreams new

3:36

beginnings and accomplishments continue

3:41

to watch over Notre Dame law school that

3:43

knowledge and wisdom may be increased

3:44

among us bless this day all who teach

3:48

and all who learn hear that their minds

3:51

will be open to truth to the ideals and

3:54

principles that come from you bless both

3:57

faculty and students that they may

3:59

always look to you their God the source

4:01

of all truth the giver of all wisdom

4:05

but all of us this evening as we gather

4:07

in your name may it be a time of

4:10

strengthening the bonds that bind us

4:12

together as a community of scholars and

4:14

students preparing to serve you by

4:17

helping to bring justice and peace to a

4:20

world in desperate need of uplifting and

4:22

hope we pray all of this in the name of

4:26

our Lord Jesus Christ and through the

4:28

intercession of his mother Notre Dame

4:31

amen thank you Father Beauchamp I now

4:40

welcome to the podium the Reverend

4:42

Gerard Olinger a triple donor and member

4:47

of the law school class of 2004 since

4:51

2018 father Olinger has served as the

4:54

university's vice president for mission

4:56

engagement and church affairs and he

4:59

will introduce the law schools new dean

5:01

Marcus Cole well thank you Nancy for

5:08

that wonderful introduction and I'd like

5:10

to welcome everyone gathered here this

5:12

evening to mark Notre Dame's

5:14

a hundred and fiftieth year it's

5:17

important to recognize anniversaries

5:19

like this not simply to count the years

5:22

but to celebrate people the people who

5:25

establish Notre Dame's law program in

5:27

1869 in the following generations who

5:30

built not only one of the nation's top

5:32

law schools but one that is proud of its

5:35

unique mission to educate a different

5:37

type of lawyer I'm humbled to be part of

5:40

this great legacy in the past 150 years

5:44

Notre Dame's law school has been led by

5:46

just ten Dean's

5:47

I'm honored tonight to introduce you to

5:50

the law schools 11th Dean Marcus Cole

5:53

who began his term as the Joseph a

5:56

Matson Dean and professor of law on July

5:59

1st

6:01

Dean Cole grew up in Pittsburgh earned

6:04

his bachelor's degree in Applied

6:06

Economics at Cornell and his JD at north

6:09

Northwestern before becoming a law

6:12

professor he clerked for Judge Moore

6:15

Shepard Arnold on the US Court of

6:17

Appeals for the

6:18

circuit and practice laws a commercial

6:21

litigation associate with Mayor Brown in

6:24

Chicago in 1997 he joined the faculty at

6:28

Stanford Law School where he taught

6:30

courses in bankruptcy banking contracts

6:33

and venture capital he held two endowed

6:36

chairs and served for five years as

6:39

associate dean for curriculum and

6:41

academic affairs but as you're about to

6:44

hear from Dean Cole himself he's been a

6:47

lifelong Notre Dame fan and this is

6:50

truly a homecoming for him in fact let

6:53

me offer one small story about who our

6:56

new dean is Marcus asked to begin his

7:00

tenure as Dean with a mass in the law

7:02

school celebrated in the reading room

7:04

father John Jenkins our president

7:07

presided Marcus's brother max a priest

7:10

from the diocese in Ohio preached a

7:13

beautiful homily about the need for us

7:15

to be salt and light in the world and

7:17

the room was full of students faculty

7:20

staff and alumni Marcus's desire to

7:25

begin as tenure as Dean with the

7:26

celebration of mass is an illustration

7:29

of his love of the mission of Notre Dame

7:31

and his an intentionality in beginning

7:34

this new role please join me in

7:37

welcoming home Dean Marcus Cole

7:48

thank you thank you all so very very

7:51

much

7:51

it's a it's like I can't even believe

7:55

I'm here this is amazing to me I spent

7:58

so many Saturdays out in that Stadium as

8:01

a fan and to be able to look out there

8:03

and 150 years I get to be the Dean who

8:07

celebrates a hundred and fifty years the

8:10

oldest Catholic Law School in America a

8:14

hundred and fifty years and only ten

8:17

Dean's before me ten Dean's in 150 years

8:22

so when I heard that the first time when

8:25

father John told me that I would be the

8:27

11th Dean in a hundred and fifty years I

8:31

can do math I'm thinking I got this gig

8:37

for 15 years and then he explained to me

8:42

that if it weren't for father David

8:45

Lynch I would be the 17th or 18th Dean

8:50

of this law school so he ate up about

8:53

three or four terms but I'm so delighted

8:59

to be here in fact this is it this is

9:00

truly a dream come true for me I as his

9:05

father only told you I grew up in

9:08

Pittsburgh Pennsylvania and I grew up in

9:09

a very poor family we lived in the

9:14

terrace Village housing projects in

9:16

Pittsburgh Pennsylvania and our family

9:19

is so poor that our parents had me and

9:22

my older brother deliver newspapers in

9:25

the mornings to help make ends meet and

9:28

in fact my mom told us we had two jobs

9:30

one was to deliver newspapers every

9:32

morning and the other was to serve as

9:35

altar boys at mass at st. Agnes Church

9:37

in the Hill District in Pittsburgh every

9:41

Sunday but on fall Sunday's fall

9:45

Sunday's were special because what we

9:48

would do is get up as early as we

9:50

possibly could before the Sun was even

9:52

up to deliver our newspapers and we

9:55

would rush deliver our newspapers and

9:57

then rushed to Saint Agnes to serve at

9:59

the very first mass

10:00

in the morning as altar boys and then

10:03

from there we would rush home because on

10:06

Sunday mornings in the fall we could

10:08

catch the rebroadcast of the Notre Dame

10:11

football games from the day before and

10:13

those were the only football games we

10:15

cared about those were the only football

10:17

games that we watched and when we were

10:21

little boys my brother and I made a pact

10:23

with each other that when we grew up and

10:26

went to college there was only one place

10:29

for us to go that we were both going to

10:31

go to Notre Dame well my older brother

10:34

was the worst-possible older brother you

10:37

could ever ask for because he was

10:41

perfect at everything he was number one

10:45

in his class he was student council

10:48

president of our high school he was

10:50

captain the soccer team I think he only

10:53

applied to one college this was the only

10:55

place he applied to and he got it

10:57

years later when I applied to Notre Dame

11:01

I didn't get in

11:03

I didn't keep our pact I was devastated

11:07

I couldn't believe it so I had to settle

11:12

for my fallback school Cornell

11:16

University and I'm glad I went to

11:22

Cornell I met my wife there of my wife

11:25

Angie we've been married for 31 years

11:27

and I would have met her if I hadn't

11:30

gone there so I'm glad I did I think it

11:31

was part of God's plan but I wanted to

11:37

be here and so when I did well at

11:39

Cornell it came time for me to apply to

11:42

law school I applied here and I got in

11:45

and I was overjoyed

11:48

except I also got into northwestern and

11:51

the difference was that northwestern

11:53

gave me a full scholarship and for a

11:56

poor kid from Pittsburgh who really

11:59

wanted to be here I had no choice which

12:02

is one of the reasons by the way I am so

12:06

focused on financial aid for students

12:10

because I don't want any student to

12:13

thank you I don't want any student to

12:15

ever have to face the choice of denying

12:19

the place they want to be the way I had

12:22

to so I went to Northwestern and again I

12:25

did well there and I clerked on the

12:27

eighth circuit and practice law in

12:30

Chicago and then I went into law

12:32

teaching and I went to Stanford and I

12:35

taught at Stanford as father Jerry said

12:38

for 22 years and I love Stanford it was

12:41

a great place to teach it was a great

12:44

place to live it had everything I wanted

12:47

except it wasn't Notre Dame and when I

12:50

finally got the call from father John

12:55

about this opportunity this is the one

12:59

place that I could leave Stanford for

13:02

it's the only place that I would leave

13:03

Stanford for and so I talked it over

13:07

with Angie and she said if this is what

13:09

you want let's let's do it and then when

13:12

I finally got the job

13:14

we knew that Stanford was going to

13:17

announce that I was the new Dean here

13:20

the next morning and so once that

13:23

announcement was made we knew our

13:24

teenage boys we're gonna hear from their

13:27

friends that I had gotten this job and

13:30

so we wanted to sit them down and tell

13:33

them ourselves so that they didn't hear

13:35

from their friends they heard it from us

13:37

and then you know they're teenagers so

13:39

our thought was they're gonna be

13:41

thinking to themselves how does this

13:43

affect me but that wasn't their reaction

13:47

my oldest son looked at us and he looked

13:51

at me and he said dad isn't it amazing

13:54

that God has finally given you the thing

13:57

you've wanted all your life and he was

14:01

right I've always wanted to be here and

14:04

now I finally am now it feels like it

14:07

took a hundred and fifty years

14:11

but I'm happy that it worked out this

14:14

way and I'm happy it worked out this way

14:16

because I love this place and I have a

14:19

view of what this place is and should be

14:23

and I understand that view I need to

14:26

explain a story about a church in a very

14:31

poor community in San Diego California

14:32

the church is in a parish in a very

14:38

poor neighborhood called the the the the

14:40

church's name is Christ the King and the

14:45

parishioners of Christ the King wanted

14:48

to erect a statue of Jesus in front of

14:53

their church and so they saved the money

14:56

for years they had bake sales and

14:59

fundraisers in order to save enough

15:01

money to erect a statue of Jesus in

15:04

front of their church and finally the

15:07

day came where they were gonna have an

15:09

unveiling of the statue and so they

15:12

organized the big Fiesta to celebrate

15:15

the unveiling of the statue of Jesus and

15:18

they did they had a great celebration

15:22

but the very night after they unveiled

15:25

the statue the statue was vandalized

15:30

someone painted graffiti all over the

15:34

body of Jesus and someone took a hammer

15:37

and broke off both hands of the statue

15:43

the next morning when the community saw

15:46

the statue they were devastated they

15:50

didn't know what to do

15:51

they got together and cleaned off the

15:54

graffiti but they didn't have the money

15:57

they barely had the money to erect the

15:58

statue in the first place they didn't

16:00

have the money to replace it or even to

16:03

repair it the pastor of the parish

16:08

father Robert fabrini had an idea his

16:11

idea was to erect a plaque at the base

16:15

of the statue that is still there today

16:17

if you went to christ the king in san

16:19

diego you can see the plaque at the base

16:22

of the statue

16:23

and the plaque reads I have no hands but

16:26

yours and that's how I think of us I

16:31

think of us as Notre Dame lawyers as God

16:34

saying to us I have no lawyers but you

16:38

there's a lot of work to be done out

16:41

there

16:41

and it's gonna call on lawyers who are

16:45

competent but also caring lawyers who

16:49

are not just good lawyers but lawyers

16:52

for good and that's what I think we we

16:56

mean when we talk about a different kind

17:00

of lawyer a lawyer who's a Notre Dame

17:03

lawyer so I am so blessed to be here to

17:08

finally be in the place I've always

17:10

wanted to be I'm so blessed to be

17:13

surrounded by so many great people like

17:15

you and I want to thank you for helping

17:18

us all celebrate the history and the

17:22

future of this wonderful law school

17:25

Notre Dame Law School thank you

17:39

so thank you addy Nicole and welcome

17:43

thank you thanks to all of you for

17:46

supporting the law school I hope you'll

17:48

stay enjoy some more food and some

17:51

beverages and remember that the law

17:53

schools homecoming events continue

17:55

tomorrow we have an open house at the

17:57

Notre Dame clinical Law Center from nine

18:00

to eleven and of course our homecoming

18:02

tailgate from noon to three on the

18:05

DeBartolo quad I would also ask that

18:08

y'all please do a little Sun dance

18:09

between now and tomorrow

18:11

so with that go Irish and enjoy

18:14

[Applause]