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#NLawProud: G. Marcus Cole (JD '93)

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#NLawProud: G. Marcus Cole (JD '93)

Apr 23, 2020

G. Marcus Cole (JD '93) grew up in the Terrace Village housing projects in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. And even though he'd never met any lawyers, his parents and teachers were certain that's what he was destined to be. Cole is now in his dream job, guiding the next generation of lawyers as the Joseph A. Matson Dean and Professor of Law at Notre Dame Law School.

Transcript – English (auto-generated)

Errors have not been corrected.

0:01

Growing up, I never knew a lawyer. I never met a lawyer.

0:07

I grew up in the terrace

0:09

village housing projects in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania and as I got older and more

0:13

mature I started to learn more and more about what it is lawyers do and the more

0:18

I learned about what a lawyer was the more I wanted to be a lawyer. Lawyers

0:23

protect rights, how they grease the wheels of the economy, how they make the

0:27

impossible possible.

0:28

Northwestern gave me a full scholarship

0:30

for law school, so I went to Northwestern and I'm really

0:34

glad I did. I felt like a starving man at a feast, an intellectual feast. Every

0:40

professor I had stimulated something in me that I had never experienced before.

0:44

It was absolutely the greatest educational experience of my life.

0:48

I was a professor at Stanford Law School for 22 years and I loved everything about it

0:53

but my favorite part was that I got to see people come into law school thinking

0:59

the way everyone else thinks. Then I got to see them change, to truly thinking the

1:03

way lawyers think. So when I was offered the job of being Dean of Notre Dame Law

1:08

School I told my wife about the phone call and she said you don't even have to

1:12

say it and she knew I was going to take it. I've always loved Notre Dame.

1:17

Growing up I wanted to be here I wanted to go to college here and now I get to oversee

1:21

the proper training of lawyers at one of the great law schools in the world.

1:26

Lawyers together uphold a system that protect rights. They make life better for

1:34

everyone not just in their community or in their society but for everyone on

1:39

earth. And that's what I think I can help promote and foster at this place, is an

1:44

embrace of all perspectives, all people under this one roof. This is the most fun

1:51

job of my life. I love being Dean at Notre Dame.