

REMARKS BY THE HONORABLE LINDA STEWART DALIANIS
SENIOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE
NEW HAMPSHIRE SUPREME COURT
BAR ADMISSION CEREMONY

November 3, 2009

On behalf of Chief Justice Broderick and my colleagues here on the Supreme Court, it is my great honor to welcome every one of you officially to the practice of law in our state. From this day forward, as members of the New Hampshire Bar, much will be expected of you, by the courts, by your fellow lawyers and by your clients. Keep the plain meaning of the historic oaths that you just took firmly in mind—faith and true allegiance to the constitutions of our nation and our state; a sworn commitment to honesty and fairness; a promise that as an attorney you will use all of your learning and judgment to be faithful to your clients and to the court. That is the solemn pledge you have made and as you leave this courthouse today, it should always be your guide.

This ceremony, in this beautiful courtroom, is your formal start as an official member of a proud and demanding profession. Cherish the moment with your family and friends—you have earned it. In New Hampshire, you will have the benefit of being surrounded by fellow lawyers who take enormous pride in their professionalism—their civility as practitioners, and their respect for one another and for our legal institutions. You may not know it yet, but you are privileged to join their ranks, and to learn from them.

No doubt there will be times in the future when the days won't be as glorious as today, and when you will hear critics suggesting that the legal profession is not as honorable as we believe it to be. Do not listen to them. They are wrong. Let me share with you words, slightly paraphrased, that have re-inspired me since I first came across them some years ago. Grand statements? Perhaps. But nonetheless, after all the years since I was sworn in to the New Hampshire Bar, they continue to remind me how proud I am to be a

lawyer. They were written around one hundred years ago near the turn of the twentieth century by Louis Lande who was a member of the New York Bar:

I am the lawyer

I displaced brute force with mercy, justice and equity.

I taught mankind to respect the rights of others to their property, to their personal liberty, to freedom of conscience, to free speech and to free assembly.

I am the spokesperson of righteous causes.

I plead for the poor and the persecuted.

I maintain honor in the market place.

I am the champion of unpopular causes.

I am the foe of tyranny, oppression and bureaucracy.

I wrote the Declaration of Independence and the Rights of man and the Emancipation Proclamation.

I fought in every war for liberty.

I plead for the rich lest prejudice prevent them from getting justice and I insist that the poor be accorded all rights and privileges.

I seek the equality of humankind, regardless of race, color, sex or religion.

I am the leader of humankind in every crisis.

I am the scapegoat of the world.

I am the pioneer.

I am the just judge and the righteous ruler.

I hear before I condemn. I seek the best in everyone.

I am the lawyer.

So, to all of the new lawyers we recognize today, congratulations. And good luck.