



**Remarks of Ramsey Fisher '18, Student Senate President
Columbia Law Graduation
Monday, May 14, 2018**

Class of 2018, we made it! Thank you to our parents, family, and friends who traveled here today. We wouldn't be here without your dedication and support.

To be honest with you guys, I was pretty nervous about today, and not just because I'm worried you guys will tell my parents what Bar Review really means. No, I was nervous about today because it means I have to say goodbye to a whole lot of you, and the Disney Channel I was raised on made me a pretty sentimental guy. For a while, I did some of the things we did best here: deny and procrastinate. It worked pretty well in Torts, so I figured why not give it a try here.

But the reality is today does mark the end of a really awesome chapter and the beginning of a new one full of more questions than answers. And when I finally garnered up the courage to face that, I couldn't stop coming back to how much we've grown in three years.

Some of us like Alex Valdez and Mitchell Schwartz are already starting to make a difference in the world, winning new hearings for people denied parole and challenging indefinite solitary confinement.

Others like Eve Levin have published papers challenging gender norms under Title VII.

And some of us like Patricia Okonta managed to grow into a superhero, taking on leadership roles in two organizations and a journal, securing a prestigious fellowship with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, co-planning all of our grad events, and successfully advocating to make CLS work harder for its public interest students.

And that's just a snapshot. We've all grown in one way or another over our time here. We've stayed up late on Wednesdays reading and stayed up even later on Thursdays doing everything but reading. We've served on boards together, gone through frightening exams, and even more frightening elections, together. And we've encouraged each other to go after that special someone, even when they were our 1L Contracts TA. Special thanks B-Coombs, Sanchez, and Maida for that one.

School was always there, but the more I reflect, the more I realize that the bulk of our growth has been because of the people around us who refused to let us settle. The people who challenged you, inspired you, and surrounded you when things got rough come November and April, they are the ones who helped make you who you are today.

So, sure, in some ways, today is sad, and a little scary. But it's also encouraging. We made it, we're ready, and we have each other to thank. With that, it is my pleasure to introduce one of the people that I have to thank a lot, your JD Class Speaker, Romane Paul.