

Perseverance and Persistence Are Keys to Success

BY DANIEL DENTON

Looking back to last January and February, it didn't really seem possible to study too much for the bar exam. I guess

I was wrong. I might have overstudied a little. Since I did that, I get the honor to speak to you today. But don't worry, I am not a person of too many words and I do not plan to go on for too long. I do, however, appreciate the opportunity to say a few words.

First of all, I congratulate all of you on your accomplishment. We have all worked very hard to get to where we are today.

We have also learned that graduating from law school is not the same as graduating with an undergraduate degree. As soon as you graduate with an undergraduate degree, life is good, the clouds clear, and the sun shines upon you from the bluest of skies as you go forth to make your way in the world. Graduating from law school is quite different. It seems that the moment you graduate from law school, the thunder breaks and the dark clouds come rolling in as your attention quickly turns to preparing for, and eventually passing, the bar exam.

Now, today, we are all here because we have successfully weathered that storm. And we all deserve congratulations for what we have accomplished. Today, for us, the skies are blue and the sun is shining. From here, we will each travel down different paths toward our individual goals. Graduating from law school, passing the bar exam, and becoming licensed attorneys were common stepping stones in this path for all of us.

Now, these things are in the past, but the lessons that we learned over the past few years will be with us always.

For me, I think that the most important lesson that I learned in law school is that perseverance and persistence are keys to success. That to truly succeed, I must say to myself that I can and will ultimately succeed, no matter what uncertainty or adversity I face. Sometimes, I may actually be successful on my first attempt. Other times, I will not. But no matter what the outcome, I will learn from the attempt — and will try again and again,

until I get the results that I want. Lessons such as this are what I truly learned during my law school career.

To close, I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the fact that nothing I have accomplished has been done alone. Therefore, I thank the fine people and supporters of Texas Wesleyan University, especially my professors, good friends, and fellow students. I also thank the attorneys that I have worked with over the past few years. In particular, Mr. Albert Levy, who has been not only a boss, but also a teacher and mentor.

And finally, I thank my family for their continued support and belief in me. In particular, my wife, Thai, who was alone for so many nights and weekends while I was off at school or studying for exams. She, more often than not, had a great dinner and words

of support for me when I did finally come home. I could not have done it without her. Thank you. ✨



Daniel Denton (center), the high scorer on the February 2011 bar examination, is pictured with Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Wallace B. Jefferson (left), and Justice Dale Wainwright. Denton, who graduated from Texas Wesleyan University School of Law, currently clerks for attorney Albert Levy and plans to establish his own law practice in Dallas. Denton's accomplishment marks the first time a TWU Law graduate has earned the highest score on the bar exam.

FEBRUARY 2011 BAR EXAM PASS RATE INFORMATION

The table below shows the number of graduates from each Texas law school that took the bar exam for the first time in February, the number that passed the exam, and the percentage that passed.

LAW SCHOOL	TESTED	PASSED	PASS RATE
Baylor	46	43	93%
St. Mary's	30	29	97%
South Texas	113	93	82%
S.M.U.	34	30	88%
Texas Tech	22	19	86%
Texas Southern	17	13	76%
Texas Wesleyan	174	139	80%
U. of Houston	43	39	91%
U. of Texas	24	24	100%
TOTAL	388	341	88%