**14559, John Scarpa**

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to welcome all of you for coming tonight for the dedication of the John F. Scarpa Center for Law and Entrepreneurship at Villanova Law School. I am grateful to have our professors, our clergy, our students as well as all the business men and women who are here with us tonight. I am not a lawyer, but I am a businessman. I created the Scarpa Center to develop lawyers so they would understand business, and encourage them to become better trained to enter the business world, and to better manage their law practice.

All of you have studied and worked hard to learn the law so that you can serve your clients regardless of the field of legal study that you have chosen. But, in order for you to successfully run a law office you must also have a solid understanding of business. If you join an established legal practice this may not be your immediate concern. But, whether you choose to open your own practice now or later, you will need to know how to operate a business if you want your law practice to be successful.

After many years as a successful businessman, I had a vision of what would happen if we combined the practice of law with the practice of business. When lawyers go to law school, they learn all about the law and how to apply it to individual circumstances. But, the practice of entrepreneurism is taught in the school of business on the other side of the campus. But, what would happen, I thought, if we combined the lessons of law with the lessons of business. “What a dynamic change this would be to the study of law and business?”

In planning and forming this new school of law and business, I saw a new breed of students who would develop into a brand new breed of graduate. That new breed is an entrepreneurial lawyer. A lawyer who not only has a good foundation of the law but who also knows how to operate a successful business. This will take some independent thinking and this new generation of students will have the support of the university in their studies and in their career after college.

This class of graduates are opening a new frontier of studies and a new career front. With the combination of independent thinking, business practices and the best legal services available, this new generation of graduates will open new opportunities for lawyers, for business owners and those who want to combine the two of them. "Where law Meets Business" is a new vision for modern day students and graduates. With this new set of opportunities young lawyers will be step out into their careers with a better foundation and a greater chance for success than generations of lawyers before them.

I believe we are at the dawning of a new and unchartered opportunities for both law students and business students and I look forward to seeing the success of my vision carried out.

Thank you