**14957, Bola Tinubu**

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to welcome everyone to this very special anniversary dinner. It is great to see the members of our community, our clients, both old and new, and our professional colleagues here with us tonight. Not only are we celebrating the 50th anniversary of this law firm, we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of my Dad’s, Chief Olajide Oyewole, career as a lawyer. During his career my dad built a legacy that was all pervasive. At his core he was a complete professional. He was thorough in everything did, whether it was handling a case for a client or mentoring a younger attorney. He was very proper in his behavior and how he carried out his duties, both personally and professionally. He helped to build this law firm from scratch and it will always carry his signature through the legacy he built. He set the stage for the quality of work that this law firm provides for its clients. There is nothing in this law firm that he didn’t touch. There is no policy set or decision made that doesn’t show his signature. He is well respected by everyone he has ever met or had business dealings. Whether a lawyer worked directly with him or doesn’t come to work here until many years after he leaves, that lawyer would know that my father was here because of the signature left by my father’s work.

I never had the opportunity to work with my father in the law firm. But, it was through his gentle guidance, totally without pressure, that he steered me back into obtaining a law degree after I first trained as an accountant. That was the absolute best decision that I ever made. The experience was life changing. I had chosen to become an accountant because it was logical and partly because I wanted to make my own way in the world and not just copy my father. But, my dad is a very wise man. He allowed me to make my own way and see what that life would be like. Then, he used his gentle, fatherly way to lead me into realizing that there was more to life than just logical numbers on a page. He taught me that as a lawyer I could make a difference in the lives of my clients. He helped me make the decision, then he helped me make my way through law school and was eventually instrumental in me joining the law firm. I am now a partner in the law firm that he worked so hard to build. I have the greatest love and respect for my father both personally and professionally.

On a personal note, one of the things my father truly enjoys is music. He is very discerning in his musical choices. For that reason, we have invited his favorite choral ensemble to perform a rendition of his favorite choral music for part of this celebration tonight.

I ask everyone to join me in offering congratulations to my father for the completion of 50 years as a lawyer and his accomplishments in this law firm. I also ask you to enjoy, along with my father, some of the best choral music in existence.

Thank you