**[EZ Speech Writers No. 15387]**

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Remarks Dai Tajima on the occasion of his class’s graduation from Duke University’s LLM law studies program.

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT . . .

IT IS BOTH MY PLEASURE AND MY DUTY, TODAY, TO SERVE AS PROSECUTOR OF THE DEFENDANTS IN THIS CASE, NAMELY, THE FACULTY AND STAFF, JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY, OF DUKE LAW SCHOOL’S LLM PROGRAM. [POINTING GENERALLY TO VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE AUDIENCE] YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE, AND SO I WILL SAVE YOU THE EMBARRASSMENT OF NAMING YOU PUBLICALLY FOR THE RECORD. BUT REST ASSURED THAT YOUR NAMES AND YOUR RESPECTIVE CRIMES AND MISDAMEANORS HAVE BEEN DULY SUBMITTED TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT FOR INCLUSION IN THE OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF THESE PROCEEDINGS.

NOW I REALIZE THAT IT’S A BIT UNUSUAL, IN TRIALS OF THIS NATURE, FOR THE PROSECUTION TO OPEN WITH ITS CLOSING ARGUMENT, BUT SO BLATANT . . . SO AUDACIOUS . . . SO FLAGRANT . . . AND SO EGREGIOUS WERE THE DEFENDANTS’ ACTIONS OVER THE PAST YEAR, THAT I FEEL IT NECESSARY TO PRESENT ONLY THE BRIEFEST

SUMMARY OF THEIR TRANSGRESSIONS TO PERSUADE THIS COURT TO FIND THEM ALL “GUILTY AS CHARGED” ON ALL COUNTS.

I BEGIN MY SUMMATION WITH WHAT, IN MY VIEW, WAS THE DEFENDANTS’ MOST GLARING TRANSGRESSION, AND THAT IS THAT THEY ALL, JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY, PROVIDED THIS GRADUATING CLASS WITH THE MOST REWARDING, THE MOST IN-DEPTH, AND THE MOST COMPETENT LEGAL EDUCATION THAT ANY LLM STUDENT COULD EVER HOPE TO RECEIVE.

THESE DEFENDANTS — AND AGAIN, YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE — WERE ABSOLUTLEY CONSCIENTIOUS TEACHERS AND BRILLIANT SCHOLARS. NOT ONLY DO THEY “KNOW THEIR STUFF,” AS THE AMERICANS LIKE TO SAY, BUT THEY ALSO SHOWED AN UNBELIEVABLE KNACK FOR *TEACHING* THEIR STUFF TO STUDENTS FOR WHOM ENGLISH IS NOT THEIR NATIVE TONGUE. TEACHING THE LAW IN ENGLISH TO PEOPLE WHO GREW UP IN ENGLISH IS HARD ENOUGH. BUT TEACHING LAW IN ENGLISH TO FOREIGN-BORN STUDENTS IS A TASK THAT’S DAUNTING ALMOST BEYOND BELIEF.

BUT THEIR CRIMES DID NOT STOP MERELY AT TEACHING THE LAW BRILLIANTLY. THESE DEFENDANTS WENT FAR BEYOND BEING MERELY GREAT TEACHERS, BUT THEY BECAME GREAT FRIENDS, MENTORS, AND COUSELORS. THIS COURT HAS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO FIND ALL OF THE DEFENDANTS IN THIS CASE GUILTY OF ACTING SO FAR OUTSIDE THE BOUNDS OF THEIR WRITTEN JOB DESCRIPTIONS AS TO CONSTITUE CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE!

NOW, AS THIS COURT KNOWS, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF LESSER INCLUDED OFFENSES IN THE BILLS OF INDICTMENT WHICH LAUNCHED THESE PROCEEDINGS. OF THESE, PERHAPS THE MOST SHAMELESS IS THE FACT THAT ALL THESE DEFENDANTS MANAGED — IN ONE NEFARIOUS WAY OR ANOTHER — TO MAKE OUR EDUCATION HERE AT DUKE LAW *FUN*. AS EVERYBODY KNOWS, THE LAW SHOULDN’T BE FUN. IT SHOULD BE SHEER DRUDGERY — PURE BLOOD, SWEAT, AND TEARS. BUT THESE DEFENDANTS MADE THE LAW FUN, AND FOR THIS, THEY MUST BE PUNISHED, AND PUNISHED SEVERELY.

THEY MUST ALSO ANSWER FOR THE FACT THAT THEY TOOK IT UPON THEMSELVES TO TEACH US MANY OTHER THINGS THAT HAD NOTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO WITH OUR BECOMING QUALIFIED *LEGUM MAGISTRI*. FOR THEY ALSO TAUGHT US ABOUT BEING GREAT

COLLEGUES, GREAT FRIENDS, AND EFFECTIVE TEAM MEMBERS. THEY GAVE US ALL A SENSE OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND A DEEPER FEELING FOR THE ROLE THAT WE AS LAWYERS CAN PLAY IN HELPING THE PEOPLES OF OUR NATIVE LANDS. THEY SHOWED US COMPASSION. AND I ASK THE COURT: SINCE WHEN WAS “COMPASSION” PART OF ANY LEGAL EDUCATION? IN THIS, AS IN SO MANY OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR EDUCATION AS LLM STUDENTS, THESE DEFENDANTS OVERSTEPPED THEIR BOUNDS, AND THIS COURT, THEREFORE, *MUST* HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE.

NOW, THE PROSECUTION REALIZES THAT WE ARE DEALING IN THIS CASE WITH A GROUP OF DEFENDANTS WHO ARE PRE-EMINANT SCHOLARS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS AND WHO’VE ACHIEVED MANY GREAT THINGS IN THEIR LIVES. I KNOW THAT WE’RE DEALING WITH TEACHERS WHO TRULY CARE ABOUT TEACHING, AND — IN THE DUKE LAW SCHOOL — WITH AN INSTITUTION THAT HAS ACHIEVED AN UNPARALLELED REPUTATION FOR EXCELLENCE, NOT ONLY IN AMERICA, BUT ACROSS THE WORLD. I KNOW THAT, DURING OUR TIME IN THE LLM PROGRAM, WE’VE BEEN TREATED WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY AND A DEEP APPRECIATION FOR OUR RESPECTIVE CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS. WE RESPECTFULLY STIPULATE TO ALL OF THIS.

BUT THAT DOES NOT ALTER THE FACTS OF THIS CASE IN ANY WAY. THESE DEFENDANTS — BY CONSTANTLY GOING FAR BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY AND OF THEIR PROFESSION — HAVE ESTABLISHED A PECEDENT THAT SIMPLY CANNOT BE TOLERATED. FOR IF WE ALLOW THESE TRANSGRESSIONS TO GO UNPUNISHED, WHO KNOWS WHAT DAMAGE IT MIGHT DO TO THE PRINCIPALS OF LEGAL EDUCATION AROUND THE WORLD? THERE CAN BE NO DEFENSE FOR THESE CRIMES, FOR AS WE SAY IN OUR BELOVED LATIN: *RES IPSA LOQUITUR*. THERE IS SIMPLY NOTHING MORE TO SAY, AND SO THE PROSECUTION RESTS.

THANK YOU.

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