I have bulleted a few things to be considered/added/ to the speech.  Overall, i'd like the general theme to be inspiring.  Perhaps something about what the degree means and what our obligation is to others that need our help in time of distress.    I'd like to inspire my fellow classmates up to the dreaded Bar Exam, and not bring them down leading up to it.  Also, while our friends and loved ones may think that graduating from law school is the end of the road, we are only getting started on the next leg of the journey (Bar prep).

General items for consideration/inclusion:

* Acknowledgement of classmates
  + What we meant to each other (encouraged one another)
  + Pulling each other thru tough times
  + Challenges of balancing professional careers, relationships, children
  + Banding together
* Acknowledgement of loved ones (friends, family, spouse, children)
  + The sacrifice of dealing with a law student
  + All the sacrifices were made because of our love for our family.....bigger picture.
  + It'll all be worth it in the end
* Acknowledgement of Faculty
  + "Some of us may remember the Contracts Professor who would quote hip hop songs as part of his lecture
  + .. or the Ethics Professor who instilled what it means to carry a Bar card; and how easy it is to get it taken away
  + And we can't forget the Torts Professor who had us on pins & needles hiding behind our laptops in hopes of not being called on to brief a case.

Perhaps some ideas to include, but not mandatory:

"Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage."

* we have a duty to use the newly acquired working tools.....
* We are newly minted JD's.  You may think of it as a meal-ticket to the good life.  I challenge you to think in the alternative.  Think of it as your ticket to change the communities we serve, the world we live in......

Be bold.... trust your gut..  when in doubt, always do what's right.

Thank you,

Lenny