July 25, 2014

Welcome to the Elon Law Class of 2017!!

We are excited that you will be joining us at Elon Law in just a few weeks, and we hope that you are equally excited about starting your preparation to become an excellent, ethical lawyer, serving clients and promoting the public interest. We are working hard to be ready for your arrival at Elon Law where the faculty, staff and current students are dedicated to ensuring that you have an exceptional educational experience that prepares you for success in the legal profession.

You and I will share the experience of learning about Elon Law together as I recently arrived on campus as Dean. We will have much in common as we help each other continue the development of a different kind of law school, where the focus is on excellence in lawyering, professional ethics, and entrepreneurship in your individual development as a lawyer. Elon Law is recognized as an innovator in legal education and our commitment to leadership, engaged learning, and student centered service will distinguish your time at Elon Law. This program of legal education will enhance your professional life and encourage greater civic and community participation, resulting in richer service to clients and the public.

This year the Orientation program for the Class of 2017 will introduce you to the School of Law and your preparation for the legal profession through a variety of engaged activities that explore justice, leadership, and social change. We will be reading Storming the Court: How a Band of Yale Law Students Sued the President – AND WON by Brandt Goldstein, which tells the true story of how a group of law students successfully fought for the rights of Haitian refugees detained by the United States at Guantanamo Bay. This shared activity will anchor your Orientation program that includes Convocation, introduction to legal study and information about the Elon Law community. We think it will help introduce you to your life in the law and the type of change that you, as lawyers, will be capable of bringing about.

If you have a Kindle or similar device, you can purchase an electronic copy of the book from Amazon for about ten dollars. If you are in the Greensboro area, you can stop by the law school to pick up a copy starting August 1. If you prefer, we will mail a hard copy of the book to you if you email our Student Affairs office (studentaffairs@elon.edu) the name and address to which your copy should be sent.

We expect, as we do with all our academic activities, that you will come prepared to discuss the book and how it affects your participation in law school and the legal profession.

The faculty, staff, current students, and I all look forward to seeing you next month at Elon Law. I hope you are as enthusiastic as I am about starting the school year!

Luke Bierman