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Introduction to Section I: In the Beginning . . . Volume 1 and What It Means to Be a Lawyer

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Articles

Introduction to Section I: In the Beginning . . . Volume 1 and What It Means to Be a Lawyer

The field of law is ripe with tradition. One can trace the law's origin to antiquity but the law continues to leave its mark on modern times. While the law changes with time, its purpose remains the same today as it did in 1897 when Chief Justice Lore stated, without pomp, this truism: "liberty is the aim and end of law, and . . . it is a necessary outgrowth of the maintenance of justice."¹

The duty of a lawyer is inextricably tied to the profession's history and maintenance of the law. Although the duty of the lawyer is prescribed to the profession as a whole, the acceptance and execution of this duty is personal. Chief Justice Lore cautions the graduating law students to not "be too highly impressed with the dignity and importance"² of their profession, and reminds the students that their devotion to the "profession, [sic] as a science involving all human interests"³ will be the hallmark of their personal success. While lawyers are dedicated to the law, lawyers are also dedicated to their clients, and at many times these two forces diverge. Although these two forces pull the lawyer in diametric directions, it is the individual journey of each lawyer to find the balance between and discover his or her personal reasons for executing these duties.

1. Baccalaureate Address Delivered by Charles B. Lore, LL.D., Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Delaware, 1 *THE FORUM* 131 (1897).

2. *Id.* at 133.

3. *Id.*

What it means to be lawyer is a question we as students are tasked with answering in our first semester of law school. What we are not told is that we will spend the rest of our professional and personal lives answering this question. Standing in my last year of law school, 120 years after Chief Justice Lore delivered the following words to the graduating class of 1897, his address remains eerily poignant.

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