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Boston College Law School

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Brown Addresses 2010 Graduates

Newton, MA--Addressing the Boston College Law School class of 2010, United States Senator Scott Brown told the graduates their chosen career path required determination and confidence.

Watch video of the Commencement ceremonies now (latest version of RealPlayer required)

“There are few guarantees in life – and even less in the courtroom,” Brown said. “But I can assure you of this: You will never regret giving your all to a great endeavor or a goal you believe in. Whether its winning an important case, doing Pro Bono work, raising a family, or starting up your own law practice – if the cause is worthy, and the effort honorable, then the only failure is never to try at all.”

Brown, whose historic rise to the U.S. Senate captured the attention of the nation, is a graduate of BC Law, along with fellow Massachusetts Senator John Kerry. In introducing the Senator, BC Law Dean John H. Garvey pointed out that Kerry and most of the congressional delegation (Capuano, Delahunt, Lynch, and Markey) are BC Law graduates, and called it both “fitting and natural” for Brown to represent Massachusetts.

“Not everyone saw his election as foreordained,” Garvey said. “Clearly he had something that appealed to the voters...part of that something is a competitive streak...part of it was an appeal to some old-fashioned values...and [part] a streak of independence.”

Garvey went on to compare the current economic conditions to the “hard time” faced by one of Massachusetts’ most famous senators, Daniel Webster, and referenced Webster’s Seventh of March speech where he pointed to the Senate as a place where the country looks for counsel.

“We all wish [Brown] success in his stated resolve to be a voice for wise, moderate, patriotic, and healing counsels,” Garvey said, echoing Webster’s speech.

Two hundred and sixty two J.D. graduates received degrees at the Law School’s 78th Commencement exercises. Eleven LL.M. students, the third LL.M. class in the history of Boston College Law School, also received degrees.

Brown was the first Republican elected to represent Massachusetts the U.S. Senate in 38 years. He currently serves on the Senate Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Brown grew up in Wakefield, Mass., and graduated cum laude from Tufts University with a bachelor’s degree in history in 1981. After graduating from Boston College Law School in 1985, Brown worked as an attorney and served as a member of the Massachusetts National Guard. A member of the guard for the past 29 years, Brown currently holds the rank of Lt. Colonel in the Judge Advocate General Corps. He was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service in homeland security after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

Since 1992, he has held political office at the local, state and national level, serving as a Town of Wrentham Selectman, assessor, State Representative for the 9th Norfolk District and State Senator.

Brown and his wife, Gail, live in Wrentham, Mass. They have two daughters, Ayla, a senior at Boston College who received her diploma at BC’s Commencement on May 24, and Arianna, a freshman at Syracuse University.
Boston College Law School opened in 1929 in a small downtown Boston office building with 54 students and two full-time faculty members. Currently ranked 28th in the country by the annual US News & World Report survey, the law school’s highly qualified students are drawn from more than 230 colleges and universities across the United States, as well as in other countries. Nearly 7,000 applicants competed for 260 seats in the entering class this year. The law school's 11,000+ alumni practice in 50 states and many foreign countries, holding positions in major law firms, corporate in-house legal departments, the judiciary, government agencies, private industry, academic and public interest organizations, and serving as elected state legislators and members of the U.S. Congress.