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Reno Challenges Law Grads

Mark Berkowitz
Indiana Daily Student

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Then, for the rest of your life reach out and touch others.

JANET RENO
attorney general

Reno challenges law grads



SESHU BADRINATH/INDIANA DAILY STUDENT

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno and Dean Alfred C. Aman Jr. of IU's School of Law share a light moment Saturday during the school's graduation ceremony at IU Auditorium.

Speech urges departing law students to look beyond legal service

MARK BERKOWITZ 5/2/95
Indiana Daily Student

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno offered a challenge to members of the 1995 IU School of Law graduating class.

As the main speaker at the law school's recognition ceremony Saturday, Reno encouraged graduates to lead their future careers as providers of human service, as well as legal service.

"As you proceed along the way," she said, "stop and cherish the people who have touched your life. Then, for the rest of your life reach out and touch others."

Addressing the 185 law school graduates who gathered in celebration with family and friends at the IU Auditorium, Reno spoke out against the dangers of being caught up in the race for success.

In a world where client's fees often become more important than the client, or partnership in a prestigious law firm overrules the importance of maintaining high ethical standards, Reno said it is important to remember to stay true to yourself.

"Do not become known for a law firm name," she said, "but who you are and what you do for others."

Raphael Provot, a 1984 IU Law School graduate who worked for Reno in the Florida State Prosecutor's office, introduced the attorney general. Provot said Reno was someone who imposed a policy of honesty and integrity upon all of her workers and stressed the importance of their role in the community.

"Being a prosecutor was synonymous with community service," he said.

IU School of Law Dean Alfred C. Aman Jr. said Reno, who was selected for her prestige and influence as a role model, was received with great enthusiasm by the law school community.

"We are very honored and pleased to have Attorney General Reno speak to this year's graduating class," Aman said. "She stands for the highest of standards in the practice of law and her own legal career exemplifies a degree of

See RENO, Back Page

RENO

Continued from Page 1

dedication that is an inspiration to us all."

Though Reno's speech was largely inspirational, she did not overlook the tragedy of the Oklahoma bombing, relating it to the role of attorneys.

"We must continue to speak out against hatred and violence in this land," she said. "Each of us can make a difference if we speak out together.

"We must make sure our government by the people, for the people invests in the people," she said.