

**Excerpts from Hooding Speech on May 13, 2022 by  
Katrina Lee, Morgan E. Shipman Outstanding Professor, Class of 2022**

“Thank you, Class of 2022, for this tremendous honor of addressing you. For me, there is no greater honor.”

“You are a wise and amazing group. I know you will bring empathy, compassion, and integrity to your work. You would be more than fine without my five minutes today but I hope that affirming a few points will be helpful and grounding.”

“When you’re a lawyer, you need to center your wellbeing. I’m not just giving you permission to tend to your wellness. I am saying: It is a must.

Give yourself space and grace to refresh. Do what brings you joy. There is only one you. Sometimes you act as if there are three or four of you but I assure you, only one. I want you to stay in this profession, this incredible profession, as long as you would like.”

“As lawyers, we problem-solve, we lead. People and communities will look to you.

Here’s the thing: having a law license does not automatically make you a force for good. You have to affirmatively choose good over and over and then you have to work at it.

What does doing good look like?

At a minimum, it means reflecting on the consequences of your work. Ask yourself questions. Why? Who benefits? Who is left out? Who gets hurt?

You’ll have to understand the levers in your organizations & communities. How are decisions made? Who makes them?

Use your voice. Speaking up is hard but needed. Sometimes you will be the only one in the room who does. And that’s really hard. I know.

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Especially when others are resistant to disrupting their comfortable status quo.

If you were pretty quiet here at Moritz, like I was in law school, I know you will speak when it's right for you.

If you have been a tad loud here, and I mean that in the best way, remember, the conversations you have out of the public eye can be every bit as powerful and a force for good as what you do with your big public voice.

Sometimes, amplifying someone else's voice will be the most effective option."

"When I gave you a class assignment, I told you why. At your law job, surprise!, you may not get explanations. You'll need to consider: Why? Can the goal be accomplished in a better way? Be entrepreneurial. Big or small task, dream job or not, have pride in your work. Your first job almost certainly won't be your last. Your career will likely have twists and turns you can't foresee now. So, don't just go through the motions. Keep learning and growing. Make that work matter."

"Do good and do well as best you can. Make *your* legal career. Live *your* life.

Class of 2022, keep me updated. I hope you'll reach out and we'll grab coffee.

Today, go celebrate. Savor this moment. You earned it. Then go do some good out there.

Thank you and congratulations."