



MSL
A 310



**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
LAW SCHOOL**

**COMMENCEMENT
1996**

The One Hundred and Eighth Commencement Exercises

May 11, 1996

HAIL MINNESOTA

Minnesota Hail to Thee!
Hail to Thee our college dear!
Thy light shall ever be
A beacon bright and clear.
Thy sons and daughters true
Will proclaim Thee near and far.
They will guard Thy fame
And adore Thy name;
Thou shalt be their Northern Star!

Like the stream that bends to sea
Like the pine that seeks the blue!
Minnesota, still for Thee
Thy sons and daughters true
From their woods and waters fair,
From their prairies waving far;
At Thy call they throng
With their shout and song,
Hailing Thee their Northern Star!

ORDER OF EXERCISES

Prelude and Processional

Helen Jensen, Organist

Welcome

Dean E. Thomas Sullivan

Presentation of Awards

Graduate Address

Brian Johnsrud

Commencement Address

Honorable Diana Murphy
United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit

Presentation of the Class of 1996

Professor Edward Adams
Professor John Matheson

Recessional

The Honorable Diana E. Murphy

Diana E. Murphy is a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. From 1980 to October 1994 she was a United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota. She was chief judge from 1992 to 1994. Earlier, she served as a state district judge and as a trial lawyer with the firm of Lindquist & Vennum.

She received most of her higher education at the University of Minnesota, graduating with a B.A. *magna cum laude* in 1954 and a J.D. *magna cum laude* in 1974. She did graduate work in history, 1954-1958, at the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany and at the University of Minnesota where she was also a teaching assistant. Her academic honors include Phi Beta Kappa, Order of the Coif, and editor of the *Minnesota Law Review*.

Judge Murphy is a member of the United States Judicial Conference Committee on Court Administration and Case Management, the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Federal Judicial Improvements, and the American Law Institute. She has served as the President of the Federal Judges Association, the Chair of the Board of the American Judicature Society, and as a member of the board of the Federal Judicial Center.

Within the Minnesota community, Judge Murphy chairs the Board of Regents at St. John's University, is a trustee of both the University of Minnesota Foundation and the University of St. Thomas, and serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the University of Minnesota Law School. She is also a director of the Bush Foundation and of the United Way of the Minneapolis Area.

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Terrence J. Dwyer
Mia Gray King
Matthew Joseph Maletta
Patricia Poss
Jeffrey Booth Stites
Michael Sullivan, Jr.

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GRADUATION
by Thad Thomas

insular world
of books
and briefs
we covet what
we could not have
beyond our
mirrored windows
giddy lovers
strolling by
laughing at banalities
missing friends
with careers
and weekends
laughing at our fate
we watched as the world
paraded by
all vivid colors
and waving flags
as we marked our places
in expensive tomes
and fretted over
what we did not know
three years sacrificed
to an uncertain future
one set of fears
exchanged for another
in ominous succession
fears of failure
of legal creatures
known and unknown
fears for work
amid those fears
we had our fun as well
beneath the threaded sword
like Damocles
we lived and loved
while Dionysius romped
while the world passed us by
as our lives detoured
into the valley
through the shadows
passing through the fire we emerged
essential
dross burned away
leaving minds sharp
and skills honed

each of us
weighed in the balance
Belshazzar's counterweight
the realm of law
is granted to us
the fate
of the kingdom
is placed in our hands
each given the chance
to maintain the scales
of justice
the future of law
in part, small or great
lies within us
a burden both wondrous
and overwhelming
a burden shared
by friends
who have passed before
and by those
soon to follow
friends so recently
unknown
as we entered here
alone
all private fears
and insecurities
we now leave
one by
one
as each name is announced
in the exaltation
of achievement
we are called
to walk this stage alone
but united in
love
affection
and a common experience
with eyes
misting with tears
and hearts heavy
with impending loss
still we are filled
with all joy
to leave this place
to retake our places
in that rousing parade
marching by our window