

Shawn Raymond's Remarks for the UT Law Alumni Dinner

I think there's been a mistake. My name is Shawn Raymond. But one of my supremely talented law partners is a UT Law alum named Shawn Rabin. Apparently, the nominating committee got us confused. I should be accepting this award on behalf of *that* Shawn!

I say that because this award really does belong to Shawn, Neal, Susman Godfrey, Teach for America, the Sunflower County Freedom Project, KIPP Texas, and my family and friends. Without them, I would not be me.

My wife, Alicia, and I have 4 sons ages 13 and under: Lyle, Lyndon, Liam, and Louis – a/k/a the 4 “L”s. It's a busy household! We work – some days more successfully than others – on instilling in them the notion that their purpose in life is to help others and to do good.

Boys, tonight you are surrounded by a whole lot of goodness that has had a profound impact on me. It's goodness worth mentioning – and linking to each of you.

Lyle – there's Gregg Costa [point him out]. He's basically spent his adult life in service of others – as a teacher, a lawyer, a judge, and a Longhorn. He's perhaps the most complete person I know. Lyle, I hope you surround yourself with the Gregg's of the world who can show you how goodness comes from authentic service to others.

Lyndon – there's Nayeli Garcia [point her out]. She graduated at the top of her class at KIPP Austin Collegiate High School and is first in her family to attend college. She is now a proud freshman Longhorn majoring in Biochemistry. Lyndon, I hope you surround yourself with the Nayeli's of the world who prove that anything is possible when you put your heart and soul into pursuing a dream.

Liam – there's Lukendric Washington [point him out]. You've known him all your life. He was one of our first Freedom Project students who, while not a Longhorn, did what Mack Brown is doing and went to the University of North Carolina, then to law school, and then got an LLM in tax. He recently took Gregg's and my spot on the Freedom Project board. Liam, I hope you surround yourself with the Lukendric's of the world who inspire us all to be willing to bet on ourselves for the greater good.

Louis – there's your mom [point her out]. You can't find goodness without smarts, structure, and love. Your mom, a proud Longhorn, has all that in spades. Yet, she never wants to be in the spotlight or to take credit for all the goodness she brings to others. She represents the best of our family because she is “all in” all the time.

Louis, I hope you always surround yourself with the Alicia's of the world – unsung heroes who sacrifice to put others ahead of themselves.

Alicia (her nickname is “Lee Lee” – she’s the 5th “L”) – this honor belongs as much to you as it does to me. I hope your goodness continues to rub off on me.

Thank you. And Hook 'Em.