

## Acceptance Speech

(Acceptance Speech at the Foundation for Liberty and Prosperity Award Ceremony,  
Ateneo de Manila Law School)

**Jose Angelo C. Tiglao**

Retired Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, Acting Chief Justice Antonio Carpio, Members of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation for Liberty and Prosperity, Distinguished guests, Parents, guests, fellow scholars, Ladies and gentlemen, Good afternoon.

I would like to start this by thanking the Foundation of Liberty and Prosperity for this opportunity to speak on behalf of us scholars. It is of great honor and privilege to call ourselves as FLP scholars for the Foundation has chosen us, not because of our social status, but because of our scholastic record and our extra-curricular commitments, which together, show our holistic growth as students of the law and future members of the legal profession.

But more than our academic rank and activities outside of law school, I truly believe that it was our story, together with our conviction, that sealed the deal. I, for one, remember the time I was being interviewed for the program and I had to defend my stand on fake news in this country.

I considered it akin to a 'thesis defense' but kidding aside, it was really a test of resolve, conviction, and firmness to stand for what one believes in no matter how hard the odds may be – a principled stand based on truth and facts, one which our country needs more today.

I find it an honor and a privilege to share this afternoon with my fellow scholars who are not only academically excellent but also morally firm for I have heard their stories and believe me when I say, they are some of the most inspiring people I have ever met in my life.

I would like to recognize the incredible men and women, most especially our families, who have always inspired and challenged us to never give up in our dreams and for pushing us to excel in our studies no matter how hard it may be.

I would like to thank the Foundation for believing in us and for entrusting us the duty and the obligation to promote its philosophy of safeguarding liberty and nurturing prosperity under the rule of law.

I believe that it is this sense of duty that has kept us from turning a blind eye to injustice and corruption in this country, especially in this age where the truth seems to be a rarity. We are challenged to speak up, voice out the truth, and let others know the value of the rule of law.

I value the rule of law more than ever before, as we live in such difficult and troubled times.

I am reminded that we must never get tired of fighting for the truth because it is the most powerful tool we have. I'm especially proud and inspired by my fellow scholars who are strong enough and empowered to speak their truths and stories during this process. We are celebrated today in this hall because of the stories that we have told; but today, we have become that story.

I want to express our sincerest gratitude to Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban for allowing us to tell our stories and for inspiring us with his own, for his life work has constantly served as a reminder to us that our first duty as a student is to be an excellent one for we have an obligation not to waste this opportunity.

But more than just being excellent students, we must never forget that we have a duty to give back to this country what we have learned through this scholarship program, as members of our society, because now, more than ever, we must serve as beacons of light for those who struggle to escape the dark.

Our duty to our country does not begin after we graduate from law school or pass the bar; our duty has already begun and we must continue to fight for the rule of law in this country, no matter how dark the times may be, for it is time our generation takes this chance to champion the cause of 'liberty and prosperity' in such opportune times.

Congratulations to us scholars of the Foundation for Liberty and Prosperity. I am blessed to share this milestone with twenty others, but what I am most proud of is the avenue to continue the fight for the rule of law with you.

Thank you.