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September 11: Moment of Silence

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'We have all shared something'

As shock gave way to numbness and the impact of the attacks of September 11 began to settle onto us like the smoke and debris of the World Trade Center, the Law School community assembled the next day in the Law Quadrangle to mourn, to contemplate, and to assimilate the tragedy into lives that must continue. Speaking briefly, Dean Jeffrey S. Lehman, '81, said: We each have experienced the tragedy of the past 28 hours in our own ways.

We each have our own personal connections to New York and Washington.

We each have our own personal style of coping with sadness and pain.

None of us can offer a universal vocabulary to understand what has happened.

And yet we have all shared something.

Our emotions have been touched in very personal, very individual ways. But not in isolation. We are all living these days here, in some important sense, part of a family. When we look away from the television or the computer monitor, we see each other. We are sharing a profound sadness. And we are sharing a struggle to figure out how to appropriately integrate yesterday's events into our lives today and tomorrow and beyond.

Hence, this moment of silence. It is intended to serve four purposes:



- It is above all intended to show our common sympathy for the victims of the attacks, and for their loved ones.
- It is intended to show support for each other as we find ourselves within this community of sorrow and hope.
- It is intended to recognize the fact that we are experiencing emotions that are not reducible to words.
 - It is intended to show unity.

We will now begin two minutes of shared silence.