

Closing Speech

Loïs Laïmene¹

Dear Professor Giménez-Candela,

Professor Wise,

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are all gathered here for the closing ceremony of the second edition of the Master in Animal Law & Society. It is with great pleasure that I am going to share with you a few words on this past academic year.

First of all, I would like to thank Professor Giménez-Candela, director of the Master's program, for creating a pioneer program not only in Europe, but also worldwide.

Profesora Giménez-Candela, muchas gracias a usted, por su realismo y entusiasmo infalible en la dirección de este Máster.

I came from France to be able to study Animal Law, since it is not being taught yet in French universities. Modesty apart, coming here was a great idea.

The diversity and the quality of all the professors is the strength of this program.

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Student in International & Comparative Environmental Law, University of Limoges (France)

For that matter, I am truly grateful of the opportunity given to us to learn from professors who came from Spain, France, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, The United Kingdom and of course the United States of America.

They took from their time in order to teach us their incredible knowledge and work experience.

Professor Wise, since we are lucky enough to have you here with us tonight. Thank you very much. It is a great honor.

Thank you to the coordination of the Master, Mr. Carlos Contreras and Mr. Daniel Parsons for their time and advice throughout this academic year.

And of course, I would like to say a few words to my friends and colleagues:

In spite of having different backgrounds, convictions and sensibilities, we have always achieved to share and speak freely, and always with respect. I am really grateful for that.

All the persons who are here tonight share the idea that law is an essential tool in order to achieve our goal.

I am deeply convinced that with "*the pessimism of the intellect and the optimism of the will*", we can reach the goal of complete integration of Animal Law worldwide.

I would also like to wish good luck to the students of the third edition, beginning next October.

Thank you very much for your attention.