

Garza speaks on role of conscience in law

By Katherine Amerson/*The University Daily*

The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals Justice Emilio Garza enlightened students in his speech about conscience in the Texas Tech School of Law mock courtroom Friday afternoon.

The future is dependent on what is done today, he said, and everyone is responsible for his own actions.

"You, individually, can make the society great, not the other way around. The government can never make you a good person," he said. "My point is there are many presuppositions to foundations which we study in law. You have the right to make up your own minds, and you should."

The post-modern mind views conscience as irrelevant, Garza said, and people see no vacuum of conscience in society; if something cannot be seen, it cannot be believed.

"This speech is about education more than conscience," he said, "and how we learn determines how we see ourselves."

Kenneth Stogdill, a third-year law student from Forth Worth, said he enjoyed Garza's speech.

"The destruction of religious and moral thought has led to its irrelevance," Stogdill said, "debasement of the judiciary to an instrument of power devoid of conscience."

David Iglesias said the philosophical heritage of western culture's

being tied in with legal training is rare.

"The basis of much we're learning in law school is founded on the works of these great thinkers, and it's good to have them tied in," the second-year law student from Hawkins said.

Second-year Melissa Tyroch said the event had a good turnout.

"I think students were really open to hearing what he had to say," she said. "It's a great way to start out the school year."

Garza was very enlightening, Tyroch said; he brought a perspective to law school that often is forgotten about.

"On a personal level, he was down to earth, he wanted to hear what we had to say," she said. "He

inspires students to achieve their best, and he's a true sign of a dedicated judge, and attorney."

Garza incorporated three law students into his presentation via a skit from 'A Man for All Seasons' by Robert Bolt.

Josh Craven from Greenville and an actor who played the part of Wolsey in the skit, said he thought Garza is articulate, deep and intel-

lectual.

"I think he challenged all of the law students to always be vigilant in their convictions," the second year law student said, "and his example is a high burden for us as we aspire to follow."

He is a man of strong conviction, Craven said.

Gara Hill, a Lubbock native, said she was glad Garza came to speak at the law school.

"My biggest comment," the second-year law student said, "is I would be honored to have him sitting on the United States Supreme Court."

Garza discussed his take on the war in Iraq and cautioned students to look carefully at the situation.

"You can't understand what's happening over there unless you understand Islamic culture," he said.

Philosophy often is reduced to logic, religion reduced to relevance and law reduced to power-that is not the way society should function he said. When the law cannot be followed, a judge should resign, because judges have a responsibility to follow the rules set by the people.

"Even in the Greek experience," Garza said, "we've always had this tension."



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— **KENNETH STODGILL**
Third-Year Law Student
from Fort Worth