

Dow...Harry Dow

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MONTAGE of photos of Boston and Suffolk University during 1900 and 1930. Music from the time period is playing in the background.

FADE TO:

MONTAGE of present day Suffolk University

INT. SUFFOLK ARCHIVE - DAY

Julia is in the archive walking through the rows of files while talking about Harry Dow (who he was, what he did, etc.). There will also be a brief background on his family.

JULIA

Harry Dow was the first Asian Suffolk graduate to pass the Massachusetts Bar exam.

Julia continues to walk around in the archive

CUT TO

JULIA (voice over)

He was born in Hudson and moved to the South End in (information will be added). He was the oldest of six and his family owned a laundromat in the South End.

Images of Harry Dow's childhood as Julia continues to talk about his story, video reenactments and overlaid pictures are shown to highlight his childhood leading up to his Suffolk application.

JULIA

Growing up Harry Dow saw the struggles and difficulties that his parents had with the laundromat. Due to this experience he did not want to feel helpless and decided to become a lawyer.

Harry's parents sitting in the living room  
looking upset while looking at bills scattered  
across the table.

FADE TO:

MONTAGE of Suffolk Law School in the early  
years.

INT. SUFFOLK LAW C.1925 - NIGHT

CU of Gleason Archer looking down on his desk.  
Jennifer knocks on the office door of Archer.

JENNIFER

Harry Dow is here to see you  
about his application.

Archer comes out to greet Harry Dow with a smile  
and they both go into his office

ARCHER

Welcome to Suffolk! Hope you  
weren't waiting too long.  
Are you all set with your  
application?

HARRY

(shyly)

Thank you, I'm excited to be  
here. Here is my  
application.

Harry hands Archer his application and Archer  
looks it over

ARCHER

So, Harry, tell me a little  
about yourself. Why do you  
think Suffolk is a good fit  
for you?

HARRY

(with hesitation)

Uh, well I grew up in Hudson, Massachusetts and later moved to Chinatown here in Boston. During the day I work as a manager at my family's laundry business. I think Suffolk Law is a great fit for me because it is close ny and the classes fit into my schedule.

ARCHER

Interesting. What do you hope to achieve during your time here at Suffolk?

HARRY

My goal is to help people. Specifically, I would like to help people like myself. My family faced realty issues when I was young. It nearly cost the only thing that was keeping us alive. In the end, I hope to be able to help families of immigrants live better and easier lives.

ARCHER

That is an amazing goal and your references look great. I hope we can help you achieve all of that and more here at Suffolk. Suffolk Law was established for young men like you.

CU of the application form

Archer signs Harry Dow's application and gives him a handshake.

CUT TO:

INT. SUFFOLK ARCHIVE - DAY

Julia sitting at a table surrounded by the Dow collection and is flipping through some of the documents.

JULIA

Unfortunately, a large majority of the Harry Dow archive is restricted. Additionally, there isn't much documented information about what Harry Dow did during his time at Suffolk. What we do know is that during the 1920s the only two student clubs offered on campus was the debate team and the journalism club. While, neither were active during Dow's years on campus, these are the sort of things that were going on and helps us paint a picture of what college life was like for students during Suffolk's early years.

CUT TO:

ACT II

INT. SUFFOLK ARCHIVE - DAY

Julia walking through rows of the Suffolk Archive. She takes some out to look over them and puts them back in place.

JULIA

There are many reasons why materials get restricted. In this case that part of the file is all client files so they were files of Harry representing his clients,

MONTAGE of documents and maps of China

JULIA (voiceover)  
most of whom came from a particular province in China who were either hoping to immigrate to the United States or have a legal pathway for their children. So contained in those files are health records, all sorts of personal private things that you would disclose to an attorney in the course of applying for citizenship. Though we can't display the content of the Dow collection it is still worth holding on to.

FADE TO:

Julia and other archive staff arrive at the University of Berklee to meet with Dow's sons.

JULIA (voice over)  
At the time, University of California Berkeley had an impressive archive of the history of the Asian immigrant experience and were first on the list for the new home of the Dow archive. Thankfully, dean

Robert Smith ultimately  
decided that it belonged  
at Dow's alma mater,  
Suffolk Law.

As Julia and the other staff step out of the  
car, Dow's sons are unloading boxes full of  
documents.

JULIA (voice over)  
And in 2007, myself along  
with other staff members  
of the Suffolk Archive  
picked up the complete Dow  
collection from Harry's  
two sons Alex and Fred in  
December of 2007.

Julia and the staff go through all the boxes  
full of documents while taking notes. Julia and  
the staff excitedly check items off a list as  
they pack the car. They pose for a photo and  
drive away.

JULIA  
According to previous  
school records Suffolk was  
mostly a night school  
before morning classes  
were available. This  
allowed Harry Dow to help  
his family out in their  
laundry business during  
the day and give him time  
in the evening to attend  
class and ultimately earn  
his law degree.

FADE TO:

INT. DOW FAMILY LAUNDROMAT - DAY

Harry Dow is looking down at some paper works at  
the front of the shop.

HARRY DOW

Henry! 李太太的衣服洗好了吗?  
Henry! Did you finish Mrs.  
Lee's laundry?

HENRY

还没有。我会等一下才做。  
Not yet. I'll do it  
next.

HARRY DOW

不要等了，她好快要来了。我现在上课。你离开的时候把门关上。  
Don't wait too long. She's  
coming to pick it up soon.  
I'm heading out for class.  
When you're done, close up  
the shop.

CUT TO:

EXT. TEMPLE STREET. - NIGHT

Harry Dow runs to class after leaving the laundry.

INT. CLASSROOM - NIGHT

Harry hands in his class ticket and finds a seat close to the front of the classroom. More students (20 total) file into the classroom and class starts.

CUT TO:

INT. SUFFOLK THEATER C.1929 - NIGHT

Archer is presenting the degrees to each and every student at the graduation.

Dow walks up the stage towards Archer. They shake hands, smile at each other and pose for a photo.

EXT. SUFFOLK THEATER - NIGHT

Dow and his family is gathered outside taking turns in getting a picture taken with Dow.

ALICE DOW

Smile for the camera son.

SISTER

Congratulations big brother!

HARRY DOW

Thank you.

CUT TO:

ACT III

INT. LAW FIRM - DAY

Dow passes the Bar exam and is working in a law firm translating documents for immigrants and other law officials. Framed certificates are hung up on a wall in Harry's office.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE of news of the Chinese Exclusion Act being repealed.

EXT. DOW'S LAW FIRM C.1943 - DAY

Dow is celebrating the grand opening for his own personal law firm in Boston. Friends and family gather around to cut the ribbon. Reporters surround Dow to interview him about the new law firm.

MONTAGE of the McCarthy era, news articles of people being accused with radio reports playing in the background.

Dow standing behind his desk making phone calls to clients offering his help but is rejected. Profile CU of Dow sitting in his chair and faces the window looking out at the city and looks frustrated.

FADE TO:

INT. DOW'S PERSONAL LAW FIRM - NIGHT

MONTAGE of CU shots of Dow's awards and certificates on the wall moving along the wall.

Dow is in his office packing up his things after retiring from his practice. Camera zooms in to a medium shot following Dow's movement.

MONTAGE of newspaper article of Dow helping to improve the Chinatown area.

CUT TO

INT. SUFFOLK ARCHIVE - DAY

JULIA

Harry Dow has had an incredible influence on the individuals and families he worked with. After graduating law school Dow went on to serve his country in the U.S. Military. He then opened his own law practice and became a community activist. His activism was great and helped many people. He focused on changing the majority's view on the chinese living in america at that time. Since he grew up during the Chinese Exclusion Act, there was a lot of discrimination happening against them.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHINATOWN - DAY

Dow is walking down Kneeland street. A truck is speeding and hits Dow as he is crossing the streets. Black screen with siren sounds and dissolves to Dow surrounded by cops and EMCs trying to save him.

DISSOLVE TO

MONTAGE of news articles and news reports on Dows accident and death. Montage continues to highlight Dow's life (recap of everything).

JULIA (voiceover)

Harry Dow was a huge help in his community. Not only did he inspire other Chinese Americans to strive to be whatever they want, he helped those who could not communicate as clearly as they wished.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Dow is in the library sitting at a table with a desk lamp going through a stack of law books. He is studying for an exam.

JULIA (voiceover)

All throughout his busy school years in between working with his family and studying, Dow helped out his community as a translator. Later in his life, while owning his private law practice, Harry made it a point to take on challenging cases and preferably those dealing with immigration.

The impact this man made in the Boston area and way beyond is incredible. Unfortunately, because of his ethnicity and the time period of his life, his achievements and legacy are not as well known as they should be.