



# DRAKE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

THE KNAPP CENTER — DES MOINES, IOWA



The One Hundred  
and Fifty-Ninth  
Commencement of  
Drake University  
Law School

Saturday Evening at Seven O'clock  
May Sixteenth, Two Thousand Twenty-Six

THE KNAPP CENTER — DES MOINES, IOWA



Dwight D. Opperman Hall and Law Library

# Program

MAY SIXTEENTH, TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX, SEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

ACADEMIC PROCESSIONAL . . . . .	Drake Brass Quintet
WELCOME . . . . .	Roscoe Jones, Jr. Dean, Drake Law School
NATIONAL ANTHEM . . . . .	Michael Blankenship, 3L
REMARKS . . . . .	Dean Jones Marty Martin, President William R. Keck President, Student Bar Association 2025-2026
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS . . . . .	Judge Henry Hamilton, JO '88, JD '92 Ret. Federal Administrative Law Judge
PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES . . . . .	Sue Mattison, Provost Dean Jones
CONFERRAL OF DEGREES AND ACADEMIC HOODS . . . . .	Marty Martin, President Dean Jones John D. Edwards, Associate Dean Anthony Gaughan, Associate Dean
ALUMNI WELCOME . . . . .	Danielle Foster-Smith, JD '00 President, Law School Board of Counselors
CONCLUDING REMARKS . . . . .	Dean Jones
DRAKE ALMA MATER . . . . .	Nicole Frazier, 3L
ACADEMIC RECESSIONAL . . . . .	Drake Brass Quintet

## Judge Henry Hamilton

Henry Hamilton is a retired Federal Administrative Law Judge. During his career, he also served as a Magistrate Judge for the State of Iowa; City Prosecutor for the City of Des Moines, Iowa; and as a private practitioner with the Parrish Law Firm, Des Moines, Iowa.

A proud alumnus of Drake University, Hamilton earned his undergraduate degree from Drake University in 1988 and his Juris Doctor from Drake University Law School in 1992.

Hamilton served as President of the Iowa State Bar Association (2022-2023), becoming the first African American to hold that office. He serves on the Board of Governors of the National Bar Association and was recently elected to the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association.

He is president-elect of the Drake Law School Board of Counselors and author of the Iowa Manual on Civil Procedure (LexisNexis 2026).

### MARSHALS OF THE UNIVERSITY

#### Alexa Perez

Assistant Professor of Law

2026 Leland Stanford Forrest Outstanding Professor Award Recipient

#### Cierra Jackson

President, Student Bar Association 2026-2027

# DRAKE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

Candidates Presented by Dean Roscoe Jones, Jr.

## JURIS DOCTOR

Sarah Abu-Nameh  
RoxSanna Drew Allen  
Marisa Anderson  
Julie Anderson  
Cameron Jean Annis  
Samantha Alana Jane Anthony  
Anne Matilda Archer  
Thomas J. Armstrong III  
Sidnie Mae Baier  
Johnathan Bartholomew  
Ashley Beitelspacher  
Ali Kay Bestell - Joint Degree MBA  
Sarah Bigley  
Michael J. Blankenship  
Benjamin R. Bouwkamp  
Kameron E. Brown  
Delaney K. Buisker  
Katherine Christine Chapman  
Matthew Clarke  
Corbin Cline  
Karrecia Crawley  
Noah Ryan Crist - Joint Degree MBA  
Brooke De Noble  
Nicholas DeAngelo  
Benjamin DeReus  
Kayla Marie Dienberg  
Nicholas Downey  
Laurin Nicole Fierce - Joint Degree MBA  
Andrew Fisher  
Daniel Fournier, Jr.  
Nicole Delores Frazier  
Mikayla Beate Ganan  
Margaret L. Garbin  
Brookelyn D. George  
Marie E. Gernes  
Meredith Thomas Gill - Joint Degree MBA  
Meghan Elizabeth Gillmore  
Katherine Olivia Greenwood  
Jack Groepper  
Wyatt J. Harlan  
Eli Harris  
Carter Hartman  
Brigid Hecht  
Jordan Heeter  
Carter R. Holm  
John C. Humphrey  
Wiley Hunt  
Elizabeth Katherine Hurn  
Kathryn Husted  
Lennon Janes  
Lyn Jensen  
Seth Jones  
William R. Keck  
Sydni Christine Kirk  
Maci Ellen Kluesner  
Ryan Yian Lee

Mercedes Moriah Lundberg  
Abrielle Jean Luther  
Gregory McGovern  
Jacob Cozad McKinney  
Samantha Michalczyk  
Micheal Milan  
Zachary John Miller  
Stephen Moehlman  
Abigail Lynn Mojeiko  
Arturo Montes  
Christopher Mouaikel  
Clare Muckler  
Jack Terrence Norton  
Maxwell Oelmann  
Kaylee Ranae Olivares  
Anna Olson  
Tess Paxson  
Ellen N. Phillips  
Darvin Alejandro  
Pineda-Donis  
Lauren Danielle Ratliff  
Mackenzie Elizabeth Roberts  
Nicholas J. Romano  
Rachel Alice Rozendaal  
Samantha L. Ruhland  
Alicia Elizabeth Rupp  
Rachel Sams  
Pamela Sanders-Booker  
Katelyn Schmitz  
Jebadiah Schwager  
Kaitlyn J. Scott  
Kaille A. Simmons  
Kelsey J. Sissel  
Rylie Smith  
Madelyn Rylie Smith  
Alexander James Stegen  
Jon Sterk  
Samantha Stewart  
Isaac O. Strohman  
Lauren Katherine Sulentic  
Joseph Swinton  
Hannah Tedrow  
Abigayle R. Thomas  
Abigail E. Thompson  
Ginger Thompson-Schulte  
Mitchell Timm  
Ryleigh Jane Travers  
Allison M. Van  
David Wade  
Spencer J. Warfield  
Isabelle Judith Webber  
Mary Katherine H. Wille  
Ryan Williams  
Mary Wood  
Ariel Wooden  
Kathryn Zack

## **MASTER OF JURISPRUDENCE**

Cassidy M. Curl

M.J., *Compliance & Risk Management*

Whitney Ford

M.J., *Compliance & Risk Management*

Natalie Gillett

M.J., *Compliance & Risk Management*

Bridget Hall

M.J., *Compliance & Risk Management*

John M. D. Hamelly

M.J., *Compliance & Risk Management*

Philip M. Ireland

M.J., *Compliance & Risk Management*

Christian Michael Kreger

M.J., *Compliance & Risk Management*

Virginia Lynde

M.J., *Compliance & Risk Management*

Chidera Obi-Adegbesan

M.J., *Compliance & Risk Management*

James Glenn Rankin

M.J., *Compliance & Risk Management*

Patrick Reilly

M.J., *Compliance & Risk Management*

Sara-Amber Otila Stegall

M.J., *Compliance & Risk Management*

Ethan C. Swain

M.J., *Compliance & Risk Management*

Joint Degree MPA

## **MASTER OF LAWS**

Bérangère Fougère-Ballé

LL.M., *Individualized Legal Studies*

## LAW SCHOOL DESIGNATION OF HONORS\*

HIGHEST HONORS	HIGH HONORS	HONORS
Thomas J. Armstrong III	Sarah Abu-Nameh	Johnathan Bartholomew
Sarah Bigley	Ashley Beitelspacher	Delaney K. Buisker
Michael J. Blankenship	Katherine Christine Chapman	Corbin Cline
Brooke De Noble	Nicholas DeAngelo	Karrecia Crawley
Andrew Fisher	Nicholas Downey	Jack Groepper
Daniel Fournier, Jr.	Margaret L. Garbin	Wyatt J. Harlan
Marie E. Gernes	Katherine Olivia Greenwood	Abrielle Jean Luther
William R. Keck	Eli Harris	Gregory McGovern
Rachel Alice Rozendaal	Carter Hartman	Jacob Cozad McKinney
Alexander James Stegen	Brigid Hecht	Micheal Milan
Kathryn Zack	Jordan Heeter	Tess Paxson
	John C. Humphrey	Lauren Danielle Ratliff
	Wiley Hunt	Mackenzie Elizabeth Roberts
	Kathryn Husted	Pamela Sanders-Booker
	Zachary John Miller	Kaitlyn J. Scott
	Maxwell Oelmann	Kaille A. Simmons
	Kaylee Ranae Olivares	Isaac O. Strohman
	Anna Olson	Ginger Thompson-Schulte
	Alicia Elizabeth Rupp	Mitchell Timm
	Katelyn Schmitz	Ryleigh Jane Travers
	Jebadiah Schwager	Isabelle Judith Webber
	Kelsey J. Sissel	Mary Katherine H. Wille
	Rylie Smith	
	Jon Sterk	
	Samantha Stewart	
	Joseph Swinton	
	Abigayle R. Thomas	

\*The degree may be conferred with "Highest Honors" upon a student who graduates in the top 10 of their graduating class, with "High Honors" upon a student whose final cumulative grade point average is 3.5 or above, but is not included in the top 10, and with "Honors" upon a student whose final cumulative grade point average is 3.25 to 3.49. A degree may be conferred "with honors" upon a student only if that student's final cumulative grade point average places him or her in the top 40 percent of his or her class. The honors designations in the program are based upon grades earned through the Fall 2025 semester, without regard to the top 40 percent requirement and are subject to change based upon grades earned thereafter. This commencement program, therefore, does not constitute an official list of confirmed graduates or confirmed academic honors for the May 16, 2026, commencement at Drake University. Participation in the commencement ceremony does not signify that degrees and academic honors have been awarded unless all pertinent academic requirements have been met.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAM CERTIFICATES\*\*

### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CERTIFICATE

---

Jack Terrence Norton  
Kaylee Ranae Olivares

### BUSINESS LAW CERTIFICATE

---

Sarah Abu-Nameh  
Cameron Jean Annis  
Thomas J. Armstrong III  
Ali Kay Bestell  
Matthew Clarke  
Noah Ryan Crist  
Brooke De Noble  
Andrew Fisher  
Daniel Fournier, Jr.  
Brookelyn D. George  
Meredith Thomas Gill  
Gregory McGovern  
Micheal Milan  
Arturo Montes  
Lauren Danielle Ratliff  
Samantha L. Ruhland  
Abigail E. Thompson  
Allison M. Van  
Spencer J. Warfield  
Ryan Williams  
Kathryn Zack

### CIVIL LITIGATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION CERTIFICATE

---

Joseph Swinton

### CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AND CIVIL RIGHTS CERTIFICATE

---

Kayla Marie Dienberg  
Mikayla Beate Ganan  
Brookelyn D. George  
Ryan Yian Lee  
Zachary John Miller  
Alicia Elizabeth Rupp

### CRIMINAL LAW CERTIFICATE

---

Marisa Anderson  
Anne Matilda Archer  
Sidnie Mae Baier  
Katherine Christine  
Chapman  
Corbin Cline  
Karrecia Crawley  
Katherine Olivia  
Greenwood  
Mercedes Moriah  
Lundberg  
Samantha Michalczyk  
Mackenzie Elizabeth  
Roberts  
Hannah Tedrow

### FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL LAW CERTIFICATE

---

Julie Anderson  
Andrew Fisher  
Wyatt J. Harlan  
Lyn Jensen  
Ellen N. Phillips  
Nicholas J. Romano  
Jebadiah Schwager  
Ryleigh Jane Travers

### INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW CERTIFICATE

---

Cameron Jean Annis  
Nicole Delores Frazier  
Carter R. Holm  
Jack Terrence Norton  
Katelyn Schmitz

### INTERNATIONAL LAW AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP CERTIFICATE

---

Matthew Clarke  
Meredith Thomas Gill  
Zachary John Miller  
Rachel Alice Rozendaal

### LEGISLATIVE PRACTICE CERTIFICATE

---

Julie Anderson  
Kayla Marie Dienberg  
Seth Jones  
William R. Keck  
Nicholas J. Romano  
Rachel Alice Rozendaal  
Kaille A. Simmons  
Isaac O. Strohman  
David Wade  
Isabelle Judith Webber

### PUBLIC SERVICE CERTIFICATE

---

RoxSanna Drew Allen  
Ali Kay Bestell  
Sarah Bigley  
Katherine Christine  
Chapman  
Corbin Cline  
Daniel Fournier, Jr.  
Carter Hartman  
Brigid Hecht  
Wiley Hunt  
Lennon Janes  
William R. Keck  
Maci Ellen Kluesner  
Abrielle Jean Luther  
Zachary John Miller  
Kaylee Ranae Olivares  
Anna Olson  
Tess Paxson  
Nicholas J. Romano  
Rachel Alice Rozendaal  
Samantha L. Ruhland  
Jon Sterk  
Abigail E. Thompson  
Allison M. Van

### SOCIAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC INTEREST LAWYERING CERTIFICATE

---

Brigid Hecht  
Lennon Janes  
Anna Olson  
Tess Paxson

\*\* Students who complete a required set of courses and internships receive a certificate recognizing their area of specialization.

# DRAKE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

## ADMINISTRATION

Marty Martin, B.A., J.D., LL.M., President of the University

Roscoe Jones, Jr., B.S., J.D., Dean and Professor Law

Anthony J. Gaughan, B.A., M.A., Ph.D., J.D., Associate Dean and Kern Family Chair in Law and Professor of Law

John D. Edwards, B.A., J.D., M.A.L.S., Associate Dean for Information Resources and Technology, Director of the Law Library and Professor of Law

Elizabeth Battles, B.A., J.D., Assistant Dean for Student Services

Ashley R.A. Madsen, B.A., J.D., Director of Academic Success

J. Kara Blanchard, B.S., M.S., Assistant Dean for Admission and Financial Aid

Matt Johnson, B.S., B.S.B.A., M.P.A., Ph.D., Director of Admission and Financial Aid

Brianna Leistikow, B.A., Assistant Director of Admission and Diversity Initiatives

Laurie Dufoe, B.A., M.A., Assistant Dean of Career Development

Annie Reser-Moorehead, B.M., M.M., J.D., Director of Career Development

Lonique Jackson, A.A., Clinic Operations Coordinator

Susan Edwards, A.A., Budget and Office Manager

Lori Chappell, B.B.A., Director of External Relations (spring administrator)

Theresa Howard, B.A., M.A., Director of Communication, Alumni Relations and Special Events (fall administrator)

Andrea Solomon, B.A., M.P.A., Advancement Officer

## FACULTY

James A. Albert, B.F.A., J.D., Professor of Law

Jerry L. Anderson, B.S., J.D., Richard M. and Anita Calkins Distinguished Professor of Law

Hon. Brent Appel (Ret.), B.A., J.D., Distinguished Lecturer and Jurist in Residence

Sayoko Blodgett-Ford, B.S., M.S., M.A., J.D., Sease Faculty Research Scholar and Associate Professor of Law

Alexandra Brennan, B.A., J.D., Reference and Instruction Librarian and Instructor of Law Librarianship

Hunter R. Clark, A.B., J.D., Professor of Law

Colleen Cullen, B.A., J.D., Director of the Criminal Defense Clinic and Assistant Professor of Law

Steven Foritano, B.A., J.D., Practitioner in Residence

Sally B. Frank, A.B., MAT/CLE, J.D., Professor of Law

Sydney Gangestad, B.A., J.D., Director of the Legislative Practice Center and Instructor of Law

Anthony J. Gaughan, B.A., M.A., Ph.D., J.D., Kern Family Chair in Law and Professor of Law

David B. Hanson, B.A., M.A.L.S., Collection Management and Metadata Librarian and Associate Professor of Law Librarianship

Kristi Harshbarger, B.A., J.D., Director of the Entrepreneurial and Transactional Clinic and Assistant Professor of Law

Christoph Henkel, J.D., LL.M., S.J.A., Professor of Law

Mark S. Kende, B.A., J.D., Director of the Constitutional Law Center, James Madison Chair in Constitutional Law and Professor of Law

Jeremy Kidd, B.A., Ph.D., J.D., Professor of Law

Erin C. Lain, B.A., J.D., Ph.D., Professor of Law

Rebecca A. Lutkenhaus, B.A., M.A., J.D., Reference and Instruction Librarian and Professor of Law Librarianship

Natalie Banta Lynner, B.S., J.D., Dwight D. Opperman Distinguished Professor of Law

Allison McCarthy, B.A., J.D., Director of the Refugee Clinic and Instructor of Law

Nickole Miller, B.A., J.D., Director of the Middleton Children's Rights Center and Associate Professor of Law

Alexa Perez, B.A., J.D., Assistant Professor of Law

Suzan M. Pritchett, B.A., M.A., J.D., Director of Clinical and Experiential Programs and Professor of Law

Joe Schomberg, B.A., J.D., Assistant Professor of Law

Miguel Schor, B.A., M.A., J.D., Class of 1977 Distinguished Scholar and Professor of Law

Dean Strang, A.B., J.D., Director of the Institute for Justice Reform and Innovation

Danielle M. Shelton, B.A., J.D., Professor of Law

Karen L. Wallace, B.A., M.A., Circulation/Reference Librarian and Professor of Law Librarianship

Melissa H. Weresh, B.A., J.D., Dwight D. Opperman Distinguished Professor of Law and Herb and Karen Baum Chair of Ethics in the Profession

Ellen L. Yee, B.A., J.D., Director of International Programs and Professor of Law

Jennifer Zwagerman, B.S., J.D., LL.M., Director of the Agricultural Law Center and Associate Professor of Law

## FACULTY EMERITI

James A. Adams, A.B., J.D., Professor Emeritus

Hon. Mark W. Bennett (Ret.), B.A., J.D., Former Director of the Institute for Justice Reform and Innovation

Andrea S. Charlow, A.B., J.D., LL.M., Professor Emeritus

Laurie Kratky Doré, B.A., J.D., Professor Emeritus

Matthew G. Doré, B.A., J.D., Professor Emeritus

Neil D. Hamilton, B.S., J.D., Professor Emeritus

Robert C. Hunter, B.A., J.D., Professor Emeritus

Suzanne J. Levitt, A.B., J.D., LL.M., Professor Emeritus

Russell E. Lovell II, B.B.A., J.D., LL.M., Professor Emeritus

David E. McCord, B.A., J.D., Professor Emeritus

Keith C. Miller, B.A., J.D., LL.M., Professor Emeritus

James R. Monroe, B.A., M.B.A., J.D., LL.M., Professor Emeritus

Robert R. Rigg, B.A., J.D., Professor Emeritus

Maura I. Strassberg, B.A., M.A., J.D., Professor Emeritus

Allan W. Vestal, B.A., J.D., Professor Emeritus

David S. Walker, B.A., J.D., Professor Emeritus



**THE 2025-2026 DRAKE LAW**



**SCHOOL STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION**

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Drake University and the Law School gratefully acknowledge the Law School Endowment Trust for its financial support of the Law School Commencement.

A reception will be held immediately following the Commencement Ceremony at the Courtside Club in Shivers Practice Facility. Refreshments will be provided. The graduates, their families and friends, alumni, faculty, staff, and other law students are cordially invited to attend the reception.

# DRAKE ALMA MATER

5

Words by  
EMMA J. SCOTT '11

Music by  
CLIFFORD BLOOM '18

Very broad

With broad and firm foun - da - tion, our fa - thers built for Drake, With  
Thy loy - al chil - dren ev - er, through-out the na - tions wide, Will

The first system of music features a vocal line in G major with a key signature of one flat (F major) and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo/mood is marked 'Very broad'. The lyrics are: 'With broad and firm foun - da - tion, our fa - thers built for Drake, With Thy loy - al chil - dren ev - er, through-out the na - tions wide, Will'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand.

loy - al vea - e - ra - tion, our way to - day we take, To hon - or high our  
cease to bless thee nev - er, for rich - es mul - ti - plied, In grate - ful ad - o -

The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'loy - al vea - e - ra - tion, our way to - day we take, To hon - or high our cease to bless thee nev - er, for rich - es mul - ti - plied, In grate - ful ad - o -'.

Var - si - ty in all she strives to do, May fame and wealth at - tend her, our  
ra - tion, their love will bear a - new, A full and rich ob - la - tion, dear

The third system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'Var - si - ty in all she strives to do, May fame and wealth at - tend her, our ra - tion, their love will bear a - new, A full and rich ob - la - tion, dear'.

dear old White and Blue, May fame and wealth at - tend her, our dear old White and Blue.  
Al - ma Ma - ter true, A full and rich ob - la - tion, dear Al - ma Ma - ter true.

The fourth system concludes the piece. The lyrics are: 'dear old White and Blue, May fame and wealth at - tend her, our dear old White and Blue. Al - ma Ma - ter true, A full and rich ob - la - tion, dear Al - ma Ma - ter true.' The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord in the right hand and a whole note in the left hand.

