Commencement

2025



PENN STATE DICKINSON LAW

Saturday, May 17, 2025 Eisenhower Auditorium 10:30 a.m.





National Anthem

by Francis Scott Key

O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming;
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Alma Mater

by Fred Lewis Pattee

For the glory of old State, For her founders, strong and great, For the future that we wait, Raise the song, raise the song,

Sing our love and loyalty, Sing our hopes that, bright and free, Rest, O Mother dear, with thee. All with thee, all with thee.

When we stood at childhood's gate, Shapeless in the hands of fate, Thou didst mold us, dear old State, Dear old State, dear old State.

May no act of ours bring shame To one heart that loves thy name, May our lives but swell thy fame, Dear old State, dear old State!

Commencement

2025

PENN STATE DICKINSON LAW

Saturday, May 17, 2025 Eisenhower Auditorium 10:30 a.m.



To Our Guests

We welcome you to the commencement exercises for Penn State Dickinson Law J.D. and LL.M. candidates.

Commencement, the solemn but joyful culmination and recognition of the graduates' years of study, is an important occasion to the University, its faculty, staff, and students. All guests and participants are requested to avoid unnecessary conversation or moving about during the exercises.

Only authorized press and University photographers are permitted on the floor to take pictures once the exercises are in progress.

When the processional party enters at the beginning of the ceremony, the audience rises. They remain standing until all members of the official party have taken their places on the stage and during the national anthem.

Applause should be withheld during the presentation of the individual candidates; however, they may be applauded after all candidates have been recognized.

The audience is requested to remain seated during the recessional.

Eisenhower Auditorium

A FIRST AID STATION is located at Audience Services in the Lobby.

RESTROOMS are located on the Lounge, Grand Tier, and Balcony Levels.

LOST AND FOUND articles will be taken to the Events Office located in the basement (Room B40).

PENN STATE encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact Eisenhower Auditorium at 814-863-0255.

NOTICE: The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages in any indoor commencement facility is prohibited. Your admission to any of these facilities is conditional upon compliance with the above. The University reserves the right to refuse admission to, or remove, any person who violates this prohibition.

Commencement Program

PRELUDE

Centre Brass

OPENING

Jonathan D'Silva, Verger Pro Tem, Assistant Clinical Professor of Law, and Director of the Intellectual Property Law Clinic

PROCESSIONAL

Centre Brass

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Brandan Christopher Parks, J.D. Candidate

WELCOME REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION

Victor Romero, Interim Dean, Penn State Dickinson Law and the School of International Affairs, Maureen B. Cavanaugh Distinguished Faculty Scholar, and Professor of Law

OPENING REMARKS

Tracy Langkilde, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost, The Pennsylvania State University

REMARKS

Rushana Sadullaeva, LL.M. Candidate

INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Interim Dean Romero

ADDRESS

Christie B. Tillapaugh; President and CEO, Dentons, Cohen & Grigsby; Penn State Dickinson Law Class of 2002

CONFERRING OF THE DEGREES

Interim Provost Langkilde

William F. Oldsey, Board of Trustees, The Pennsylvania State University

MASTER OF LAWS

Jud Mathews, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Law

JURIS DOCTOR

Associate Dean Mathews

PRESENTATION OF THE CLASS OF 2025

Interim Dean Romero

REMARKS

Temidoyin Olusa, J.D. Candidate

ALMA MATER

Erika N. Uebelhor, J.D. Candidate

CLOSING

Interim Dean Romero

RECESSIONAL

Centre Brass

Commencement Speaker

Christie B. Tillapaugh
President and CEO, Dentons, Cohen & Grigsby



Christie B. Tillapaugh is the President and CEO of Dentons Cohen & Grigsby. She is a Shareholder and serves as Chair of the Dentons Cohen & Grigsby Nonprofit and Tax-Exempt Organizations Group and is a member of the Dentons United States Regional Management Committee and Board of Directors.

Tillapaugh has more than twenty years of experience serving as outside general counsel and providing corporate governance and strategic transaction-related counseling for numerous organizations, including both tax-exempt and for-profit companies. She is recognized as a leading corporate lawyer in the region's nonprofit sector, having worked on many transformative projects and transactions. Christie has represented a wide array of nonprofit

organizations, including those that are community based, cultural and arts based, and private foundations. In addition to being a trusted advisor to clients, Tillapaugh has played an instrumental role in some of the Firm's most consequential business decisions, serving on various management committees, including the Compensation Committee and Oversight and Executive Committee. She previously spearheaded the Firm's Associates Committee, chaired both the Talent Management and Recruiting and Hiring Committees, and previously served on the Shareholders Council and the Diversity and Inclusion Planning Committee.

Tillapaugh regularly provides guidance to senior management and boards of directors on a variety of corporate, transactional and corporate governance-related issues. She has counseled public, private and nonprofit clients in a number of transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, divestitures, reorganizations, and strategic collaborations and partnerships. Her knowledge of the nonprofit industry, combined with her deal experience, allows her to assist clients when making decisions and structuring a broad range of strategic combinations to achieve their mission. She regularly assists clients when evaluating potential strategic partners and negotiating and seeking attorneys' general approval on behalf of her clients. Tillapaugh also regularly assists her clients with governance-related considerations, both in the context of a potential deal, and in the ordinary course. Her historical experience working with public companies, institutional lenders and corporate borrowers, coupled with her familiarity of compliance and regulatory matters, gives her a unique advantage in advising clients in all aspects of their transactional strategies and needs.

Prior to joining Dentons Cohen & Grigsby, Tillapaugh served as in-house counsel at Tollgrade Communications, Inc., a telecommunications company then-listed with NASDAQ, from 2006-2008. She began her legal career as an associate in the corporate and securities group at Reed Smith in Pittsburgh from 2002-2006.

Tillapaugh is a 2002 graduate of Penn State Dickinson Law.

Master of Laws

Nurshat Aitmukhambet

Mohammad Rafsanjani Akbar

Damir Akhrorov

Ali Mohammed Zamil Al Sultan

Ahmad Abdulrahman S. Alatram

Maisa Mustafa N. Alawfi

Abrar Ali A. Aldarwish

Ibrahim Khalid I. Aldossari

Salem Salah B. Alharbi

Abdulrahman Saleh A. Alkuraydis

Abdullah Waleed A. Almubayrik

Abdulkarim Aoad S. Alotaibi

Sultan Salem A. Alqahtani

Sahal Mohammed S. Alguhrah

Ismaile Khalaf S. Alzahrani

Arystan Amangeldi

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Sofia Culma Cifuentes

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Aakansha Apurvakumar Dave

Maria Alejandra Diaz Moreno

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Dzigbordi Lorlormavor Dzakpa

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Bunyodjon Esonaliev

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Aman Rizwan Kadri Javlonbek Omonboev

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Tzu Lun Kuo Haina Pan

Mengyang Li July Vanessa Patino Perfetti

Yu Liang Diana Maria Pineda Escandon

Jung Lin Latofat Rajabova

Wenyue Lin Elyorbek Rakhmatillaev

Dan Liu Tolib Rakhmonov

Xinyun Liu Muhammad Ryan Ghafari Ramadhan

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Hatef Mirabbasvand Avazbek Sayfiddinov

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David Mosquera Marin Nurmukhammad Soyibnazarov



Morgan Elmore

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Prizes, Awards, and Honors

The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Eric D. Turner Award

Given by the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Academy to the third-year student who best exemplifies the positive attributes of a matrimonial lawyer.

Tavia A. Vitkauskas

The American Law Institute **Continuing Legal Education Scholastic** and Leadership Award

Given to the third-year student who best represents a combination of scholarship and leadership.

Gurtej Singh Grewal

The National Association of Women Lawyers Outstanding **Law Student Award**

Given by the National Association of Women Lawyers for academic achievement and advancement of women in the legal profession.

Staci Melissa Minott

The International Academy of Trial **Lawyers Student Advocacy Award**

Awarded to the graduating student who demonstrates outstanding ability in trial advocacy.

Chloe M. Saine

The Penn State Dickinson **Law Writing Prize**

Awarded to the graduating student author of the best comment selected for publication in the Penn State Law Review.

Katie Jean

The Penn State Dickinson Law Pro **Bono Publico Service Award**

Awarded to the graduating student who has demonstrated good character, sound academic performance, highest ethical standards, fidelity to the highest goals of the profession, and commitment to human service.

Eboni Barbour

The Penn State Dickinson Law **Diversity Award**

Awarded to the student who has best exemplified Penn State Law's commitment to promoting a diverse and inclusive learning community.

Oluwafunmi Atinuke Lawal

The Penn State Dickinson Law **Leadership Award**

Awarded to the graduating student for outstanding leadership as a member of the Student Bar Association or other law HONORARY SOCIETIES school student organization.

Samuel Allcorn

The Dickinson Law Vision and Leadership Award

Recognizes students who advance the vision of the Dean, engage current and prospective students in the life and culture of Penn State Dickinson Law, foster a sense of community and support, and contribute to the learning and growth of students in and out of the classroom.

Temidoyin Olusa

The Pennsylvania Bar Association **Business Section Louis Del Duca Award**

Honors a graduating student who demonstrates academic excellence, especially in courses related to business law, and intends to practice law in Pennsylvania. The award also recognizes students who have been published in business law or have participated in business law-related seminars or conferences.

Liam Reilly

The Student Bar Association 1L **Mock Trial Competition Award**

Given for the highest score from the judges in the First-Year Class Competition.

> Liam Reilly Tavia A. Vitkauskas

Overall Best Advocate

Tavia A. Vitkauskas

Penn State Law Teaching Awards

J.D. TEACHING AWARD Selected by the Class of 2025

> John E. Lopatka, A. Robert Noll Distinguished Professor of Law

HONOREES

Jill C. Engle Michael Foreman Marie T. Reilly

LL.M. TEACHING AWARD Selected by the Class of 2025

> Jud Mathews, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Professor of Law

HONOREES

Ylli Dautaj Samuel C. Thompson Jr. Hannah Wiseman

ORDER OF THE COIF

Arthur Ashley Benne Ashlyn Taylor Browning Augusto Sergio de Paula Ferreira Jeffrey John Bertron Dixon Noah David Eastman Colin L. Hitt Katie Jean Katherine Owens Olivia Deveda Painchaud Noah Christopher Pollio Abigail Marie Roos Kenson B. Skinner Sean Michael Speers Tavia A. Vitkauskas Drew W. Weglarz

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ORDER OF BARRISTERS

Membership in the Order of Barristers, a national honorary organization, is conferred upon students who have exhibited excellence in the art of courtroom advocacy.

> Jackson Ellis Colin L. Hitt Kristin Hommel Jillian Kerr Staci Melissa Minott Terrance J. Parham Alexander Senft Veronica Lee Woodard

HONORARY BARRISTER: Ylli Dautai

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COACHES

Competition

Jasmine Coleman Gunning, National Immigration Law Competition

Staci Melissa Minott, National Immigration Law Competition

Colin L. Hitt, ABA National Appellate Advocacy

Veronica Lee Woodard, ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition

Amina Sabiha Jaleel, Mardi Gras Moot Court Competition-Sports Law

Alexander Senft, Mardi Gras Moot Court Competition-Sports Law

ADVOCATES

Angela Marie Cisneros, Phillip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition Team

Nicole A. Rincon, Phillip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition

Kristen Hommel, National Immigration Law Competition

Staci Melissa Minott, The National Black Law Students Association's Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition

Ama Owusuaa Ackom Yarboi, The National Black Law Students Association's Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition

Amina Sabiha Jaleel, Cardozo BMI Entertainment and Media Law Moot Court Competition

Alexander Senft, Cardozo BMI Entertainment and Media Law Moot Court Competition Team

Skylar Hewerdine, ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition

Sean Michael Speers, ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition

Veronica Lee Woodard, John J. Gibbons Criminal Procedure Moot Court Competition

Colin L. Hitt, John J. Gibbons Criminal Procedure Moot Court Competition

WILLEM C. VIS INTERNATIONAL MOOT TEAM

COACHES

Samuel Allcorn Gurtej Singh Grewal Hannah Mae Shorkey

Damilola Bayo Sebiotimo Lauren Breuer Raksmei Dara Wanvi Fu Joshua Burgess Narey

TRIAL COMPETITION TEAMS

NATIONAL TRIAL COMPETITION HOSTED BY THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF TRIAL LAWYERS

Tyler Thomas Chloe M. Saine

ACADEMY OF TRIAL LAWYERS MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

Gurtej Singh Grewal

CASE CLASSIC MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

Chloe M. Saine

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Jillian Kerr, Chancellor

Alexander Senft. Vice Chancellor

Chase Valerie Sprink, Vice Chancellor of Treasury

Ryan Patrick Millea, Vice Chancellor of Coordination

Nicole A. Rincon, Vice Chancellor of Coordination

Pretima Persaud, Negotiator

James Thomas Judd, Negotiator

Erika N. Uebelhor, Negotiator

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CHIEF JUSTICE Madison M. Soriano

THIRD-YEAR JUSTICE Katherine C. Jennings

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LL.M. JUSTICES Seckin Kaya Aidana Yessenova

Faculty

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Mandee B. Baumer, Associate Professor of Legal Writing

Nicole Chong, Associate Dean and Professor of Legal Writing

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Kit Kinports, Distinguished Professor of Law Emerita

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Jonathan Wallace, Library Acquisitions Assistant

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Samantha A.K. Brummert, *Interim Co-Director and Marketing Strategy Specialist*

Andrew Gabriel, Interim Co-Director and Multimedia Specialist

Matthew Brunetti, Multimedia Specialist

Cameron Hazel, Marketing and Communications Coordinator



The publication is available in alternative media on request.

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