



UNIVERSITY OF
DETROIT MERCY

SCHOOL OF LAW

COMMENCEMENT

———— 2026 ————



WELCOME

UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY
SCHOOL OF LAW

COMMENCEMENT 2026

Friday, May 8
2:00 p.m.

Calihan Hall
University of Detroit Mercy
4001 West McNichols Road
Detroit, Michigan

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

BAGPIPER

MACE-BEARER

GRAND MARSHAL

**PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE
SCHOOL OF LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF JURIS DOCTOR

**CANDIDATES FOR THE CANADIAN AND AMERICAN
DEGREES OF JURIS DOCTOR**

FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHOOL OF LAW

DEANS OF THE UNIVERSITY

VICE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF LAW

**PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
OF THE UNIVERSITY**

PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

During the graduation ceremony, guests seated on the main floor may not stand in the aisles or in front of the stage to photograph graduates. Please silence all electronic devices during the ceremony.

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

PROCESSIONAL

SALUTATION

Karen McDonald Henning, J.D.
 Grand Marshal
 Associate Dean, Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of Law

WELCOME

Pamela Zarkowski, J.D., M.P.H.
 Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs of the University

INVOCATION

Rev. Charles O. Oduke, Ph.D.
 Vice President for Mission Integration

O CANADA

Clare M. Sawicki '17

*O Canada!
 Our home and native land!
 True patriot love in all of us command.
 With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
 The True North strong and free!
 From far and wide,
 O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
 God keep our land glorious and free!
 O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
 O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.*

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

Clare M. Sawicki '17

*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 through 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 through 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?*

DEAN'S REMARKS

Nicholas J. Schroeck, J.D.
 Dean and Professor of Law

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Donald B. Taylor, Ph.D.
President of the University

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Justice Brian K. Zahra '87
Michigan Supreme Court

PRESENTATION OF JURIS DOCTOR DEGREES

Nicholas J. Schroeck, J.D.

CONFERRING OF JURIS DOCTOR DEGREES

Donald B. Taylor, Ph.D.

PRESENTATION OF VIVERE EX MISSIONE AWARD

Donald B. Taylor, Ph.D.

PRAYER INSPIRED BY ST. THOMAS MORE

Megan L. Fleming '26

Lord, grant that I may be able in argument,
accurate in analysis,
strict in study,
candid with clients,
and honest with adversaries.

Sit with me at my desk,
and listen with me to my client's complaints,
read with me in my library,
and stand beside me in court,
so that today I shall not,
in order to win a point,
lose my soul.

ST. THOMAS MORE, CHANCELLOR OF ENGLAND, 1478-1535

GRADUATES' REMARKS

Gabriella Vizzaccaro '26
Philip A. Power '26

SCHOOL OF LAW ALUMNUS REMARKS

Kristin E. Fernandez '19
President of the Alumni Association

RECESSIONAL

Please remain seated until the graduates and academic procession
leave Calihan Hall.

JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE CANDIDATES

Zaineb-Stalene Abbas-Hanene
 Al-Dhalimi* *Cum Laude*
 Claire Julia Alexander
 Ali Fadhel Al-Jebori
 Jasmine Grace Alkatib *Cum Laude*
 Zahra Haider Almosawi**
 Haneen Hassan Alnashi *Cum Laude*
 Gabriella Amponsah
 Angela Arabo *Cum Laude*
 Andrea Berry *Cum Laude*
 Joseph M. Berry *Magna Cum Laude*
 Haley Rae Bielawski *Cum Laude*
 Sydney Danielle Blanchard *Magna Cum Laude*
 Zoe Lynn Blanchard
 Hannah Jean Bloomfield *Magna Cum Laude*
 Lena C. Bobo *Cum Laude*
 Natalia Madison Bordeau
 Isabella Nicole Bouma *Magna Cum Laude*
 Margaret Patricia Brennan *Cum Laude*
 Kyra Imon Brooks
 Zachary Alan Brown
 Brendan Burg *Cum Laude*
 Kyle William Campagna *Cum Laude*
 Sage Lee Caperton
 Madina B. Chaaban
 Emily Marie Coleman *Cum Laude*
 Evalena Brittany Coleman
 Tori Leigh Conklin
 Julia Solveig Cooke *Summa Cum Laude*
 Emily Hunter Coric *Cum Laude*
 Molly J. Crimi *Magna Cum Laude*
 Regina J. Crump
 Ebony Daniels
 Kyle Philip Darancou
 Kennedy Constance DeFrancesco
 Olivia Nicole Densteadt *Magna Cum Laude*
 George Dinaj
 Joseph Dinaj *Cum Laude*
 Lily Jane Dobat
 Benjamin Michael Dolenga *Cum Laude*
 Madison Drake *Cum Laude*
 Michael Charles Drouillard
 Noah Sutherland Duncan *Cum Laude*
 Jacqueline L. Eifler *Magna Cum Laude*
 Mariam Ali Faraj *Cum Laude*
 Alexis K. Farmer *Magna Cum Laude*
 Diego John Anthony Fernandez
 Flavius Filip *Cum Laude*
 Jon Paul Gorinski
 Nathan S. Grewe *Magna Cum Laude*
 Andrew Gronda *Magna Cum Laude*
 Khloe Rita Hamama* *Cum Laude*
 Ali Hussein Hamid
 Nabil Mohamad Hamka*
 Megan Marie Hanoush
 Christopher P. Huetteman
 James W. Huffman II *Magna Cum Laude*
 Megan Grace Humphries
 McKenna Saige Iodice *Magna Cum Laude*
 Ayah Isa**
 Bianca Ivezaj *Cum Laude*
 Alexa Jones
 Bryauna E. Jones *Magna Cum Laude*
 Jillian Mackenzie Jones *Cum Laude*
 Liljanna Juncaj
 Simon S. Kalla*
 Ryan Christopher Kargula* *Magna Cum Laude*
 Brandon M. Karl
 Ashley Lynn Kasper *Cum Laude*
 Jade Hanna Kassab *Magna Cum Laude*
 Heather Rachel Keery *Magna Cum Laude*
 Alexandra Marie Kejbou*
 Erin Lee Knight
 Alexis Vlada Krichevsky *Cum Laude*
 Diana Lazar *Cum Laude*
 Michelle Lebbos
 Diana Leybin
 Isabella Catherine Luke *Cum Laude*
 Michael Ryan Lumley-Orchard *Cum Laude*
 Madeline Sophia Luther**
 Andrew Jeffrey Majchrzak *Magna Cum Laude*
 Nour Mansour *Cum Laude*
 Haley Myles Marion *Magna Cum Laude*
 Andrea Thaer Maroof *Magna Cum Laude*
 Madison Maye Martin
 Ali H. Mashhour
 Elise Boulos Mashni* *Cum Laude*
 Hannah Marie McDonald *Magna Cum Laude*
 Mariam A. Mcheik
 Shannon Colette McKenna *Magna Cum Laude*
 Sarah Elizabeth Meyrer *Summa Cum Laude*
 Harriet A. Moore *Cum Laude*
 Samantha Nicole Morgan
 Farah Bilal Nasrallah
 Ali Sawm Nazjoo *Cum Laude*
 Myrna Nissan *Magna Cum Laude*
 Kiera Lyn Osborn
 Delana Rose Palmer *Magna Cum Laude*

Angelina Palushaj**
 Bailey Mckenna Pattinson *Magna Cum Laude*
 Jasmyn T. Pearson
 Eleanor FitzGerald Pennington
 Malena Rahal
 Zachary Richardson *Cum Laude*
 Jacob D. Roberts *Summa Cum Laude*
 Heather Brooke Rooney *Magna Cum Laude*
 John C. Rubin*
 Elizabeth Rose Rusanchin *Magna Cum Laude*
 Joseph M. Saad
 Suephia Saam *Cum Laude*
 Nachaat Samer Salami* *Cum Laude*
 Mariah Sammons
 Paul R. Scalici
 Abigail Patricia Schaefer *Magna Cum Laude*
 Manuel R. Shammami *Magna Cum Laude*
 Veronica Lee Shaykhet* *Summa Cum Laude*
 Nicholas Sierawski
 Gregory Scott Simmons* *Cum Laude*
 Jason B. Singer *Cum Laude*
 Tia Faith-ann Smith
 Sabrina Ann Soka* *Magna Cum Laude*
 Jane Marie Stinson
 Amy Gore Surdu
 Jacob Morelli Szerlag *Cum Laude*
 Danajha J. Tate
 Rebecca Elizabeth Tazzia *Magna Cum Laude*
 Jenel Thomas
 Joy LaVerne Thomas
 Julian Tinaj**
 Lillianna K. Trinity *Magna Cum Laude*
 Robbe Van Hoyweghen *Cum Laude*
 Osvaldo Vega Hernandez *Cum Laude*
 Gabriella Vizzaccaro *Summa Cum Laude*
 Jalyn Marie Volkmer
 Briana Marie Walker
 Jedidiah Liam Weinstein *Magna Cum Laude*
 Aishja Tishae Williams
 Allura Marqui' Williams
 Andre Malik Williams *Magna Cum Laude*
 Ian Christopher Wilson *Cum Laude*
 Tyler David Winowiecki *Magna Cum Laude*
 Emma Noelle Wood**
 Nigel Kinte Wright, Jr.
 Jessica Ann Zelasko *Magna Cum Laude*
 Tianjia Zhou *Cum Laude*
 George Kazwan Zora

DUAL UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT
 MERCY JURIS DOCTOR/UNIVERSITY
 OF WINDSOR JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE
 CANDIDATES

Rubayeat Amin
 Erin Jayne Bespaly
 Naceben Binjamin
 Imisioluwa Afonne Biodun-Adefarasin
 Mario Christian Bottoni *Magna Cum Laude*
 Helen Claire Breen
 Tori Chenier *Cum Laude*
 Athena Lee Choo-Ket-Loung-Murray
 Paige Donaldson
 Muskan Fatima *Cum Laude*
 Isabella Joan Filary
 Megan Lorraine Fleming
 Harleen Jessica Kaur Gill
 Redmond Fleming Baran Gole *Cum Laude*
 Cara Hansen *Cum Laude*
 Raneem Hawari *Cum Laude*
 Tianding He *Magna Cum Laude*
 Sarah Hingun
 Peter Joel Charles Hooper
 Rachel Ai Li How Tein Fat *Cum Laude*
 Stefanija Ilievska *Cum Laude*
 Lindon Ivezic *Cum Laude*
 Jenoshan Jeyakanesan *Cum Laude*
 Charbel Karam
 Kathryn Jane Kinsman *Magna Cum Laude*
 Amanda Gail Krantz
 Manvi Kumar *Cum Laude*
 Maple Kumar
 Harjot Kaur Ladher
 Mitchell David LaDouceur *Cum Laude*
 Junyang Lyu *Cum Laude*
 Chloe Jacklyn Mastronardi *Cum Laude*
 Erin Marie Menzies *Cum Laude*
 Jackson James Moore *Cum Laude*
 Romina Mousavi
 Jihan Nadim
 Nikhita Nandeeshia *Cum Laude*
 Evan Andrew Nitchov
 Glorious Chinedu Okpali
 Blake Elliott Parker *Cum Laude*
 Janvi Suresh Patel
 Teresa Jolan Plane
 Philip Anthony Power *Cum Laude*

Nicholas Mario Priolo
 Carlos Manuel Rodriguez Larrain Herrera
 Olivia Bianca Rondeau *Cum Laude*
 Ambika Selvarajah *Cum Laude*
 Jordan Morris Shear *Cum Laude*
 Justin Singh
 Aradhya Srivastava
 Anastasia Stathakis
 Salman Tariq *Cum Laude*
 Kirsten Mary Tighe *Cum Laude*
 Karen Tiwana *Cum Laude*
 Shelisa Rosanne Timika Ward

Kaden Wisniowski *Cum Laude*
 Anthony Youssef
 Rosanna Zitoli *Cum Laude*
 Rebecca Brooke Zuker *Cum Laude*

* December 2025 Graduates

** July 2026 Graduates

THANK YOU

We acknowledge the following people for their musical contributions to the 2026 commencement ceremony:

Bagpiper

Terrence J. Bradley

Vocalist

Clare M. Sawicki '17

Special thank you to the 2026 commencement committee, participants, and volunteers.



The listing of graduates, degrees, and honors in the program is preliminary in some cases and is subject to final certification of graduation. The posting of the earned degree and honors on the permanent transcript record in the Office of the University Registrar is the official testimony of the possession of the degree.

The University of Detroit Mercy is committed to the concept of equal opportunity and fair treatment for all persons in the University community. In carrying out this policy, the University will take affirmative action to achieve equal access and enhance opportunity for all individuals regardless of age, sex, race, color, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry, handicap, military service, height, weight, marital status, or political belief. This policy is relevant to all aspects of the University including all recognized organizations, choice of contractors, and suppliers of goods and services. The University is further bound by applicable city, state, and federal laws and orders which provide the essential regulatory tools needed to back up its moral commitment to eliminate discrimination.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



JUSTICE BRIAN K. ZAHRA '87 **MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT**

Justice Brian K. Zahra was appointed to the Michigan Supreme Court on January 14, 2011. The people of Michigan subsequently elected him in November 2012 to a partial term and then re-elected to eight-years terms in 2014 and 2022.

Justice Zahra received his undergraduate degree in 1984 from Wayne State University. To finance his education, he opened and operated a small health and personal care retail store in downtown Detroit. In 1987, he graduated with honors from the University of Detroit School of Law, where he served as a member of the Law Review and as Articles Editor of the State Bar of Michigan's Corporation and Finance Business Law Journal. Upon graduation, he served as a law clerk to Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan before joining and eventually becoming a partner at the law firm of Dickinson Wright. In 1994, Governor John Engler appointed him to the Wayne County Circuit Court where, in 1996, he was elected to a six-year term. In December of 1998, he was appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals by Governor Engler. He was elected to six-year terms in 2000 and 2006.

Justice Zahra served on the Michigan Board of Law Examiners, which drafts and grades the examination that law school graduates must pass to become licensed attorneys. In 2021, Justice Zahra was appointed chair of the Justice for All Commission, which is a diverse group of state leaders charged with developing innovative solutions to close gaps in the civil justice system. He also serves as the Supreme Court's liaison to Michigan Business Courts.

Justice Zahra is a Distinguished Fellow at Hillsdale College and has taught as a Senior Fellow of Law and Public Policy at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He previously served as adjunct faculty at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law and the Michigan State University College of Law.

