



UNIVERSITY OF
DETROIT MERCY

SCHOOL OF LAW

COMMENCEMENT

———— 2024 ————



WELCOME

UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY
SCHOOL OF LAW

COMMENCEMENT 2024

Friday, May 10
2:00 p.m.

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

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

BAGPIPER

MACE-BEARER

GRAND MARSHAL

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**

**CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREES OF JURIS DOCTOR AND
MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHOOL OF LAW

PRESIDENT OF THE SCHOOL OF LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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

Cara Cunningham Warren, J.D.
Grand Marshal, 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

Jelani Jefferson Exum, J.D.
Dean and Philip J. McElroy Professor of Law

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

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

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

The Honorable Victoria A. Roberts
Retired Judge, United States District Court for the
Eastern District of Michigan

PRESENTATION OF JURIS DOCTOR DEGREES

Jelani Jefferson Exum, 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

Regan L. Glenn '24

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

GRADUATE'S REMARKS

Christin M. DewBerry '24

SCHOOL OF LAW ALUMNUS REMARKS

Kyle R. Dufrane '98
President of the Alumni Association

RECESSIONAL

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

JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE CANDIDATES

Angelina Abufarha
 Czarina Mc Kenzie Albanese
 Edwin Lee Almanza**
 Simon F. Alnajjar *Cum Laude*
 Rosanna Lynn Ameriguian *Cum Laude*
 Kyle Michael Attisha *Cum Laude*
 Anthony Babbie *Cum Laude*
 Troy Nicholas Backos *Magna Cum Laude*
 Malak Bazzi
 Taylor Nicole Bell*
 Caley Elizabeth Bennett *Cum Laude*
 Mohamad Kassem Beydoun*
 Alexa Cheyenne Brady*
 Dylan J. Bressler *Cum Laude*
 Erika Joann Brikho
 Miguel Nazar Brikho *Cum Laude*
 Sean Elliott Broderick* *Cum Laude*
 Alexis Shanel Brown
 Richard J. Caretti II
 Bianca Marie Cariera *Cum Laude*
 Skylar V. Carlson
 Nicholas John Carroll
 Joel S. Chackunkal
 Daniel Josiah Crane *Cum Laude*
 John Patrick Cronyn *Summa Cum Laude*
 Jimar W. Cunningham
 Gregory A. Dallas
 Micaela Shea Dalrymple *Cum Laude*
 Hannah Shukri David
 Christin Mary DewBerry
 Manraj Dhaliwal
 Elizabeth Ann Dierker**
 Olivia Ryan Dillaha *Cum Laude*
 Jenna N. Elder
 Sarah Elsayed*
 Medina Elzayat
 Barbara Fama
 Brenden William Forster
 Evelyn Yadira Galván *Magna Cum Laude*
 Amanda Marie Gardner *Cum Laude*
 Andrew Edward Ghannam
 Lauren Elizabeth Giese *Magna Cum Laude*
 Regan Lexi Glenn *Magna Cum Laude*
 Alaa N. Hage
 Adam S. Hamid
 Hassan A. Harp *Cum Laude*
 Tiffany J. Harvey
 Briley Elizabeth Heritage *Cum Laude*
 Jasmyn Anise Hester *Cum Laude*
 Michelle Riley Hudson
 Janeen M. Ilayan
 Sydney Marie Jackson *Cum Laude*
 Brendan J. Kennedy *Cum Laude*
 Katherine Renate Kobiljak *Cum Laude*
 Cara Lynn Koeske
 Michael Richard Koester *Magna Cum Laude*
 Reta Bashir Kouzy *Magna Cum Laude*
 Theodore John Kulfan, Jr.
 Ryan M. Lanxton *Cum Laude*
 Kevin McMahon Lynch *Magna Cum Laude*
 Hannah Maria Lynn
 Anthony Edward Marini
 Lyla Masri-Zada
 Casey Jane Mattson *Cum Laude*
 Sydney Leeah McCullough
 Olivia Mihajlovski
 Michael Joseph Mojica
 Yasmeen Moradshahi *Cum Laude*
 Teresa Georgia Naman *Cum Laude*
 Kristen Victoria Nelson *Cum Laude*
 Elizabeth Reed Nichols *Cum Laude*
 Davina Nikaj
 Allison R. Norton
 Ramey Orow*
 Aubrey Grace Ortel
 Kristen Marie Page *Cum Laude*
 Sapna Subodh Patel*
 Connor Fitzpatrick Pearson *Cum Laude*
 Lauren Amy Peters
 Claire Rae Petzel *Magna Cum Laude*
 Casandra Naomi Pitu *Magna Cum Laude*
 Marissa C. Pletcher *Cum Laude*
 Alexis Victoria Poeszat
 Savanna Marie Polimeni* *Magna Cum Laude*
 Zahra Ashraf Qazi
 Rita J. Rasho *Magna Cum Laude*
 Deloris L. Retland
 Nathan Allen Robbins *Cum Laude*
 Monica Sakura Roberts *Summa Cum Laude*
 Joseph Claude Romain *Cum Laude*
 Issam Imad Roufael
 Robert J. Ruiter
 Elizabeth Sarah Sahouri
 Christopher J. Saleh *Cum Laude*
 Alexander J. Schultz *Cum Laude*
 Lindsay Renee Schultz *Cum Laude*
 Eden Yousif Shikwana
 Brett M. Spencer *Magna Cum Laude*

Connor James Storck
 Shelby Olivia Struble *Magna Cum Laude*
 Rula M. Sulaiman
 Samantha E. Talieri *Magna Cum Laude*
 Kennedy Taylor*
 Jenia Raegan Thompson *Cum Laude*
 Tina T. Toma *Magna Cum Laude*
 Knar Veronica Topouzian *Cum Laude*
 Christin Simmons Trogan *Cum Laude*
 Alexia Xenia Vougiouklakis
 Max Waldman
 Kalil Antonio-James Walton
 Shea McKenna Ward *Cum Laude*
 Wynn Brayden Wasmer**
 Messiah A. A. Williams**
 Emily Marsden Wiltz *Cum Laude*
 Marissa Shea Woods
 Anastasia Symone-Elizabeth Worthy
 Robert A. Zink III
 Tara Lynn Zrepskey *Magna Cum Laude*

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

Tamara Al-Baltaji *Cum Laude*
 Merissa Asrula *Cum Laude*
 Nicolas W. Auger
 Peter Baklarian *Cum Laude*
 RupaLavanya Bandi *Cum Laude*
 Kevin Bejoy
 Andrew Laurence Belford *Cum Laude*
 Simran Bhimani
 Anastasia Branopolski
 Guy Brenner *Cum Laude*
 Alexandra Brown
 Suzanah Leah Buchanan
 Grace Anne Carubba *Cum Laude*
 Joel Alexander Chillman *Magna Cum Laude*
 Sofia Raquel Colley Aquino *Cum Laude*
 Cassandra Maria De Marco
 Jessica Victoria DeForest
 Manpreet Dhaliwal
 Erika DiLoreto *Cum Laude*
 Alexis Mercedes Dipasquale-Qaqish
 Kandace Renée Andrea Forbes
 Janson Fu *Magna Cum Laude*

Matthew Robert Furgele *Summa Cum Laude*
 Daniel Pires Gallé *Cum Laude*
 Solomiya Galypchak
 Jacqueline Ashley Gelfenbein *Cum Laude*
 Victoria Anne Giuliani
 Angela Lilian Gray *Cum Laude*
 Alyssa Page Grondin
 Naseer Haidery
 Blake Reuben George Hambly
 Savaughn Nicole Hamilton
 Riley James Hanson *Cum Laude*
 Julia Madolin Harnadek *Cum Laude*
 Mikaela Heck
 Kimia Heidary
 Malaika Hussaini
 Joshua Iacobelli *Magna Cum Laude*
 Alexandra Zemin Ing *Magna Cum Laude*
 Simran Singh Jabbal
 Mika Gabriella Karlin
 Liza Kazimi
 So Yeon Kim
 Craig Kanthadong Kindree-Gross *Cum Laude*
 Jatin Kumar *Cum Laude*
 Matthew Robert Lippa *Magna Cum Laude*
 Morgan Kennedy Little
 Emily Yuen Ying Lum
 Neil Matias Maatta *Magna Cum Laude*
 Ariana Gabrielle Mayer *Magna Cum Laude*
 Jensen Stephen Porter McCauley
 Madeleine Isabel McNamara *Cum Laude*
 Alicia Maria Mishchenko
 Ayan Salim Momin
 Kyra Marie Nielsen *Cum Laude*
 Khadija Omar
 Athanasia Thalia Petsis
 Julia Pillitteri
 Ashiana Raja *Cum Laude*
 Anmol Kaur Rana
 Nivedita Sandeep Singh Saini
 Naime Fadi Sayde
 Erica Marie Scarpelli *Cum Laude*
 Morgan Ashley Schoenith
 Alexander Raymond Schram
 Fatemeh Sharifi Alyayi
 Renato Joseph Sordi
 Jeffrey Matthew Lyle Starr
 Christina Shaw Sutrov *Magna Cum Laude*
 Malak Tehaili
 Thomas Trudell *Cum Laude*

Caroline Cecilia Ward
 Colleen Antoinette Williams *Cum Laude*
 Elizabeth Ka-Cin Yan *Cum Laude*
 Sepehr Yousef Pour *Cum Laude*
 Daniel Kenneth Zytner

JOINT UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT
 MERCY JURIS DOCTOR/MASTER OF
 BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DEGREE
 CANDIDATES

Sammie Nicholas Borden-Sanford
 Andrew Michael Foley
 Matthew T. Toma
 Joseph David DeMartini Williams

* December 2023 Graduates

** July 2024 Graduates

THANK YOU

We acknowledge the following people for their musical contributions to the 2024 commencement ceremony:

Bagpiper

Bruce Burt

Vocalist

Clare M. Sawicki '17

Special thank you to the 2024 commencement committee, participants, and volunteers.



The listing of graduates and degrees in the program is preliminary in some cases and is subject to final certification of graduation. The posting of the earned degree 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



THE HONORABLE VICTORIA A. ROBERTS RETIRED JUDGE, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

Retired Judge Victoria Roberts, a Past President of the State Bar of Michigan, served as a federal district court judge in the Eastern District of Michigan for 25 years before she retired on September 1, 2023. She is recognized as an international teacher and lecturer on behalf of the Federal Judicial Center, the State Department and the Department of Justice.

On the Court, she proposed and implemented the operation of a *Pro Se* Legal Assistance Clinic in conjunction with Detroit Mercy Law. It is housed in the Theodore Levin U.S. Courthouse. She also submitted a proposal to the bench to launch an Early Mediation Program for *Pro Se* Prisoner Civil Rights Cases. With nearly 50 volunteer mediators, the program launched June 2018.

Judge Roberts is the recipient of numerous awards, including the two highest conferred by the State Bar of Michigan. Judge Roberts received an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Northeastern University. She was named Michigan Lawyers Weekly “Woman of the Year” in 2013 and received the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association Foundation Dennis W. Archer Public Service Award in 2012. In 1997, she was named one of the Lawyers of the Year by Michigan Lawyers Weekly. In 2023, the ACLU of Michigan honored her for her legacy of mentorship and service on the bench. Also in 2023, the American Board of Trial Advocates bestowed on her its Lifetime Judicial Achievement Award. In 2024, The Michigan Chronicle honored her as one of its Women of Excellence.

On the bench, Judge Roberts served on various committees and was a chief mediator in the City of Detroit Bankruptcy case.

She has served on the boards of several organizations, including Big Brothers Big Sisters; the Fair Housing Center of Metropolitan Detroit; St. Leo’s Soup Kitchen; and the State Bar of Michigan Foundation. Under the auspices of the Wolverine Bar Association, which offers a scholarship in her name, Judge Roberts engineered two programs designed to increase minority representation in the legal profession.

Judge Roberts received her Juris Doctor in 1976 from Northeastern University School of Law. Her undergraduate degree, in journalism and sociology, is from the University of Michigan. She practiced law for 22 years before joining the bench. In December 2023, Judge Roberts joined JAMS as a neutral mediator and arbitrator.

