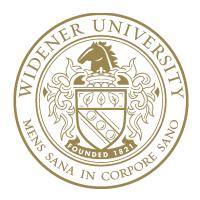
COMMENCEMENT



Widener University Delaware Law School

May 17, 2024

ACADEMIC DRESS

The history of academic dress begins in the early days of the oldest universities. A statute of 1321 required all "Doctors, Licentiates, and Bachelors" of the Portuguese University of Coimbra to wear gowns. In England during the second half of the 14th century, the statutes of certain colleges forbade "excess apparel" and prescribed the wearing of a long gown. It is still a question whether academic dress finds its sources chiefly in ecclesiastical or in civilian dress. Gowns may have been considered necessary for warmth in the unheated buildings used by medieval scholars. Hoods may have served to cover the tonsured head until superseded for that purpose by the skull cap. The cap was later displaced by a headdress similar to ones now recognized as "academic." European institutions continue to show great diversity in their specifications of academic dress.

In the United States, the practice of wearing academic apparel dates back to colonial times, but there was no uniform standard of approved attire until 1895 when a commission of leading American educators devised a code of academic dress. Although modified in 1932 by the American Council on Education, this code continues to govern the style of academic dress today.

GOWNS The gown for the bachelor's degree has pointed sleeves and is worn closed. The gown for the master's degree has an oblong sleeve, open at the wrist, with the sleeve base hanging down in the traditional manner. The rear part of the sleeve's oblong shape is square cut and the front part has an arc cut away. It may be worn open or closed. The gown for the doctor's degree has bell-shaped sleeves and may be worn open or closed. Bachelor's and master's gowns have no trimmings, but the doctor's may be faced on the front with black or colored velvet and with three bars of the same across the sleeves. If color is used, it is the color distinctive of the subject to which the degree pertains, and it matches the edging or binding of the hood. The colors associated with the different disciplines include the following:

Medicine—Green Arts, Letters, Humanities—White Commerce, Accountancy, Music—Pink Business—Drab Brown Nursing—Apricot Philosophy and Psychology—Dark Blue Economics—Copper Education—Light Blue Physical Education—Sage Green Engineering—Orange Public Administration—Peacock Blue Fine Arts—Brown Public Health—Salmon Pink Journalism—Crimson Science—Golden Yellow Law—Purple Social Work—Citron Library Science—Lemon Theology—Scarlet

HOODS Hoods are lined with the official color or colors of the college or university conferring the degree. The binding or edging of the hood is the color indicative of the subject to which the degree pertains.

CAPS Mortarboards are generally worn as part of the academic costume. The long tassel fastened to the middle point of the cap's top is either black or the color appropriate to the subject, except that the doctor's cap may have its tassel of gold threads. It is customary for degree candidates to wear the tassels on the right front side before degrees are conferred and to shift them to the left when the degrees are awarded.

THE MACE A ceremonial staff carried by the Grand Marshal of the University to open and close academic convocations.

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Processional: "Pomp and Circumstance"

Introduction of the Commencement Speaker

Response

Elgar

(The audience will remain seated for the Processional but rise for the singing of the National Anthem.)

Opening of the Ceremony

Todd J. Clark Dean & Professor of Law

The National Anthem Professor James R. May

Welcome Stacey M. Robertson, Ph.D. President, Widener University

Alumni Association Welcome

Renae B. Axelrod Hammer, Esquire '91

President, Alumni Association

Benjamin Wayne Byerly

Class Valedictorian

Christopher A. Coons United States Senator for the State of Delaware

(Introduced by Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Paul S. Beideman)

Commencement Address Senator Coons

Outstanding Faculty Award Dean Clark

Remarks Dean Clark

The Conferring of Degrees*

President Robertson

Closing Dean Clark

(The audience will remain seated until the Recessional is completed.)

Faculty Marshals are Associate Dean Alice E. Eakin and Professor Serena M. Williams

*Since final action cannot always be taken before the printing of this program, Widener University reserves the right to add or remove names and academic honors from the list of candidates for degrees.

Restrooms on the Delaware Campus are located in Polishook Hall.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

CHRISTOPHER A. COONS United States Senator for the State of Delaware

Chris Coons was elected to the United States Senate in 2010 following terms as New Castle County Council President and New Castle County Executive. In the Senate, he sits on the Appropriations, Judiciary, Foreign Relations, Small Business and Entrepreneurship, and Ethics Committees.

Before entering government, Chris worked as an attorney for W.L. Gore & Associates, an advanced materials manufacturer in Delaware. As a law student, Chris founded the Delaware chapter of the national "I Have a Dream" Foundation, which helps low-income students make the academic journey from elementary school through college. Shortly after receiving his law degree and clerking on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, Chris began working at the organization's national office, where he launched and ran its AmeriCorps program in fifteen cities.

Chris graduated from Amherst College with a B.A. in chemistry and political science, and earned a law degree from Yale Law School and a Master's in Ethics from Yale Divinity School. A long-time New Castle County resident, Chris lives in Wilmington with his wife, Annie, and their three children, Michael, Jack, and Maggie.

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Christopher Zubrzycki

Summa Cum Laude
 Magna Cum Laude
 Cum Laude
 Wolcott Fellow (see pg 8)
 Pro Bono Distinction (see pg 8)
 Hid-year Graduate

WOLCOTT FELLOWS

Wolcott Fellows are appointed each spring for judicial clerkships which begin the following fall. They are chosen from the top students in their third and fourth year of study. Fellows receive academic credit and a scholarship to clerk for justices of the Delaware Supreme Court during the school year. Successful applicants demonstrate excellence in academic performance and possess substantial experience in research and writing.

PRO BONO, CLINIC & EXTERNSHIP RECOGNITION

Pro Bono Distinction: Delaware Law School recognizes those students who voluntarily provided at least 50 hours of free legal work for organizations serving those with limited means and groups that protect civil liberties or rights. Graduates receiving probono distinction wear a red cord to honor their service.

Clinics & Externships: Students who fostered access to justice through a law school clinic or externship with a public service agency or court are recognized for their service. Graduates who engaged in substantial service to the community through clinics or externships wear a red and silver cord to recognize and honor their service.

PHI KAPPA PHI

Widener University has a chapter of *Phi Kappa Phi*, the national honor society of universities. Founded in 1897, the society recognizes and encourages superior scholarship in all academic disciplines. To join, graduates must rank scholastically in the top ten percent of their class.

Graduates who are members of Phi Kappa Phi wear a gold cord to signify this honor.

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Christian Joseph Basso, 2023-2024 State & Local Law Society

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Sarah Mareka Kane, 2023-2024 *Youth Court*

AWARDS

Dean's Award Heather Marie Fithian

Awarded annually to a graduating student who, in the opinion of the dean of the law school, has demonstrated outstanding legal aptitude, exemplary service, significant leadership skills and the potential to become an outstanding member of the legal community.

Claritza L. Cruz Kamia Moiae McDaniels Nkemakunam L. Obata

Dean's Award for the Advancement of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Awarded annually to the graduating student who, in the opinion of the dean of the law school, has demonstrated outstanding legal aptitude, exemplary service, significant leadership skills and the potential to become an outstanding member of the legal community.

The Howard M. Berg Award Stephanie Louise Roseman

Awarded to an outstanding member of the graduating class whose scholarship, character, personality, activities in the affairs of the school and promise of efficacy in the practice of law deserves special recognition.

The William J. Conner Memorial Award for Administrative Law

Presented to the graduating student who demonstrates academic excellence especially in administrative law, and an interest in public service.

The Nicole Cullison Memorial Award

Eryn Lee Sco

This award was established in the memory of Nicole Cullison, a member of the Class of 2003, and is given to a graduating student on the basis of overall character and experience in Widener's clinics or other non-profit legal services agency. Preference is given to a graduating student who has demonstrated determination in completing his/her studies.

The Erin Daly First Generation Award

Awarded to a first-generation law student who demonstrates an outstanding commitment to service to his or her

The Honorable Joseph W. deFuria Commencement Award

Jordan White

Awarded to a graduating student who has demonstrated outstanding service to the law school, high academic achievement, and effectiveness in dealing with peers, faculty, administrators and the community in general.

Nicholas Giuseppe Borelli
The Judge J. Cullen Ganey Criminal Procedure Award

Awarded annually to the graduating law student(s) achieving the highest grades in the area of criminal law.

The Dr. Arnold V. Giusini Award

Awarded to a graduating student in the top 10% of the class, who is preparing to take the bar exam, and who has a sincere

interest in eventually pursuing a career in academia.

The Graham Foundation Award

John P. Kelly

Awarded annually to a graduating law school student whose demonstrated commitment to the Moot Court Honor Society and intellectual excellence deserves exceptional recognition above and beyond his/her peers.

The Reed Hamilton Memorial Award

Awarded to a graduating student who demonstrates excellence and a strong interest in the area of health law.

The Zelda K. Herrmann Memorial Cup Award

Awarded to a female graduate who has demonstrated excellence in scholarship, significant traits of leadership, and is deemed most likely to make a substantial contribution pro bono publico.

International Academy of Trial Lawyers Award

Awarded to a graduating student who demonstrates excellence in trial advocacy by high achievement in trial practice,

evidence, and pleading and procedure courses.

Alyssa Taylor Atkisson McKeever
Russell R. Levin Memorial Award

Heather Marie Fithian

Awarded annually to a Law Review member whose work, dedication, attitude and guidance have been of such a high quality and have so contributed to the advancement of the Delaware Journal of Corporate Law as to merit special recognition and honor.

Day: Benjamin Wayne Byerly

George B. Lindsay Foundation Award

Evening: Sarah A. Plasse Presented to a graduating regular division and a graduating extended division student for significant achievement in legal

The Thomas P. Lomax and Nicholas Theodore Memorial Award

Alexander W. Howard

Awarded to a student demonstrating extraordinary commitment to public service by performing the most pro bono work.

The Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association

James J. Manderino Award for Trial Advocacy

Alexandria Marie Bisch

Established in 1980 to encourage proficiency in trial advocacy, this award is given to a graduating student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in trial advocacy.

Moot Court Outstanding Executive Board Member

Livia Marie Billen

Awarded annually by the Moot Court Honor Society to an outstanding executive board member for distinguished service and contributions made to the Society.

Outstanding Faculty Award

(recipient to be announced during ceremony)

Presented to a member of the faculty who, in the opinion of the graduating class, deserves special recognition for exceptional teaching ability, the highest caliber of professionalism and extraordinary dedication to the students of Delaware Law School.

Outstanding Service Awards

Awarded to those students of the graduating class who have been actively involved in the Widener community above and beyond their peers and have been of outstanding service to the school.

Yanelle Minique Boayue Tarriya J. Carter Claritza L. Cruz **Heather Marie Fithian** Natalie Sarah Graber **Kiera Chanel Gwynn**

Aysha Michelle Hackett Sarah Mareka Kane John P. Kelly Giulia Leonardo Lino Lima Alyssa Taylor Atkisson McKeever Nkemakunam L. Obata

Ronald P. Oddo Lauren E. Preski A. Dalton Spitznogle Brianna Nicole Valentina Turner Jordan White

President's Award

Issaac Wilson Santiago (2023)

Awarded to a student in either the second-year regular division or third-year extended division who has demonstrated high scholastic achievement and who, in the opinion of the president of Widener University, possesses a high potential for meaningful future contributions to the law school, the community, and the profession.

The William Prickett Jr. Corporate Law Award

Nicholas Giuseppe Borelli

Awarded to a member of the graduating class planning to sit for the Delaware Bar Exam, for outstanding achievement in corporate law.

The Alexander V. Sarcione Jr. Memorial Award

Samuel J. Conrad

Awarded annually to the graduating law school students displaying the greatest aptitude for the area of criminal law.

The Dean Arthur A. Weeks Outstanding Service Award

Nkemakunam L. Obata

Awarded to a graduating student who, in the opinion of the Student Bar Association Executive Committee, has demonstrated outstanding and exemplary service, dedication and support to the Student Bar Association of the Widener University Delaware Law School.

The E. John Wherry Jr. Award

Alexandria Marie Bisch

Awarded to the graduating student who has demonstrated a commitment to public service practice, either criminal or civil, and who has best demonstrated a commitment to trial advocacy.

The William J. and Ella C. Wolf Award in Real Property Law

Brianna Nicole Valentina Turner

Awarded annually to a graduating extended division or regular division student who has demonstrated excellence in real property law or real estate development.

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DELAWARE JOURNAL OF CORPORATE LAW

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Faculty members wearing red cords have completed at least 30 hours of pro bono service during the current academic year. Pro bono service is uncompensated work that may include representing indigent clients, serving on public interest boards of directors, and participating in community education projects.

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SALEM COUNTY BRASS SOCIETY

The Salem County Brass Society is a non-profit musical organization dedicated to bringing quality brass music to the citizens of South Jersey, specifically Salem County. As a large ensemble, the Salem County Brass Society has existed since the spring of 1974.

Since then, the Brass Society has been playing regularly at many area churches and is in great demand, scheduling their performances several months in advance. In addition to playing in churches, the Brass Society plays for many civic and social functions during the year, including graduation ceremonies at Widener University Delaware Law School, Salem Community College, and is in great demand to play wedding ceremonies. The highlight of the playing year is the annual Spring Scholarship Concern, which began in 1976. The Spring Scholarship Concert features noted guest artists from around the region.

Each year the Brass Society presents a \$200 savings bond and certificate to an outstanding graduating brass player at each of the five Salem County high schools. In 1986, the Brass Society began awarding a \$1,000 scholarship to a Salem County music student entering college to study music in any discipline. That scholarship has grown to \$2,000 and will no doubt increase again in the future, as support for the scholarship fund continues.

The Brass Society makes no solicitation of funds for playing at regular morning worship services, but welcomes any donations to the organization to cover operating expenses. Fees are charged for civic programs, evening concerts, weddings and other special events.

The playing season for the Salem County Brass Society extends from September through June. Inquiries should be addressed to the Salem County Brass Society, c/o Scott West, 313 Lynn Avenue, Wenonah, NJ 08090, or by calling (856) 468-7134. We can also be reached by email at: SalemCountyBrassSociety@comcast.net.