



THE UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SCHOOL OF LAW

# 98<sup>th</sup> Commencement

May 21, 2026



UNIVERSITY OF  
**BALTIMORE**  
School of Law



**“In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings,  
we pay ourselves the highest tribute.”**

*—Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall*

#### **CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES**

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At this Commencement, degrees are conferred upon persons who completed requirements in the fall 2025 term. As it was not possible to determine which candidates completed degree requirements for the spring and summer 2026 terms before this program was printed, the listing of May 2026 candidates and honors is tentative. The diploma of the University, signed by its proper officers, remains the official testimony to the possession of a degree.



## **MACEBEARER**

Michael Hayes, *Professor Emeritus*

## **PROCESSIONAL**

“Trumpet Voluntary”  
Henry Purcell

## **WELCOME REMARKS AND MESSAGE TO GRADUATES**

LaVonda N. Reed, *Dean and Professor of Law*  
Kurt L. Schmoke, *President*

## **COMMENDATION OF LAW FACULTY**

Dr. Ralph O. Mueller, *Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost*

## **ALUMNI REMARKS**

Krystle Sanders, J.D. '17

## **GREETINGS FROM BOARD OF REGENTS**

Robert Hur, *Regent*, University System of Maryland

## **2026 VALEDICTORIANS**

William M. Cellitto  
Paige V. Lauenstein  
Brady A. McCormick, *Remarks*

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REMARKS**

Tania Boh

## **LAW FACULTY AWARDS PRESENTATION**

Alexa C. Thomas (*day*)  
Andrea P. Artman (*evening*)

## **COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS**

The Honorable Anthony G. Brown, *Attorney General of Maryland*

## **CONFERRING OF DEGREES**

Kurt L. Schmoke, *President*  
Elizabeth Keyes, *Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Law*

## **ANNOUNCING AND HOODING OF GRADUATES**

ANNOUNCING OF GRADUATES  
Stephen Cirino, *Interim Assistant Dean of Students*  
Joy Gaslevic, J.D. '99, *Associate Dean for Administration*  
Elizabeth Keyes, *Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Law*

## **HOODING OF GRADUATES**

John Bessler, *Professor of Law*  
Gilda Daniels, *Professor of Law*  
Michele Gilman, *Venable Professor of Law*  
Richard Luedeman, *Assistant Professor of Law*

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

LaVonda N. Reed, *Dean and Professor of Law*

## **RECESSIONAL**

“Hornpipe” from *Water Music*  
George Friedric Handel



**A lawyer “is either a social engineer or a parasite on society.”** —*Charles Hamilton Houston*

## JURIS DOCTOR

‡ Kennedy L. Ackerman \*  
 Meredith B. Ackerman  
 Karina Adajar  
 Aniyah Adams  
 Georgina Aguirre Lopez  
 Kim Alexander  
 ‡ Manna M. Alexander \*  
 Steve Vijay Varick Aluri  
 Kevin E. Andrews \*  
 Taylor Jean Annerino \*  
 Abigail Arches \*  
 ‡ Andrea P. Artman \*\*\*  
 Iman Aziz \*  
 Abigail Badro  
 Eloyce S. Barbour  
 Morgane R. Barry \*

‡ Marisa Basignani \*\*  
 Vincent Bedessem  
 ‡ Kalli G. Bell \*\*\*  
 ‡ Henry G. Bethell \*\*  
 Peniel Gabriel Beyene \*  
 Safina Bibi  
 Sydney Biggs  
 Danielle Birnbaum  
 ‡ Tania Boh \*\*  
 ‡ Sophia Quinn Bonnen \*\*\*  
 Lauren L. Borchers  
 ‡ Julius U. Bowditch \*\*  
 ‡ Emily C. Boyce \*\*  
 Theodore Britton \*  
 Inga O. Brostek  
 John A. Broyles  
 Hunter W. Bunting

Salvatore Bussa  
 Scherlynn M. Buzenes  
 Caroline J. Byrd \*  
 ‡ William M. Cadogan \*\*  
 Abbylye S. Camarah  
 ‡ Isabel K. Camarena \*\*  
 Tiffanie Mae Butler Cannon  
 Pamela Cardoso  
 ‡ Sophia C. Carlson \*\*  
 Mabel F. Carter  
 Jazmin Cedillo  
 ‡ William M. Cellitto \*\*\*  
 Louise Ayse Chekfa  
 Ryan D. Childs \*  
 ‡ Zachary M. Chmielewski \*\*\*  
 ‡ Kathryn Christman \*\*\*  
 Dawn Daniella Chukwurah \*

\* *Cum Laude*

\*\* *Magna Cum Laude*

\*\*\* *Summa Cum Laude*

MaryKatherine Clark  
 Paula L. Clarke  
 Aidan Collins \*  
 Jodi M. Concepcion  
 Lily Constine  
 † Chloe A. Curtis \*\*  
 † Erin Marie Daneker \*\*\*  
 Angelina M. Davis \*  
 Jayna Dayal  
 † Shail B. Desai \*\*  
 Luis A. Di Negro  
 Julie E. Diaz \*  
 Fatou K. Diop  
 † Sofia L. Dirie \*\*  
 † Jana M. Dubinovsky \*\*  
 Starmanda F. Duker  
 Jonah Edeson \*  
 Garrinisha Edwards \*  
 Ethan G. Eisenhart \*  
 Emerald G. Ennis  
 Lauren M. Evers \*  
 † Mitchell Fair \*\*  
 Hamidah O. Famuditimi  
 Joseph G. Ferrante \*  
 Rachael M. Flora  
 Gabrielle G. Foca  
 Jorge M. Fonseca  
 Jeri A. Freirich  
 Kayla C. Gates  
 Jesutofunmi Boluwatife  
 Gbadegesin  
 Yikalo M. Gebrehiwet  
 Ruth M. George  
 Antonio Gonzalez \*  
 Olivia M. Goughan  
 Rachael Green  
 Eruj F. Hamid \*  
 Christina Han \*  
 Jasmine L. Hardin  
 Tanner Hedger \*  
 † Aline Heffernan \*\*  
 Raya Henderson  
 Fatima Melissa Hernandez \*  
 Kaleea Hill  
 † Madison J. Hine \*  
 Caroline M. Hock \*  
 Evan D. Holden

Michael S. Hood \*  
 Isaac R. Hopkins  
 Matthew D. Huber  
 Brooke N. Imperial \*  
 Lara Jasti  
 Lydia K. Jenkins  
 Longzhi Jin  
 † Elle R. Johnson \*\*  
 Jayni D. Johnson  
 Rylie F. Johnson  
 Khadijah Josephs \*  
 Ayden Jozwik  
 † Theresa Kay \*\*  
 † Jessica E. Kesselman \*  
 † Anthony P. Krane \*\*  
 Shannon E. Kress \*  
 † Paige V. Lauenstein \*\*\*  
 Jacqueline F. Lemay  
 † Justin C. Levine \*\*  
 Michael K. Linynsky  
 Nicolas A. Lopez  
 Shayne A. Lowman  
 Alejandro B. Lujan  
 Evangelia G. Macris \*  
 Sandaly K. Madawala  
 Motunrayo Maduka  
 Isabel A. Malizia  
 Sean R. Marcinko  
 † Teodoro Marcucci \*\*\*  
 Edward Mayes  
 † Brady A. McCormick \*\*\*  
 Leah Meyers  
 Noah Miller  
 † Travis R. Mobley \*\*  
 Mohammad A. Mohammadi  
 † Dillan S. Moore \*\*  
 Kassy M. Morris  
 Anna E. Murphy  
 Hunter Myers \*  
 † Zoe E. Myers \*\*  
 † Margaree R. Nadler \*  
 Milon E. Nelson  
 Adria Obonyo \*  
 Madeline B. O'Connor  
 Michaela "Odi" Odian \*  
 Chinelo J. Osakwe  
 † John B. Osborne \*\*

Henry V. O'Toole  
 Gina Pagani  
 Laura V. Parada Chicas  
 Emma I. Pasko  
 † Annabelle Patton \*\*  
 Sophia E. Peltzer  
 Tabitha L. Penna \*  
 Makenzie Pennington \*  
 Carmen M. Perry  
 Gwenyth Petras  
 Jessica Philpot  
 Laura L. Pommert \*  
 Allison K. Porcello \*  
 Kayla A. Preston  
 † Palma K. Price \*\*  
 William E. Price \*  
 Amara A. Quazi \*  
 † Jacob E. Rabinovich \*\*  
 JuanCarlos Ramirez  
 Amber M. Ransome  
 Samuel Rettig \*  
 Avneet K. Riar  
 John M. Richards  
 Alizay Rizvi  
 † Alexander J. Robinson \*\*  
 Charissa Rogge  
 Nayely Rojas  
 † Ellie C. Roser \*\*\*  
 Reem Rouzky  
 † Abbey E. Rubeling \*\*\*  
 Starla Santana  
 † Emma C. Sarigianis \*\*  
 † Ty P. Schumacher \*\*\*  
 † Madison Schwaab \*\*  
 Anna J. Segall \*  
 Benjamin Shore  
 Robert A. Silano  
 Jason Skaggs  
 Kelvin J. Skeen  
 Rebekah Sklute  
 Savannah R. Smith  
 Violet Ian Michael Sovine \*  
 † Michael J. Spence \*\*  
 Elizabeth S. Sutley \*  
 Kelly V. Swanhart  
 † Patricia R. Swanson \*\*  
 Shahbano Waseem Syed

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†The Heusler Honors Society comprises the top 10% of the graduating class.

Mumtahina Tabassum \*  
Mary A. Tagliaferro  
Magdanikka B. Taylan  
Mauryne Tchameni Bele  
‡ Mia S. Terkowitz \*\*  
‡ Alexa C. Thomas \*\*\*  
Margaret A. Thompson  
‡ John Timms \*\*  
‡ Shekinah I. Tony-Oyeleye \*\*  
Ali Trdina \*  
Marina A. Tsikitas  
Namuunzul Tur  
Vivian C. Udeh  
Polina Ukrainets \*  
Loui C. Villanueva \*  
Jourdan A. Wallace  
Taylor E. Ward \*  
August Weathers

Micah J. Weber  
Leslie A. Weinstein  
Payton Grace Whitehead \*  
Jeremy C. Wilcox  
Paul A. Williams  
Ashely Wilson  
Emily J. Wong  
Deborah J. Yi \*  
Alan Young  
Olivia I. Zachman \*  
Kevin A. Zelaya  
‡ Michael G. Zelley \*\*

### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN TAXATION

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Herve Ondobo Abomo  
Far Tha Cuai  
David Friedland

Morgan A. Jordan  
Katherine O'Leary  
Julia Panasuk  
Madison Jamie Smith  
Justin Timothy Snyder  
Tyler James von Lange

### MASTER OF LAWS IN TAXATION

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Malcolm Acheampong  
Anish K. Bachu  
Woodly Claircius Fenelus  
Johnson Angel D'Souza  
Darius I. Liely  
Clifton A. McClain  
Umesh Narware  
Jay Oppenheim  
Don Shaw  
Yitzchak Reuven Groyer

“The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them.” —*Ida B. Wells*



# MAJOR STUDENT SPRING 2026 AWARDS

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## ACADEMIC AWARDS

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*2026 J Ronald Shiff Award for Academic Excellence*  
**Drew Nitschke**

*Center for International and Comparative Law 2025–2026 Director's Award*  
**Jana Dubinovsky**

*Chairman Joseph F. Vallario Jr. Legislative Award*  
**Natalie Sharpe**

*National Association of Women Lawyers Outstanding Law Student Award*  
**Ashely Wilson**

## CLINICAL PRACTICE AWARDS

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*Clinical Excellence Award*  
**Mitch Fair**

*The Clinical Legal Education Association Outstanding Clinic Team Award*  
**Marina Tsikitas and Tania Boh**

*The Clinical Legal Education Association Outstanding Externship Award*  
**Polina Ukrainets**

*Maryland Chapter of the Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Cheryl Hepfer Law Student Award*  
**Emily Boyce**

## SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

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*Silverman Thompson Slutkin and White Fellow*  
**Anthony Horodowicz**

*Maryland Legal Aid Public Interest Fellow*  
**Kelly Swanhart**

*Bronze (Pro Bono 20–39 hours)*  
**Carmen Perry**

*Silver (Pro Bono 40–59 hours)*  
**Gwenyth Petras  
Zoe Myers**

*Gold (Pro Bono 60–69 hours)*  
**Starla Santana  
Scherlynn Buzenes**

*Platinum (Pro Bono 70+ hours)*  
**Tania Boh**

## STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION AWARDS

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*James May Faculty Award*  
**Matthew Sipe**  
*Associate Professor of Law*

*Staff Mentoring Award*  
**Abraham Rodriguez**  
*Student Activities Coordinator*

*Student Of Merit Award*  
**Tania Boh**

*Outstanding Service to UBalt by a Student Organization*  
**Parents in Law School**

# FACULTY AWARDS

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*Outstanding Teaching by a Full-Time Faculty Member*  
**Matthew Sipe**  
*Associate Professor of Law*

*Outstanding Teaching by an Adjunct Faculty Member*  
**Vince Guida**  
*Professor of Law*

*Saul Ewing Award for Outstanding Teaching in Transactional Law*  
**Ioanna Tourkochoriti**  
*Associate Professor of Law and Associate Director of the Center for International and Comparative Law*

*Award for Outstanding Achievement in Public Discourse or Nontraditional Legal Scholarship*  
**Shanta Trivedi**  
*Assistant Professor of Law and Faculty Director of the Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts*

*Award for Outstanding Achievement in Traditional Legal Scholarship*  
**Robert Rubinson**  
*Gilbert A. Holmes Professor of Clinical Theory and Practice and Director of the Mediation Clinic for Families*

*Law Faculty Service Award*  
**B. Afton Cavanaugh**  
*Assistant Professor of Law*

## DEAN'S CITATIONS

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**Iman Aziz**

**Henry Bethell**

**Sal Bussa**

**Julie Diaz**

**Sofia Liban Abdullaahi Dirie**

**Garrinisha Edwards**

**Madison Hine**

**Khadijah Josephs**

**Adria Obonyo**

**Michaela Odian**

**Alexander Robinson**

**Starla Santana**

**Violet Sovine**

**Ali Michele Trdina**

**Marina Tsikitas**

**Ashely Wilson**

**Alan Young**

## EMERITUS FACULTY

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**Michael Hayes**

## DISTINGUISHED UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR RANK

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**Angela M. Vallario, J.D. '91**  
*Professor of Law*

## BOARD OF REGENT'S FACULTY AWARDS

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**John Bessler (Research)**  
*Professor of Law*

**Nienke Grossman (Service)**  
*Professor of Law and Director of the Center for International and Comparative Law*

**Mortimer Sellers (Teaching)**  
*Regents Professor of the University System of Maryland and Director of the Center for International and Comparative Law*

## PRESIDENT'S FACULTY AWARD

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**José Felipe Anderson**  
*Professor of Law*



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