



UNIVERSITY OF  
DETROIT MERCY

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SCHOOL OF LAW

COMMENCEMENT

———— 2024 ————





# WELCOME

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UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY  
SCHOOL OF LAW

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COMMENCEMENT 2024

Friday, May 10  
2:00 p.m.

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

# ACADEMIC PROCESSION

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**BAGPIPER**

**MACE-BEARER**

**GRAND MARSHAL**

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

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**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**

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**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

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## **PROCESSIONAL**

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### **SALUTATION**

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Cara Cunningham Warren, J.D.  
Grand Marshal, Professor of Law

### **WELCOME**

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

### **INVOCATION**

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

### **O CANADA**

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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**

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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**

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

# COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

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## **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

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

## **COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER**

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

## **PRESENTATION OF JURIS DOCTOR DEGREES**

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Jelani Jefferson Exum, J.D.

## **CONFERRING OF JURIS DOCTOR DEGREES**

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Donald B. Taylor, Ph.D.

## **PRESENTATION OF VIVERE EX MISSIONE AWARD**

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Donald B. Taylor, Ph.D.

## **PRAYER INSPIRED BY ST. THOMAS MORE**

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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**

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Christin M. DewBerry '24

## **SCHOOL OF LAW ALUMNUS REMARKS**

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Kyle R. Dufrane '98  
President of the Alumni Association

## **RECESSIONAL**

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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**

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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.



