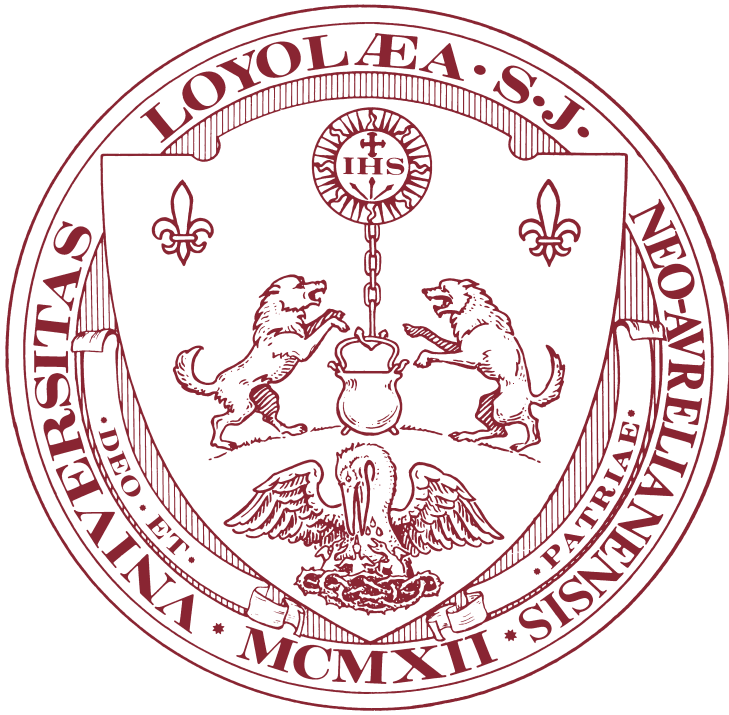




LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS
COLLEGE OF LAW

Commencement

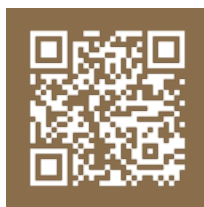
SATURDAY, MAY 10

Congratulate THE CLASS OF 2025

by sharing your commencement photos today
on social media using #LOYNOJD25



For Closed Captioning
Use your phone's camera
app to scan this code.



**For a Digital Program
With Graduate Names**
Use your phone's camera
app to scan this code.

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS
COLLEGE OF LAW

MAY 10, 2025 • CAESARS SUPERDOME

CEREMONIAL REGALIA

Arts, Letters,
Humanities
White

Commerce,
Accountancy,
Business
Drab Olive

Economics
Copper

Education
Light Blue

Fine Arts
Brown

Journalism
Crimson

Law
Purple

Library Science
Lemon

Medicine
Green

Music
Pink

Nursing
Apricot

Philosophy
Dark Blue

Public
Administration,
including
Foreign Service
Peacock Blue

Science
Golden Yellow

Theology
Scarlet

Universities have held ceremonies for the awarding of degrees since the eleventh century. Over these many hundreds of years, considerable tradition has evolved around these commencement exercises and the procedure by which degrees are awarded.

Authorization for the awarding of a degree is complex. In the United States, each state has laws that permit the state to recognize and acknowledge the worthiness of an institution to award a degree. The Louisiana Legislature granted a charter to Loyola University on July 10, 1912, recognizing the university's right to grant degrees. Regional associations set standards and after careful examination will recognize an institution through accreditation. Loyola is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate's, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees.

The sequence of events that leads to the awarding of a degree consists first of a statement by the faculty of a college that an individual has completed all of the requirements and a recommendation to the dean that the individual be awarded a degree. The dean then certifies to the president of the institution that the student has completed the course requirements. The president, who has been authorized by the Board of Trustees, then confers the degree. A degree is a title that a college grants an individual upon completion of scholarly work. As proof of that title, a diploma is issued. The diploma repeats the sequence of faculty recommendations, certification by the dean, conference by the president, and the authority of the Board of Trustees as shown by the presence of the seal of the university.

In today's ceremonies, the name of each candidate for graduation present will be announced publicly. Each individual will come to the stage when their name is announced. The president of the university will congratulate the recipient. The diploma cover symbolizes the academic achievement that the individual has attained. Those who have completed undergraduate degree requirements move the tassel on the mortarboard from right to left, another symbolic custom. The president will wait until all of the names of degree recipients and candidates are announced and then will confer a degree collectively upon each individual in a real or prophetic way. At many universities today, diplomas are not issued until some weeks after commencement exercises.

ACADEMIC GOWNS AND HATS

Academic gowns and hats are a custom that dates back to the Middle Ages. Since early European and English universities were founded by the church, students and teachers were required to wear distinctive gowns at all times. Although the custom was brought to this country in colonial days, the requirement for students was soon dropped. The custom for professors was confined to special occasions such as graduation exercises and inaugurations of college and university presidents.

With the increase in the number of educational institutions and the development of new fields of study, confusion arose about the type of gown and the color to denote various degrees. To introduce uniformity and set up a clearinghouse for new disciplines, a commission representing leading American colleges produced The Intercollegiate Code in 1895. In 1932, a national committee of the American Council on Education revised this code into The Academic Costume Code. It was revised again in 1959. Although not obligatory, most of the educational institutions in the country follow it in awarding their degrees, earned and honorary.

The most significant part of the academic dress is the hood. While there are bachelor's degree hoods, many institutions reserve the wearing of hoods for graduate degrees. Each successively higher degree carries with it a longer hood. The doctoral hood also has side panels on the back. The color of its velvet border indicates the academic field, and it is lined with the color or colors of the institution granting the degree.

Although most doctoral gowns are black, with black velvet bars and panels, in some cases the color of the gown is that of the university conferring the degree—blue for Yale, crimson for Harvard, slate for Columbia. All such gowns have black bars and panels.

Academic fields also may be indicated by the color of velvet on the doctoral gowns: three two-inch bars on the sleeves and a five-inch border extending from the back of the neck down the two sides in front.

Caps are black. Gowns for bachelor's and master's degrees are plain black, but sleeves of the latter are short with trailing "elbows." Doctoral gowns of European universities are usually very colorful. The caps often are not of the conventional mortarboard shape.

DISTINCTION CORDS

Undergraduate students graduating with honors wear distinction cords symbolizing the following honors:

GOLD CORDS — *Summa Cum Laude* (3.8 GPA)

SILVER CORDS — *Magna Cum Laude* (3.6 GPA)

BRONZE CORDS — *Cum Laude* (3.4 GPA)

CEREMONIAL MACE

Loyola University's Ceremonial Mace is an ornamental mace traditionally carried at the head of academic processions as a symbol of educational authority and institutional identity. Its design and appearance typically resemble a metal torch or cross decorated by carvings including the university seal.

The Loyola mace was designed in 1995 by then Department of Visual Arts faculty member Erik Johnson. It is carried as a symbol of authority in processions at commencement and other academic ceremonies. During other times of the year, it is on permanent display in Marquette Hall. It was utilized for the first time October 28, 1995, at the inauguration of the Rev. Bernard P. Knoth, S.J., as 15th president of the university.

The iconography on the mace is derived from the seal of the university as designed in 1929 and stylized in 1970. The arms of the Loyola family consist of two gray wolves suspending a kettle between them. This is seen as a symbol of generosity because it signifies such abundance that after everyone was fed there was always something left in the pot upon which the wolves could feast.

The fleur-de-lis represents the French origins of the state and city.

The pelican feeding her young with her own blood affiliates Loyola with the state of Louisiana.

The wolves, fleur-de-lis, pelican, and bottom termination are of cast bronze. The kettle, with the facade of Marquette Hall in low relief, is cast iron. Overall length is approximately thirty-three inches.

The staff is inscribed with the following significant dates in Loyola University New Orleans history:

- 2012 — the 100th anniversary of Loyola's charter;
- MCMXII — 1912 — chartering of Loyola University;
- MDCCCXLIX — 1849 — founding of the College of the Immaculate Conception;
- MDCCCXXXVII — 1837 — founding of St. Charles College; and
- MDCCXXVI — 1726 — arrival of the Society of Jesus in Louisiana.

HONORARY DEGREES

Honorary degrees are awarded to individuals because of contributions the individual has made to their community and beyond.

These degrees carry the distinction *honoris causa*, which means “cause of honor.”

The sequence of events is slightly different and is somewhat more ceremonial than for traditional degrees.

A committee of faculty, staff, and student representatives considers individuals for this honor, examining both the careers and the contributions of the nominees. This group presents its recommendations to the president, who forwards them to the Board of Trustees. The board selects the recipients and authorizes

the preparation of a diploma for each honoree. The diploma bears the signatures of the chair and secretary of the Board of Trustees, the president, and the provost.

The diploma notes the actions of the individual that the committee and the board considered. The president confers the degree. The honoree wears an honorary degree hood, bordered in velvet and lined in the maroon and gold colors of the university.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



CALVIN DUNCAN, J.D.

Calvin Duncan is the founder and director of the Light of Justice program, based at the Jesuit Social Research Institute. The program focuses on improving access to the courts for incarcerated individuals. Falsely accused of murder at age nineteen, Duncan was sentenced to life in prison without parole and served nearly three decades before his release. While incarcerated, he became a “jailhouse lawyer,” helping hundreds of others challenge wrongful convictions and excessive sentences. His work has contributed to landmark U.S. Supreme Court decisions, including *Smith v. Cain* (2012) and *Ramos v. Louisiana* (2020).

Duncan is co-founder of RisingFoundations, The First 72+, and The Visiting Room Project, organizations that assist people returning from incarceration. He has received the Echoing Green Black Male Achievement Fellowship and the Innocence Network’s inaugural Impact Award. Called “relentless” by *The New York Times* and named one of the most prominent jailhouse lawyers by *New York Magazine*, Duncan continues his justice advocacy today. His memoir, *The Jailhouse Lawyer*, will be published this July.

He earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Paralegal Studies from Tulane University and his Juris Doctor from Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon.

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

PRESIDING

Xavier A. Cole, Ed.D.

President, Loyola University New Orleans

PROCESSION.....	Candidates for Degrees College of Law Faculty and Staff Presidential Party
MACE BEARER.....	Sarah Allison, Ph.D. <i>Hutchinson Distinguished Professor, Associate Professor of English, Director of Composition, and Chair of the University Senate</i>
GONFALON BEARER.....	Luz M. Molina, J.D. <i>Jack Nelson Distinguished Professor of Law and Clinical Professor of Law Emerita</i>
INVOCATION	The Reverend Lawrence W. Moore, S.J. <i>Professor of Law</i>
NATIONAL ANTHEM	Valentina Powell, J.D. '25
WELCOME AND PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS	Xavier A. Cole, Ed.D.
FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS' COMMENCEMENT MESSAGES	Etong Armand Brice, LL.M. '25 Aleksandre Kharatishvili, LL.M. '25
2025 COMMENCEMENT MESSAGE	John H. Schmidt, J.D. '25

PRESENTATION AND CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREE	Rob��rt LeBlanc '00 <i>Chair, Board of Trustees</i> Xavier A. Cole, Ed.D.
2025 COMMENCEMENT REMARKS	Calvin Duncan, J.D. <i>Educator and Legal Advocate</i>
DEAN'S REMARKS AND CHARGE TO THE CANDIDATES.....	The Honorable Madeleine M. Landrieu, J.D. '87, H '05 <i>Dean and Judge Adrian G. Duplantier Distinguished Professor of Law</i>
PRESENTATION OF THE FAVORITE PROFESSOR AWARD AND PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES.....	The Honorable Madeleine M. Landrieu
READER	Mary Garvey Algero, J.D. '89 <i>Associate Dean of Faculty Development and Academic Affairs, Philip and Eugenie Brooks Distinguished Professor of Law, and Warren E. Mouledoux Distinguished Professor of Law</i>
CONFERRING OF DEGREES	Xavier A. Cole, Ed.D.
BLESSING	The Reverend W. Penn Dawson, S.J., J.D. <i>Visiting Assistant Professor of Law</i>
RECESSIONAL	Presidential Party Faculty and Staff Graduates
ANNOUNCER Tom Evison <i>University Athletics</i>	

There will be a brief celebratory noise at the end of the show.

COLLEGE OF LAW

JURIS DOCTOR

Anne Marie Abraham
Lake Charles, Louisiana

Hannah Heersche Alonzo
San Antonio, Texas
Cum Laude

Noah Jesus Alvarez
Moorestown, New Jersey

Catherine Frances Ashley
New Orleans, Louisiana

Bryant Nicholas Autin
Galliano, Louisiana

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Nashville, Tennessee

Ysabella Lysette Ayo
Covington, Louisiana

Grace E. Babin
New Orleans, Louisiana

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Seattle, Washington

Christopher Michael Barnett
Covington, Louisiana

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Eden, New York

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Vandalia, Illinois
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Cody Bernheisel
Oregon, Ohio

Mia Catherine Blake
Metairie, Louisiana

Bailey Elizabeth Brierly
Mobile, Alabama
Cum Laude

Rhiannon Belle Briseno
San Antonio, Texas

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Lafayette, Louisiana

Peter W. Bruno
New Orleans, Louisiana

Darby Anna Bullard
Lafayette, Louisiana
Cum Laude

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Powder Springs, Georgia

Evan Patrick Bushart
Jackson, Tennessee

Victoria Priscilla Cano
Kenner, Louisiana

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Hinsdale, Illinois
Cum Laude

Claire Helen Carter
Springfield, Missouri
Magna Cum Laude

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Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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Connor William Cooke
Okemos, Michigan

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Claire Andréé Dinwiddie New Orleans, Louisiana <i>Cum Laude</i>	Kaylin Susan Guillory Covington, Louisiana <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
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Magna Cum Laude

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Summa Cum Laude

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS

Fulbright Scholars attend the Loyola College of Law as part of the U.S. Department of State's prestigious, merit-based, cultural enrichment program that supports foreign students interested in pursuing graduate study in the United States.

Etong Armand Brice, LL.M. '25
Yaounde, Cameroon

Etong Armand Brice is a Cameroonian law lecturer, graduating with a Master of Laws degree in United States Law for International Students. With a robust academic foundation in both private and public law, he holds an LL.B. in English Common Law and French Civil Law from the University of Buea in Cameroon and an LL.M. in International Law and International Human Rights Law from the University of Malaya in Malaysia. He has authored several publications on rule of law, democracy and human rights in Africa, and environmental law. Mr. Brice is fluent in English, French, Spanish and Italian, with over five years of legal experience in legal support, human rights defenses, litigation, consumer rights advocacy, legal translation, and teaching at various levels. As a research assistant at Loyola, he focuses on comparative legal research, legal history, rule of law, and immigration. Passionate about continuous learning and professional development, after graduation he aims to continue his career in academia, legal research, and politics in Cameroon, contributing to the development of rule of law institutions and advocating for human rights and justice in Cameroon and beyond.

Aleksandre Kharatishvili, LL.M. '25
Gori, Shida Kartli, Georgia

Aleksandre Kharatishvili is a Fulbright graduate student from Tbilisi, Georgia, graduating with a Master of Laws degree in United States Law for International Students. He holds an LL.B. from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and a Master's Degree in Comparative Private and International Law from New Vision University in Tbilisi. Prior to coming to the United States, Aleksandre worked as a Senior Associate at PwC Georgia, where he focused on mergers and acquisitions, investment arbitration, and regulatory compliance. He has also represented clients in high-value intellectual property and competition law disputes. Aleksandre plans to sit for the New York Bar Exam and pursue a legal career at the intersection of corporate law and international arbitration. After graduation, Aleksandre will intern as an Edmund Muskie Fellow at a law firm in Washington, D.C.

FACULTY EMERITI

Loyola considers granting emeritus status upon retirement to all assistant and associate professors, professors, and academic administrators who normally have given 15 years or more of service to the university and who have made contributions to the university. The following individuals were granted emeritus status during the 2024 - 2025 academic year.

Luz M. Molina, J.D.
Clinical Professor of Law Emerita

Jack Nelson Distinguished Professorship in Clinical Education
J.D., 1979, Tulane University

PROFESSOR WILLIAM L. CROWE, SR., SCHOLARS

In 2000, the faculty at the College of Law established an honor in memory of their late colleague for students graduating in the top 10 percent of the class (based on fall 2024 senior rank). These students, in grade point average rank order, are designated the 2025 William L. Crowe, Sr. Scholars:

Kevin T. Kuhm	Donovan J. Benton
Abigail Jane Wallace	Lillian Oliver McLemore
Katrina Lowe Huber	Mallory Speer
Anh Tran Phuong Do	Stephen McCormack Capella
Aubrey Dawn Rector	Megan M. King
Bennett Matson	Ashley E. White
Ryan Taix	Katherine Schaumburg
Anna Katherine Gilbert	Ryan P. Simoneaux
Olumayowasaye T. Olatunde	Olivia Clara Taylor

THE ORDER OF BARRISTERS

The Order of Barristers is a national honor society that encourages effective oral advocacy and brief writing. Schools selected to have chapters are those nationally recognized for outstanding Moot Court and Trial Advocacy programs and for successful participation in regional, national, and international interscholastic oral advocacy competitions. The following graduates have been inducted as members of this prestigious group for the 2024-2025 academic year:

Katherine Schaumburg	Robert Craig Sanders, Jr.
Claire Andréé Dinwiddie	Harrison P. Robichaux
Margaret Ann Macloud	Emily McCrory
Sarah Louann Smith	Paige Adell Bahnsen
Zoie Marlaina Spears	Payton Grace Travis
Jessica Rae Vadiee	Anna Katherine Gilbert

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Anh Tran Phuong Do

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A MESSAGE FROM DEAN LANDRIEU

Dear Graduates of 2025,

Welcome to our 2025 graduation ceremony. We have come together to celebrate your successes and to send you forth equipped in mind, body, and spirit, to make a difference in the world.

As you made your way to this moment, I trust you have learned something about yourself and about one another. Together, you have worked hard to maintain a sense of community. You engaged in meaningful, thoughtful, and often difficult conversations in and out of class. You learned the written law, but you also learned that the law moves and bends as people come to rightfully expect more from each other, our society, and our systems.

You might notice that St. Ignatius, the founder of the Jesuit order, is often depicted in photographs and statues in mid-stride – in motion. He has one foot planted firmly on the ground, and one foot moving purposely forward. His head is level, his gaze fixed ahead, into the future. We never know where our lives will take us, but in the spirit of St. Ignatius, I pray that you too will plant your feet firmly in the truth and gaze forever forward in search of justice.

On behalf of President Xavier A. Cole, the Board of Trustees, and the faculty and staff of the College of Law who have walked with you, worked with you, challenged you, and supported you, congratulations! We are so very proud to send you off knowing that you will go forth and make a difference in the world.

Dean and Judge Adrian G. Duplantier
Distinguished Professor of Law

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The preceding program lists candidates eligible to participate in the spring 2025 commencement. Participation in this commencement exercise is not restricted to those who have completed all requirements for graduation. All candidates for the degree in spring participate without consideration of their final semester grades. Therefore, the program may not be a true list of degree recipients and their date of graduation. Likewise, the honor distinctions are based on current grade point averages.

The undergraduate academic distinctions listed in this program are based on work completed through fall, 2024. Distinctions may change based on spring and/or summer grades.

Graduation distinctions for transfer students who complete 60 or more Loyola quality hours will be based solely on the Loyola cumulative grade point average.

Transfer students who complete fewer than 60 Loyola cumulative quality hours are not eligible for graduate distinctions.

Spring 2025 graduation candidates will be awarded their degree upon approval of their dean on June 1. Candidates for summer and fall 2025 will be awarded their degree upon approval at a later date.

