



# School of Law Commencement 2024

*The One Hundred and Thirty-first Commencement*

*Saturday, May the Eleventh  
Two Thousand and Twenty-four  
at nine o'clock in the morning*

*McCarthy Athletic Center  
Spokane, Washington*

# **The Academic Procession**

## **Banner Bearer**

Jacquelyn Nader

## **Candidates for the Degree**

Juris Doctor

## **School of Law Faculty and Administration**

### **The Stage Party**

School of Law Dean

School of Law Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Program Innovation

School of Law Associate Dean for Faculty Research and Development

School of Law Assistant Dean, Administration

School of Law Assistant Dean, Admissions

School of Law Assistant Dean, Professional Development & Externships

School of Law Assistant Dean, Student Affairs

School of Law Chaplain

Assistant Vice President, Academic Development

Honor Recipients

Law Student Regent

Provost of the University

President of the University

# **Program**

## **Processional**

Angus Scott Pipe Band

## **Master of Ceremonies**

Jacob H. Rooksby, J.D., Ph.D., Dean, School of Law

## **The National Anthem**

## **Invocation**

Bryan Pham, S.J., Law School Chaplain

## **Introductory Remarks**

Thayne M. McCulloh, D.Phil., President of the University

## **Conferring of Dean's Academic Achievement Award**

Lauren Wheeler

## **Conferring of The Law Medal**

Minnie Alexander

## **Commencement Address**

Robert M. Gates

## **Class of 2024 Student Speaker**

Ben Johnsrud

## **Presentation of the Candidates**

## **Benediction**

Bryan Pham, S.J., Law School Chaplain

## **Recessional**

*The audience is asked to remain standing during the processional and recessional.*

*The American and International flags are displayed near the stage in recognition of the home countries and study abroad experiences of our graduating students.*

## **Gonzaga Law Medal Minne Alexander**

Minnie Alexander grew up in Iowa, where she attended Grinnell College and earned membership into Phi Beta Kappa. She went to law school at the University of Iowa College of Law, where she graduated with high distinction, won the National Association of Women Lawyers Award, and served as Articles Editor of the Iowa Law Review. Upon graduation she clerked for a United States federal district court judge in the Southern District of Iowa before moving to Minneapolis to become an Associate with the law firm of Dorsey & Whitney. After five years in private practice, she moved to an in-house role with the Campbell Soup Company in Camden, New Jersey, where she eventually rose to become Chief Intellectual Property Counsel.

Ms. Alexander's career has been marked by successive leadership roles in various corporate environments. She is widely recognized for building strong business and legal infrastructures to propel organizational growth in the consumer products, retail, and entertainment industries. After her time with the Campbell Soup Company, she moved to the Walt Disney Company in Burbank, California, where she served as Assistant General Counsel – Intellectual Property for five years, planned and implemented trademark protection strategies for classic Disney characters, and contributed to the Legal Department's Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives. In 2021, she became Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary at Washington state's beloved outdoor specialty retailer and the nation's largest consumer cooperative, Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), where she serves a variety of functions, including legal department management, board governance, strategic planning, risk mitigation and dispute resolution. A noted speaker to legal audiences, Ms. Alexander has given recent talks on achieving lawyer wellbeing, making progress on DEI goals, and protecting organizations in the era of cause-related advocacy.

Personally, Minnie enjoys morning walks with her husband, hiking on weekends and exploring new places. She is thrilled to join the Gonzaga University School of Law Community.

## **Commencement Speaker**

### **Robert M. Gates**

Robert Gates served as the 22nd secretary of defense (2006-2011). He is the only secretary of defense in U.S. history to be asked to remain in office by a newly elected president. Dr. Gates served eight U.S. presidents across both parties. On Gates's last day in office, President Barack Obama awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor.

Before becoming secretary of defense in 2006, Gates was the president of Texas A&M University, one of the nation's largest universities.

Gates served in the CIA for nearly 27 years, culminating his service as director of Central Intelligence from 1991 to 1993. He is the only career officer in CIA's history to rise from entry-level employee to director. He spent nearly nine years on the National Security Council at the White House, serving four administrations across both parties.

Gates has been awarded the National Security Medal, the Presidential Citizens Medal, has three times received the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal, and has three times received CIA's highest award, the Distinguished Intelligence Medal.

Gates currently is a principal at the consulting firm, Rice, Hadley, Gates & Manuel, LLC, with former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, former National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley, and Executive Director of the Aspen Strategy Group Anja Manuel. Additionally, he is Chancellor of William & Mary, his alma mater. He has served on various public boards, to include Starbucks, Fidelity Funds, the NCAA, the American Council on Education, and the Boy Scouts of America. Gates has authored four books, covering his experiences at CIA and at the Pentagon, leadership, and US nonmilitary instruments of power.

## **Dean's Academic Achievement Medal**

### **Lauren Wheeler**

Lauren served as a teaching assistant and admission's ambassador for the Law School and spent her summers interning at Stevens | Clay. She also externed at both the Washington State Court of Appeals and the Federal Defenders of Eastern Washington & Idaho. She's now looking forward to serving the Spokane, WA community as a practicing attorney.

# Degree Candidates

## School of Law

Jacob H. Rooksby, Dean

### Juris Doctor

December 2023, May 2024, August 2024

Amanda Allard*	Dylan Elton ◊	Kyle G. King
Tamar A. Arganian	Michelle Catherine Estes, JD/ MBA ◊*	Aysa Klocke*
Diego Arias*	Echo D. Fatsis*	Abigail Mae Klonsinski
§ Kathy Au* ✦	Katelyn Fessenden*	Grace Korthuis, JD/MBA
Mariam Azimi-Tabrizi	Sophia Rae Ficarrota*	Cooper Lach
Diosa Enoa Bahe	Eagan Theodore Fierro	Adam Lackey
Annika Bair	Benjamin Douglas Fincher	Ethan Le, JD/MBA
Emily Banaszynski ◊	Griffin Fitzsimmons	Erica Guangqi Li
Reynaldo Jose Barillas	Madison Florey	Abbie Ann Liechty*
Daniel Bassler	Calvin B. Forsythe	Kailey Lieuallen
Kaitlyn M. Batstone ◊	Jacob Frawley	Nora Loney
Elise Bejvan*	Shannon Fritz* ✦	Amanda M. Lopez
D. Kaden Bickmore ◊	Michelle Garrett	Ruth Morningstar Lynes
Jeremiah Joseph Bourgeois	Olivia Ann Gonsior*	Jerrod Maddio*
Jameson Brau*	Emily Elizabeth Graden- Raine* ✦	Cameron Alexander Mandelis
Courtney C. Bryson	George Kiyoshi Gross	Victoria Marsh*
Preston Lee Bunty	Dulce Karina Gutierrez	Alexander Marticorena
Oakley Burt*	Nathan Paul Gwinn ◊	Brooke McDaniel*
Amanda Lynne Burton	Ashlyn Hannus*	Ian McManus
Kathryn Ann Calhoun*	Anaka Isabel Hansen	Simon Fayiah Menso*
Taylor Canet	Grace Victoria Harkins	Kristina Michener
Meghan Casey*	Brittany Harner	Madeline Grace Miller ◊*
Joshua Clayton	Alexander Harrity	Jacob Montgomery
Bryanna Collier	Patrick Hart	Katie Rolle Mullen
Jack Connaughton	Felicia Hebner	Jacquelyn Reed Nader*
Madison Correia*	Jan I. Henrickson	Catherine A. Nelson
Zac Courtenay	§ Elizabeth Hernandez	David Normoyle
Stephanie Crockett	Jessica Day Herzer ✦	Tatiana Fotini Novak
Charles Crook ◊	Michelle Margaret Hesse*	Nicholas Novello
Rachel L. Crosland	David Hicks	Nicholas Null
Aaron Cuellar, JD/MBA	Meghan Alexandra Hoerger	John O'Hagan*
Lia Joy Cunningham*	Riley J. Holloway* ✦	Drake Sloane Onaga
Adam Kimball Curtis	Anna Marie Horak	Mareval Mylan Ortiz- Camacho
Sean William Davidson	Spencer Hunt	Ashlynn Mckenzie Kinuyo Ota*
Julia De Vitis*	§ Ruthie Jablonsky*	Charles Paganelli
Angie Densley	Spencer Jacobs*	Laura Anne Pearson
Caitlyn Dimock* ✦	Joseph H. James-Eisenberg*	Carigan Pereiro
Ida Berry Elsen Donohue	Benjamin Alan Johnsrud	Elizabeth Perez
Lillibel Douglas-Salladay*	Alex Johnston* ✦	Nicholas Perkins
Devon Downey* ✦	Miranda Renee Kennedy	Gunnar Peterson
Benjamin Downing	Scott Tyler Kennedy*	Taylor Lynn Peterson
Emma Dugenske, JD/MSTax	Gabriella Kim	
Jameson M. Dumo		
Laine Ellison		

Elizabeth Kathleen-Janness  
Phillips\*  
Joshua Vinson Powell\*  
Kate Renfro  
Tara Renick\*  
Samuel Richard  
Kendrick Todd Richardson\*  
Jordyn Elaine Richey\*  
Lauryn Rodriguez  
Jamie Ross  
Nathan James Sargent  
Jennifer M. Scanlon ◊  
Katelyn Brooke Schiller\*  
Sydney Scott

Abigail J. Serbousek  
Shreya Ketan Shah  
Ann Sim  
Emmett Simmons  
Mun Singh\*  
Malia Starita  
Jared Tom Stensgaard  
Kaylee Stickel  
Anna Virginia Strach\*  
Danielle Ray Tarkenton\*  
Lucas Thrun  
Margaret Thunselle\*  
Jared Troy  
Madison Leigh VanWinkle

Carolina Velazquez  
Zachary Michael Walls  
Lauren Mae Wheeler  
Tayler L. Whitby\*  
John Rowlett Whittemore  
Sydney Elizabeth Wilkins\*  
Caroline Witherspoon  
Renée Michelle Witherspoon  
Danielle Wolf  
Michael P. Wolfrum  
Allison Nichole Woodruff  
Jackson Woods

- § *The Gonzaga School of Law Thomas More Scholarship Program provides a unique educational experience for a limited number of highly qualified individuals committed to public service through law. Thomas More Scholarships in the amount of full tuition are awarded on the basis of merit through an open nationwide competition.*
- ◊ *Gonzaga University School of Law recognizes the graduating students of our Two-Year Executive J.D. Program. This program was designed to let students complete the required six terms of study in two years, instead of the traditional three, by forfeiting their summer breaks.*
- \* *Gonzaga University School of Law is pleased to recognize graduating students who have completed at least thirty (30) hours of pro bono service during their first and second terms and/or their third and fourth terms and/or their fifth and sixth terms of law school with the honor of Pro Bono Distinction.*
- ✦ *The Gonzaga School of Law's Center for Civil and Human Rights is pleased to recognize recipients of the Certificate for Civil and Human Rights. The Certificate is earned by students who have focused their legal education on the study of civil and human rights, engaged in research and advocacy in this field, and addressed civil and human rights issues in the community through pro bono and public service hours.*

## Final Degree Evaluation

*The listing of graduates, degrees, and academic honors in this program is preliminary and subject to final degree requirement evaluation. The posting of satisfactory completion of all degree requirements on the official record in the Law Registrar's Office is the official record of entitlement to a degree. The diploma of Gonzaga University, signed and sealed by its appropriate officers, is the official public document evidencing the awarding of a degree.*

## **Commencement Follow-up Information**

### **Ceremony Photos**

Students will receive an email from Pro Pics with a link to photo proofs within a few days of the ceremony.

### **Ceremony Videos**

All commencement recordings are featured on the Gonzaga YouTube channel.

### **Thank You**

To the Setons Club and all university partners who helped to honor the Class of 2024!



## School of Law Graduation with Academic Honors

Students who have demonstrated exceptional academic performance are awarded the following designations based on where they stand within their class, expressed as a percentage, for all work completed for the juris doctor degree: Summa Cum Laude – top 5%; Magna Cum Laude–top 15%; Cum Laude–top 30%. For the Commencement ceremony, honors are based on the cumulative grade point averages as of the fall term. Final honors are based on graduates’ final grade point averages after their final term of academic course work and are printed on the student diploma and transcript. Final honors designations may differ from Commencement honors.

### Summa Cum Laude

Jessica Day Herzer  
David Hicks  
Ruthie Jablonsky

Jerrod Maddio  
Jacob Montgomery  
Kaylee Stickel

Lauren Mae Wheeler  
Danielle Wolf

### Magna Cum Laude

Kathy Au  
Joshua Clayton  
Charles Crook  
Echo D. Fatsis  
Riley J. Holloway  
Spencer Jacobs

Scott Tyler Kennedy  
Aysa Klocke  
Abbie Ann Liechty  
Ian McManus  
Kristina Michener  
Nicholas Novello

Carigan Pereiro  
Gunnar Peterson  
Nathan James Sargent  
Sydney Elizabeth Wilkins  
Jackson Woods

### Cum Laude

Amanda Allard  
Annika Bair  
Courtney C. Bryson  
Jack Connaughton  
Adam Kimball Curtis  
Caitlyn Dimock  
Lillibel Douglas-Salladay  
Devon Downey  
Emma Dugenske

Laine Ellison  
Dylan Elton  
Benjamin Douglas Fincher  
Calvin B. Forsythe  
Jacob Frawley  
George Kiyoshi Gross  
Patrick Hart  
Kailey Lieuallen  
Jacquelyn Reed Nader

David Normoyle  
Elizabeth Kathleen-Janness  
Phillips  
Kate Renfro  
Jennifer M. Scanlon  
Ann Sim  
Emmett Simmons  
Anna Virginia Strach  
Zachary Michael Walls

# School of Law Competition Teams

## Moot Court Honors Council

Benjamin Johnsrud, President  
Ida Donohue, Vice President  
Danielle Wolf, Secretary  
Brian Karsann, Treasurer  
Ava Sharifi, Linden Cup Coordinator  
Anna Pearson, President-Elect

## Linden Cup Competition

David Slifka  
Nick Vikari

## Civil Rights Moot Court Competition

Courtney C. Bryson  
Amanda M. Lopez  
Elle Maberry  
Karlie Murphy  
Elizabeth Kathleen-Janness Phillips  
Ava Sharifi

## National Appellate Advocacy Competition

Lillibel Douglas-Salladay  
Devon Downey  
Kaci Graber  
Francis Sefton  
Christopher Swienty  
Nicholas Tovar

## National Trial Competition

Reynaldo Jose Barillas  
Koran Burks  
Amanda Lyne Burton  
Kaedyn Corrales  
Vicky Chin  
Anna Pearson  
Joshua Vinson Powell  
Tara Renick  
Elizabeth Rothrack  
Samuel Tumblin

## Saul Lefkowitz Competition

Taylor Canet  
Adam Kimball Curtis  
Anaka Isabel Hansen  
Felicia Hebner  
Alexia Howard-Mullins  
Cooper Lach  
Kathryn Sweeney  
Kimberly Villacorta



# Gonzaga University

## Coat of Arms

The original seal adopted by the University in the early nineties depicted an eagle with protectively spread wings surrounded by the name, Gonzaga University. The new seal, designed about 1914, took the form of a coat of arms and has been used on all degrees, medals, and formal documents since that time.

The eagle of the original seal was retained. It perches, with wings still spread protectively, atop a coat of arms in the form of a shield.

The dexter chief hatchment contains two gray wolves with forepaws upon a black pot and chain on a field of white. This represents the House of Loyola (lobo-y-olla, i.e., the wolves and the pot), Ignatius Loyola being the founder of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). The pride of the House of Loyola was that it fed the poor and kept the wolf from its door.

In the bottom right hatchment (sinister base), there are depicted the arms of the House of Gonzaga, a purple cross sustaining an inescutcheon, the lions of Florence, and three purple bars for the ecclesiastical dignity of the House. The four falcons in the corners of the escutcheon represent the hunting prowess of the family.

In the upper right (sinister chief), in the colors of Spain, are seven red bars on a field of gold, given to the House of Onez by the King, because seven brothers of that House distinguished themselves in the service of Spain.

In the bottom left (dexter base), are a sunburst over the Spokane Falls, a pine tree and an Indian tepee. All are representative of the Spokane community, which is named for the Spokane Indians. Spokane means children of the sun.

The eagle in the crest is the American bald eagle of the Republic and the symbols above: the IHS is the name of Jesus, His cross, and the three nails of His crucifixion. In the crest the nails and lettering are black with a surrounding halo of gold. The in-escutcheon in the center of the shield carries an immaculate white G on a field of royal blue, the colors of the University.

The scroll carries the letters AMDG, which stand for Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam (To God's Greater Glory), the motto of the Society of Jesus as given to it by its founder, Saint Ignatius Loyola. Under the scroll is the year of the University's founding, 1887. The wreath of bay leaves on the right represents classic renown and the wreath of oak on the left signifies civic pride.

## Academic Regalia

College and university graduation ceremonies are resplendent with color. One is likely to see almost every color in the spectrum, representing scholarly achievement in many academic fields.

Based upon the costumes worn at universities in the 14th and 15th centuries, today's American academic dress was standardized in 1895. It includes the familiar square mortarboard cap symbolizing the commitment of the scholar to a life of building. It has a tassel which may be black or an appropriate color (e.g., gold for those with a doctoral degree, purple for law). The custom of shifting the cap's tassel from the right side to the left signifies the conferring of the degree. Three styles of gowns and hoods represent bachelor's, master's, and doctor's degrees.

The bachelor's gown usually has long pointed sleeves, while the master's gown has a long

crescent-shaped sleeve. The doctor's has a very full, bell-shaped sleeve with three velvet bands matching the velvet facing of the gown opening. The velvet on the doctor's gown often is the color appropriate to the wearer's field of study.

Of the three styles of hoods, the doctor's is naturally the most elaborate. All three hoods are made of material to match the gowns and are lined in the official color of the institution which conferred the degree, with a chevron used for a second color if needed. (Gonzaga's colors are blue and white.) The colored velvet binding indicates the academic area in which the degree was received—white for liberal arts, yellow for science, drab for business, purple for law, light blue for education, scarlet for theology, and so forth.

## Academic Banners and Hood Colors

Commencement features the college and school banners placed on the altar. The banners represent the various schools of the University and are placed in order according to the dates the schools were established.

The College of Arts & Sciences is the original school, established in 1887. Students wear white hoods for liberal arts, yellow for science, scarlet for theology.

The Library was opened in 1887 for collaboration, study, discovery, and reflection. In 1992 it was renamed the Foley Center in honor of alumnus Ralph E. Foley and his wife Helen Higgins Foley.

The School of Law was started in 1912. Students display purple on their gowns and hoods to represent the legal field.

The School of Business Administration began in 1921. Students wear drab hoods.

The School of Education was established in 1928, and students wear light blue hoods for education, citron for counseling, and white for arts.

The School of Engineering & Applied Science began in 1934, and students wear orange for engineering, and yellow for science.

The Gonzaga in Florence Program began in 1963 and provides learning opportunities abroad across many disciplines.

The School of Nursing and Human Physiology was established in 2013, represented by apricot hoods for nursing, and yellow hoods for science.

The School of Leadership Studies was established in 2018. Students wear white for arts, crimson for communication, and dark blue for philosophy.

## Presidential Chain of Office

The Gonzaga presidential chain of office, sometimes referred to as the presidential medallion, is worn as part of the president's academic attire at ceremonial occasions such as Commencement and Convocations. The chain is worn around the neck and drapes down across the chest and the back. Its design combines the Coat of Arms of the university and important dates that represent the university's history. The medallion with the Coat of Arms

and the name is the focal point of the chain. 1887, the School of Law–1912, the School of Business Administration–1921, the School of Education–1928, the School of Engineering and Applied Science–1934, Gonzaga in Florence–1963, the School of Professional Studies–1975, Foley Center–1990, the School of Nursing and Human Physiology–2010, and the Center for Global Engagement–2013.