



2025 School of Law Commencement

The One Hundred and Thirty-Second Commencement

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

*McCarthy Athletic Center
Spokane, Washington*

The Academic Procession

Banner Bearer

Olivia Perez

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, Admissions

School of Law Assistant Dean, Student Affairs

School of Law Chaplain

Assistant Vice President, Academic Development

Honor Recipients

Trustee of the University

Interim Provost of the University

President of the University

Program

Processional

Angus Scott Pipe Band

Master of Ceremonies

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

The National Anthem

Big Bing Theory Student Club

Invocation

Bryan V. Pham, S.J., J.D., J.C.D., Ph.D., Law School Chaplain

Introductory Remarks

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

Conferring of Dean's Academic Achievement Award

Carolyn Powers

Conferring of The Law Medal

Chief Justice Debra L. Stephens

Commencement Address

U.S. Senator Tim Kaine

Class of 2025 Student Speaker

Mia Nicole Irvin

Presentation of the Candidates

Benediction

Bryan V. Pham, S.J., J.D., J.C.D., Ph.D., 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

Chief Justice Debra L. Stephens ('87 B.A. & '93 J.D.)

The Honorable Debra L. Stephens has been a member of the Washington State Supreme Court since January 2008 and began serving a second time as the Court's Chief Justice beginning in January 2025. Prior to joining the Supreme Court, she served on the Washington Court of Appeals and had a successful career as an appellate attorney in both state and federal courts. In addition, she taught federal and state constitutional law, as well as appellate advocacy, at Gonzaga University School of Law.

Chief Justice Stephens co-chairs the Judicial Independence Committee of the National Association of Women Judges and has worked with USAID to train foreign judges on judicial independence and the rule of law. She is a founding executive committee member of the National Courts and Sciences Institute (NCSI), where she is currently involved in an initiative focused on data science and artificial intelligence. Additionally, she serves as a convener for Dividing the Waters, a National Judicial College program that supports judicial education on water law. Chief Justice Stephens is also a member of the Washington State Civic Learning Council and was recently named a Rodel Judicial Fellow. In this role, she joins fellow jurists from across the United States to address the role of courts in strengthening democracy.

Chief Justice Stephens and her husband have two grown children and a granddaughter. She enjoys golf, tennis, pickleball, and spending time outdoors.

Chief Justice Stephens – Awards and Honors

Professional Awards and Recognitions:

- *2022 Judge of the Year*, Washington State Association for Justice (WASJ)
- *2022 Innovating Justice Award*, Board for Judicial Administration
Recognized for leadership of the judicial branch during the COVID-19 crisis
- *2021 Judicial Leadership Award*, Access to Justice Board
- *2011 Distinguished Legal Service Award*, Gonzaga School of Law
- *2009 Leadership & Justice Award*, Mother Attorneys Mentoring Association of Seattle (MAMAS)
- *2008 Myra Bradwell Award*, Gonzaga School of Law
- *President's Award*, Washington Women Lawyers (WWL)

Law School Awards and Honors (Gonzaga University School of Law):

- *1993 Moot Court National Competition*, Second Place Team
- *1992 National Best Oralist / Best Brief*
- *1992 Thomas More Scholar*
- *1991–1993 Law Review Member*

Education:

- B.A., Gonzaga University, *magna cum laude*, 1987
- J.D., Gonzaga University School of Law, *magna cum laude*, 1993

Commencement Speaker

U.S. Senator Tim Kaine

Senator Tim Kaine was elected to the Senate in 2012 and serves on the Armed Services; Budget; Foreign Relations; and Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committees.

Tim has made boosting job opportunities for everyone a top priority. As co-chair of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education (CTE) Caucus, Tim focuses on expanding access to job-training programs to ensure that students of all ages are prepared with the skills they need for the jobs of the modern economy. Tim has also led successful efforts in the Senate to reduce unemployment for military families and veterans.

As a senator from one of the states most closely connected to the military and the father of a Marine Reservist, Tim is focused on crafting smart defense strategy and reducing the risk of unnecessary war. He works to ensure that the military has the resources it needs to keep the country safe and that servicemembers and veterans receive the benefits and care they have earned. He has also been the leading voice against presidents starting wars without a vote by Congress.

Tim believes that health care is a right, not something reserved just for those who can afford it, and has consistently pushed for reforms to expand access to quality care. This includes legislation to give Americans more options for affordable health insurance and to combat the opioid abuse epidemic.

Tim grew up working in his father's ironworking shop in Kansas City. His parents taught him the value of hard work and showed him how small businesses and technical skills strengthen this country every day. After graduating from the University of Missouri, he started his public service career by running a technical school founded by Jesuit missionaries in Honduras. He trained teenagers to become carpenters and welders, equipping them with skills to lift up themselves and their communities.

He was first elected to office in 1994, serving as a city councilmember and then Mayor of Richmond. He became Lieutenant Governor of Virginia in 2002 and was inaugurated as Virginia's 70th Governor in 2006. He is married to Anne Holton, who served as Virginia Secretary of Education from 2014 until 2016 and as the Interim President of George Mason University from 2019 until 2020; she now teaches education policy at GMU. They both revel in the adventure of their three grown children and live in Richmond.

Dean's Academic Achievement Medal

Carolyn Powers

Carolyn Powers entered the legal profession following a successful first career in business and human resource management, where she championed equity and justice in the workplace. As a long-time resident of Spokane, studying law at Gonzaga felt serendipitous by design.

In addition to her academic achievements, Carolyn served as a teaching assistant for Civil Procedure and Contracts, mentored two brilliant 1Ls through Women's Law Caucus, and gained valuable practical experience working at Paine Hamblen. She also held roles as a Trustee of the Washington State Bar Foundation and as a board member of *Gonzaga Law Review*, Volume 60. Her article, *The Next Evolution of Religious Accommodation in Employment*, was published in Volume 59.

Carolyn's law school highlights include judicial externships with the Honorable Judge Tony Hazel at Spokane County Superior Court and the Honorable Tracy A. Staab at the Washington Court of Appeals. After taking the Washington bar exam, Carolyn looks forward to clerking for Judge Staab and getting back to some of her favorite activities—adventures with her husband and dog, Chiefs games with friends, and the occasional visit to her hometown of Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

Pro Bono Award of Distinction*

Olivia Perez

Olivia Perez, a first-generation law student from Bridgeport, Washington, embodies resilience and service. Raised by Mexican farmworker immigrants, Olivia witnessed firsthand the profound impact of public services on her family and community. This experience, shaped by the realities of rural life in a town of 2,000, fueled her lifelong passion for giving back. At Gonzaga Law, Olivia's commitment to public service translated into extensive pro bono work, from assisting indigent clients at the Spokane and Franklin County Public Defenders, to assisting Professor Holland's CJA cases, to providing legal aid through Latinos en Spokane and the Name and Gender ID Clinic, among many others. Through the Zags in Public Service program, Olivia has solidified her confidence in her ability to serve underserved communities with compassion and skill. She is eager to begin her career as a public defender in the Tri-Cities, where she will continue the cycle of service, extending the same lifeline that public services provided to her family.

Law School Faculty Speaker**

Inga N. Laurent, J.D.

Inga is a Fulbright Scholar and teaches in the areas of criminal law and procedure, evidence, and dispute resolution. Her expertise is centered around restorative, transitional, and transformative justice, which she implements locally and globally through research, training, and generative design. She believes deeply in our human capacity for goodness while concurrently recognizing the world is fraught with challenges that frequently cause us suffering, distracting us from developing into our better selves. Inga also believes in the power of truth even (or especially) when difficult to hear, accept, or acknowledge. That grappling with hard truths creates immense possibility, fostering the conditions for wellness and wholeness to emerge. Her work – both internally and externally – is to facilitate truth, and honor its presence once it arrives through nurturing, responsive, generative, and sustained individual and communal action.

* Awarded at Gonzaga Law Commencement Social

** Delivered at Gonzaga Law Commencement Social

Degree Candidates

School of Law

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

Juris Doctor

December 2024, May 2025, August 2025

Joseph R. Abdalla	Jordan Geoffrey Gage	Morgan Michelle Lane*
Nikki Ackerman*	Olivia Lewis Gahm*	Gregory Lansing
Madison Alder	Gabriel Alex Galaviz	Micah Larson
§ Brianna Selina Alfonso	Erin K. Gallagher, JD/MSW	Joshua Bernard Lederman
Jorge Amigo Iturbe	Kaci Rae Gamboa	Mikeyla Calin Lee †
C. Price Anderson	Kriti Ganguly	Sofia Christine Leguria ◇
Hannah Elizabeth Anderson	Jarett Gardner	Jaclyn Michelle Lenhart
Sidney Jordan Angstman*	Savanna George	Alexander Robert Lewis
Yukta Aphale*	Ann Marie Gill*	Calleigh Lease Lighty
Theresa Aronson*	Miranda Leigh Gonzales*	Kevin Logue
Audrey Audette	David Andrew Gonzalez*	Shaw St. Clair Lowry*
Matthew Bailey	Josh Gray	Karla Itzel Lozano-Smith
Zachary Barish*	Lauren Marie Gray* ◇	Paige Lucas
Sophia Barker	Danielle Groth	Elle Maberry †
Emily Benisek*	Amy Guarisco ◇	Isabel R. S. MacCay
Connor Bennet	Kaleb Guzor	Francisco “Kiko” Luis Macias
Ty Bianucci	Gabrielle Elise Hagman*	Jr.
Tyler Jackson Black*	Kyle Haley*	Sarah Macias
Kelly Blichfeldt	Benjamin Derrick Hargreaves	Caila Blair Macomber
Koran Gabriel Burks	Grace E. Hebertson*	Chaz Maddock
Julie Ann Campos	Zoe Heeter	Ivan Manriquez Lopez
Giavanna Luise Caravello	Dustin L. Hennings*	Shannon Rose Maroney
Finn Carlson	Shane Russell Higgins	Adam Mast
Ally Carney* ◇	John P. Hinchey	Michael R. McIntire ◇
Marlee Anne Carpenter	Brett Hoover	David Connor McIntosh
Erin Carr	William Houser	Robert McQueen
Lauren Cassezza	Alexia Lyn Howard-Mullins	Joseph Michielsen ◇
Vicky Chin* †	Payton Hubby	Taylor Menzel
Neil H. Christenson ◇	Nathaniel Imhof	Mary Miller
Kathryn Grace Sweeney	Mia Nicole Irvin* †	Bailia B. Milne
Clavere	Ashton Elizabeth Jessee	Madisen C. Monigold* †
Rhys Colson*	Garry Matthew Jewell*	Rodolfo Moreno Benito
Taylor Cooper	Ann Leslie Kalisuch	Ryan LaMont Morgan* †
Kaedyn A. Corrales*	Katricee Kane ◇	Tanner Mullen
Isabella Leigh DeNotto	Brian Nicholas Karsann* †	Karlie Murphy* †
Missica Louise Derhalli* †	Katherine Kautzman	Zoey Myer
David Bradford Strantz Dye	Grace Kelly	Sarah Elise Nally
Rachel Geena Edelman*	Lydia Kennelly*	Alexis Nelson
Diana M. Eggert	Brady Lee King	Darin T. Nelson*
Alec Ferris	Dylan Kittay	Alexander Niño
Hannah Nicole Fishbein	Matthew Gabriel Knuffke	Meg O'Brien
Marcela L. Neu Frazier*	Savannah Kotkin*	Jesus Ocampo-Hernandez*
Stephanie Emma Freeman	Courtney A. Kuhlmann	Reed Allen Ocheltree
Levi Jon Frounfelter	Hannah Dale Lacy	Jesslin Ochoa

Cole Mark Olafson*	Sophia C. Sabeh	Saira Julliette Terriquez-
Jesus Manuel Olguin	Shawn Sande	Carrillo
Katelynn Ostrowski	Sarah Montgomery Santry* ✦	Carson Thiel
Kempenaar Lee Pahre* ✦	Arlington M. Schade	Grant Aulik Thompson
§ Felisha Palomera	Tory Schroeder	Maxwell G. Thompson
Anna Jane Pearson*	Francis Xavier Sefton*	Kasen Tone
Olivia Perez*	Ethan Seiler	Nicholas Armando Tovar
Charles Phelps	Aiyana Nitara Shalom	Samuel Rocco Michael
Tori Porter*	Ava Sharifi	Tumblin*
Ernesto William Posadas	Grace Olivia Shauvin	R. Jed Ullrich
Carolyn Powers*	Hannah Mary Shergold	Angelique Marie Vasquez
Carly Jeanne Quast	Alexis Abigail Skinner	Nicolas Vikari
Abby Nicole Raap	David Slifka*	§ Kimberly Iveth Villacorta*
Amy Nicole Rantamaki	Cassidee Rae Smidt	Maggie Morgan Volk
Bryan Kenneth Reed*	Connor SooHoo	Isabel Mary Gray Wallace
Josh Ritchey	Abigail Stallings	Haley Wehrheim
Kathryn Roberts	Addison Staples	Erin Faith Whitaker
Hannah Susanne Roch	Michael Stapleton	Kathryn Whitt
Danielle Rodriguez	Jacobelly Steinbock	Tyler Wilson
Jalen D'Mitri Rodriguez	Shelby Stevens*	Christopher Wood
Maxwell Douglas McLiver	Salvatore Paolo Strazzeri ◇	Tommy Xu
Rogers*	Evan Reinier Surrency	Julia Zaglin ◇
Elizabeth R. Rothrock* ✦	Christopher Swienty*	Luke Zasadny ◇
Matthew James Ruggles	Stephen Szambelan	

- § *The Gonzaga School of Law Carl Maxey Scholarship Program provides a unique educational experience for a limited number of highly qualified individuals committed to public service through law. Carl Maxey 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 the Two-Year Executive J.D. Program. Housed within our Center for Law, Ethics & Commerce, this program consists of a sequenced curriculum over two years (including summers) that focuses on business, leadership, and the private practice of law.*
- * *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.

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

Kathryn Grace Sweeney Clavere
Josh Gray
Katrice Kane
Carolyn Powers

Maxwell Douglas McLiver
Rogers
Arlington M. Schade
Francis Xavier Sefton

Michael Stapleton
Carson Thiel
Grant Aulik Thompson

Magna Cum Laude

Nikki Ackerman
Madison Alder
Sidney Jordan Angstman
Emily Benisek
Erin Carr
Neil H. Christenson
Isabella Leigh DeNotto

Marcela L. Neu Frazier
Levi Jon Frounfelter
Olivia Lewis Gahm
Gabrielle Elise Hagman
Ann Leslie Kalisuch
Matthew Gabriel Knuffke
Kevin Logue

Shaw St. Clair Lowry
Taylor Menzel
Bailia B. Milne
Jesus Manuel Olguin
Kempenaar Lee Pahre
Tyler Wilson

Cum Laude

C. Price Anderson
Audrey Audette
Sophia Barker
Vicky Chin
Kaedyn A. Corrales
Diana M. Eggert
Kaci Rae Gamboa
Ann Marie Gill
Lauren Marie Gray
John P. Hinchey

Mia Nicole Irvin
Brian Nicholas Karsann
Grace Kelly
Micah Larson
Jaclyn Michelle Lenhart
Alexander Robert Lewis
Elle Maberry
Isabel R. S. MacCay
Ivan Manriquez Lopez
Karlie Murphy

Alexis Nelson
Darin T. Nelson
Meg O’Brien
Jesus Ocampo-Hernandez
Elizabeth R. Rothrock
Tory Schroeder
Aiyana Nitara Shalom
Christopher Swienty
Nicholas Armando Tovar



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.

Thank You

We extend our sincere gratitude to the faculty and staff whose contributions made this event possible and who joined us in honoring the Law School Class of 2025. Also, thank you to the university partners and Setons Club for supporting this ceremony.

Please join the Gonzaga Law School J.D. graduates for a brief champagne reception immediately following the ceremony, held on the back lawn of the Law School.