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### 1998 Suffolk University commencement program, Law School

Suffolk University

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# *Suffolk University Annual Commencement*



## *Law School*

*Sunday, May 24, 1998  
Ten o'clock in the morning  
The FleetCenter  
Boston, Massachusetts*



# Suffolk University

Suffolk University is a dynamic urban university with more than 6,500 students of all ages enrolled in day and evening programs in its College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Frank Sawyer School of Management and Law School. The University is located on Beacon Hill in the heart of Boston and is accessible from all parts of the metropolitan area.

Founded as a law school in 1906, the University developed by adding a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 1934 and a School of Management in 1937. On April 29, 1937, the Law School, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the School of Management were chartered as Suffolk University by the Massachusetts General Court. The University is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

The Law School, accredited by the American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools, awards the juris doctor (JD) degree to its graduates. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences awards degrees as the associate in arts (AA), the associate in science (AS), the bachelor of arts (BA), the bachelor of fine arts (BFA), the bachelor of science (BS), the bachelor of science in general studies (BSGS), the bachelor of science in journalism (BSJ), the master of arts in communication (MA), the master of science in education (MS), the master of science in computer science (MSCS), the master of science in criminal justice (MSCJ), the master of science in international economics (MSIE), the master of science in political science (MSPS), the master of education (MED) and a doctor of philosophy degree in clinical psychology. A certificate of advanced graduate study (CAGS) is awarded for study beyond the master's degree in several fields of education and human services. The master of public administration and master of science in mental health counseling (MPA/MS) are jointly offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Sawyer School of Management. The master of science in international economics and the juris doctor degree are jointly offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Law School (MSIE/JD). The Frank Sawyer School of Management, accredited by the International Association for Management Education (AACSB) and by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA), conducts both undergraduate and graduate programs in business. The undergraduate program leads to the degree of bachelor of science in business administration (BSBA). Graduate programs lead to master's degrees in business administration (MBA) and public administration (MPA). Special master's degrees offered include the master of science in accounting (MSA), the master of science in finance (MSF), the master of science in financial sciences and banking (MSFSB), the master of science in taxation (MST), the master of science in entrepreneurial studies (MSES), and the master's degree in health administration (MHA). Undergraduate certificate programs in accounting and a graduate diploma in professional accounting (GDPA) are offered. The advanced professional certificate (APC) in business and certificate of advanced study in public administration (CASPA) and certificate of advanced study in finance provide study beyond the master's degree. Joint Degree programs leading to the bachelor of science in business (BSBA/JD), master of business (JD/MBA), master of public administration (JD/MPA) or master of science in finance (JD/MSF) and the juris doctor degrees are offered by the Frank Sawyer School of Management and the Law School.

Since 1906, when Gleason L. Archer established a law school for working adults, Suffolk University has graduated close to 40,000 students who have taken their places in the professional world. Among the University's alumni are some of New England's outstanding jurists, attorneys, businessmen and women, teachers, writers and scientists.

During its 92 years, Suffolk University has grown in size and in the scope and quality of its academic programs. As it develops new programs to meet emerging needs, Suffolk University remains guided by Gleason Archer's commitment to the community and to its people, and by a concern for access, success and excellence.

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Jeffrey D. Wittenberg, B.A., J.D., Professor of Law  
David C. Yamada, B.A., J.D., Associate Professor of Law

## Commencement Program

### *Prelude*

Boston Brass Ensemble  
John D. Corley, Conductor

### *Processional*

(Audience Please Rise)

### *Academic Procession*

John A. Brennan, Jr., JD, '73  
Representing 25th Anniversary Class of 1973  
University Marshal

### *Call to Commencement Exercises*

William J. O'Neill, Jr., Esquire  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

### *Presiding*

David J. Sargent, Esquire  
President of the University

### *Invocation*

Reverend Carolyn Dittes  
Boston-Cambridge Ministry in Higher Education  
Suffolk University Protestant Chaplain

### *National Anthem*

### *Commencement Address*

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta  
Former Chief of Staff for the President of the United States

### *Conferring of Honorary Degrees*

Lillian R. BeVier  
Professor of Law  
University of Virginia Law School  
The Honorable Roderick L. Ireland  
Associate Justice  
Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts  
Victoria Reggie Kennedy  
Attorney at Law

The Honorable John P. Murtha  
United States Representative  
Pennsylvania, Twelfth District

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta  
Former Chief of Staff for the President of the United States

### *Class Greetings*

Gary Zerola, JD '98

### *Conferring of Degrees*

### *Benediction*

Reverend Carolyn Dittes  
Boston-Cambridge Ministry in Higher Education  
Suffolk University Protestant Chaplain

### *Recessional*

(Audience Please Remain Seated Until Last Graduate Has Left the Auditorium)



## THE DEGREE OF JURIS DOCTOR SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Daniel T. Kajunski

Milton, MA

◇ Catherine J. Kara

Cambridge, MA

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Thomas Richard Barker Pittsfield, MA  
Kristy Bertelsen Bountiful, UT  
Kathryn Altizer Bowers Hagerstown, MD  
Elise A. Brassil S. Boston, MA  
Mary Ellen Cortizas Winchester, MA  
Donna Domagala Boston, MA  
Lisa R. Donahue Weston, MA  
□ Jeffrey M. Ellsworth Southborough, MA  
Christine M. Filosa Marblehead, MA  
Paula W. Foley Framingham, MA  
◇ John V. Forcier Ashland, MA  
Suzanne Frechette Lowell, MA  
Mark John Gallagher Boston, MA  
Jacqueline González Fernández Boston, MA  
◇ Duncan A. Greenhalgh Bedford, MA  
• Stanley Arthur Kim Winchester, MA  
Adrienne Lee Kotowski Plymouth, MA  
Michelle Lander Framingham, MA  
Sharon L. Larkin Stoughton, MA  
Jennifer Joyce Lynch Warwick, RI  
Brian R. Marinelli Malden, MA  
Deidra L. Minemier Hatfield, PA  
David T. Mittelman Manchester, NH

Steven Moheban Nashua, NH  
Marie Monk Melrose, MA  
Ronda P. Moore Hyde Park, MA  
Bridget E. Murray Reading, MA  
Jill F. Nareau Feeding Hills, MA  
Michael Christopher Palermo Chelmsford, MA  
Patricia L. Pellegrino-Peard Lexington, MA  
Francis R. Powell Hingham, MA  
Stephen H. Prosser Holliston, MA  
Michele L. Richard Westford, MA  
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Wendy Beth Silverman Cumberland, RI  
Dennis W. Simoneau North Providence, RI  
□ Kurt R. Steinkrauss Lexington, MA  
Christine C. Sullivan Saugus, MA  
Nathalie Tauchner Munich, Germany  
David G. Thomas Newton Highlands, MA  
Heidi Brooks Treiber Dover, MA  
Kristen E. Vagos Beverly, MA  
Christopher M. Waterman Hanover, MA

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Lynne Afrow Peabody, MA  
Thomas F. Ahern Ipswich, MA  
Michelle Ah Yat Honolulu, HI  
Kerry A. Aleman West Newton, MA  
• Matthew J. Allain Leominster, MA  
David Altman Newton, MA  
◇ Richard R. Alves, Jr. Milford, MA  
Feng Kenneth Kuei An Braintree, MA  
Cesar Augusto Archilla Swampscott, MA  
David W. Argitis Sturbridge, MA  
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Jennifer Ashare Chestnut Hill, MA  
Leora Azoulay El Paso, TX  
Ronald Gerard Azzu North Caldwell, NJ

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Karen A. Bell Melrose, MA  
Jacqueline Bendheim Boston, MA  
Maureen E. Benton N. Easton, MA  
Nicole A. Bernabo East Haddam, CT  
Jacqueline Bernadeau Thomonde, Haiti  
Melissa Ann Bernstein Byfield, MA

◇ High Technology Law Concentration with Distinction

□ Taxation Law Concentration with Distinction

† Master of Public Administration Recipient

†† Master of Business Administration Recipient

\* Cum Laude

• February 1998 Graduate

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| *Jill Heather Blumberg    | Allentown, PA                 | Kimberly A. Correia       | Acushnet, MA         |
| *John E. Bonini           | Westfield, MA                 | Paul Coryea               | Salem, NH            |
| Conrod Armand Boone       | Stoughton, MA                 | *Keith Patrick Coughlin   | Somerville, MA       |
| Todd L. Boudreau          | Roseville, CA                 | Victoria A. Crawshaw      | Wellesley, MA        |
| Teresa Boulger            | Norwood, MA                   | Amanda Kate Creamer       | Tewksbury, MA        |
| Karen R. Bowden           | Bridgewater, MA               | ◇*Paul John Cronin        | Bedford, MA          |
| Angela D. Bradbury        | Dracut, MA                    | Christopher W. Crowley    | Brookline, MA        |
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◇High Technology Law Concentration with Distinction

□Taxation Law Concentration with Distinction

†Master of Public Administration Recipient

††Master of Business Administration Recipient

\*Cum Laude

•February 1998 Graduate



## THE DEGREE OF JURIS DOCTOR (Continued)

|                            |                     |                             |                      |
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| Mark A.S. Duke             | Brooklyn, NY        | * Robert J. Grande          | East Hartford, CT    |
| Hawley DuLaurence          | Hingham, MA         | * Julie Ann Gregg           | Sandwich, MA         |
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| Reneé Felice Dupee         | Malden, MA          | Matthew J. Griffin          | Waltham, MA          |
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| Michael Kenly Earle        | Boston, MA          | John Hamilton               | Somerville, MA       |
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| * Sheryl D. Eisenberg      | Boston, MA          | * Amy Louise Hanson         | Bridgewater, MA      |
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| * Sean Gordon              | Hudson, NH          |                             |                      |

◇ High Technology Law Concentration with Distinction

□ Taxation Law Concentration with Distinction

† Master of Public Administration Recipient

†† Master of Business Administration Recipient

\* Cum Laude

• February 1998 Graduate

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| Alysa B. Karll            | Braintree, MA         | Joseph M. Majchrzak             | Cambridge, MA   |
| Stephanie Kean            | Boston, MA            | *Kiran Malhotra                 | Cumberland, RI  |
| *Anthony Paul Kearns III  | Milton, MA            | *Mary Ellen Manganelli          | Watertown, MA   |
| John Keene, Jr.           | Burlington, MA        | Jennifer L. Manning-Zoll        | Danvers, MA     |
| •*Mary C. Kelley          | Lynn, MA              | *Thomas Alden Manson            | Plymouth, MA    |
| *Elaine M. Kennedy        | Londonderry, NH       | Maureen Marsella                | Hamilton, MA    |
| ††Brian D. Kerr           | Hingham, MA           | Debbie Marie Martin             | Bedford, NH     |
| Haroula Kesaris           | Quincy, MA            | *Dean A. Mazzone                | Winthrop, MA    |
| *Michael Thomas Killion   | Harrisburg, PA        | Patrick Owens McAleer           | Providence, RI  |
| *Brian L. Kinsley         | Plymouth, MA          | *Carlotta E. McCarthy           | Gloucester, MA  |
| *Sara Kirschbaum          | San Antonio, TX       | Elizabeth Bridget McCarthy      | Duxbury, MA     |
| □*Andrew T. Kofman        | Sharon, MA            | Kimberley Anne McCarty          | Lowell, MA      |
| Melissa A. Korpacz        | N. Providence, RI     | Amy E. McConnel                 | Camarillo, CA   |
| *Colin M. Korzec          | Boston, MA            | †John D. McCoy                  | Boston, MA      |
| Kristin Marie Kraeger     | Newport, RI           | *Michael P. McCoy               | Seekonk, MA     |
| Brian Howard Kudish       | Cranston, RI          | *Elizabeth C. McDermott         | Westport, MA    |
| Ariana Kushak             | Brookline, MA         | Kathleen Ann McDevitt           | Warwick, RI     |
| Melissa M. LaGrant        | Otis, MA              | *Matthew J. McDonough           | Plymouth, MA    |
| *John Nicholas Lambros    | Sault Ste. Marie, MI  | William Andrew McElroy          | Westwood, MA    |
| María V. Lamoutte         | San Juan, Puerto Rico | *Dennis A. McFarlane            | Swampscott, MA  |
| •*Brian LaPlante          | Scituate, RI          | *Patrick James McGrath          | Waterbury, CT   |
| Tamara Shaie LaPointe     | Middletown, CT        | Shealyn M. McGuire              | Boston, MA      |
| Michael J. Larkin, Jr.    | Dublin, Ireland       | John Patrick McLaughlin         | Milton, MA      |
| Sarah Ellen Larner        | Newton, MA            | *Stephanie McMenimen            | Lexington, MA   |
| *Thomas J. LaRosa         | Norwood, MA           | *Michael P. McNally             | Nashua, NH      |
| *Krista M. Larsen         | Seymour, CT           | Owen Meacham                    | Essex, CT       |
| •*Gary S. Larson          | Honolulu, HI          | *Maureen R. Medeiros            | Acushnet, MA    |
| David C. LaValle          | Lexington, MA         | Erinn Elizabeth Melia           | Sutton, MA      |
| Michelle Renée Lavigne    | Whitinsville, MA      | *Lawrence Robert Miceli, Jr.    | Chelmsford, MA  |
| Shelby Leek               | Lexington, MA         | *Michelle J. Michaels           | E. Falmouth, MA |
| •Jeanine P. Liddell       | Bradford, MA          | John G. Michailos               | Marlborough, MA |
| Arnold J. Lizana III      | Springfield, MA       | Susan M. Michaud                | Brookline, MA   |
| Raymond Guy Long II       | Norwood, MA           | Allison Rae Miller              | Ledyard, CT     |
| Stephen C. Longton        | Berkley, MA           | Denise S. Miller                | Braintree, MA   |
| Jean M. Lorizio           | South Boston, MA      | Paula J. Piccolo Minella        | Revere, MA      |
| *Michael MacClary         | Natick, MA            | Charles Daniel Cushman Mitchell | Topsfield, MA   |
| •Marianne W.B. MacDougall | Randolph, MA          | *Jacqueline L. Modiste          | Stoughton, MA   |
| Lisa MacGillivray         | Halifax, MA           | Roxana M. Molina                | Ontario, Canada |
| *María Antonia Machín     | West Palm Beach, FL   | *Brian Michael Molinari         | Holbrook, NY    |
| *Todd Matthew Machnik     | Yarmouth Port, MA     | Elizabeth P. Morano             | Arlington, MA   |
| Timothy G. MacKenzie      | Hull, MA              | Kevin William Mulvey            | Quincy, MA      |
| *Tara M. Madden           | Rowley, MA            | James Michael Murphy            | Weymouth, MA    |
| Richard J. Maffei         | Southboro, MA         | *Matthew J. Murphy              | Wauquoit, MA    |
| *John P. Mahoney          | Stoneham, MA          | *Sean E. Murphy                 | Boston, MA      |
|                           |                       | Nichole R. Murray               | Windsor, CT     |
|                           |                       | Trevor Murray                   | Somerville, MA  |

◇High Technology Law Concentration with Distinction

□Taxation Law Concentration with Distinction

†Master of Public Administration Recipient

††Master of Business Administration Recipient

\*Cum Laude

•February 1998 Graduate



## THE DEGREE OF JURIS DOCTOR (Continued)

|                               |                       |                             |                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Marie D. Natoli               | Wellesley, MA         | Kathleen C. Ready           | Marshfield, MA    |
| Joëlle M. Nazaïre             | Canton, MA            | Joseph John Reardon, Jr.    | Barnstable, MA    |
| Michael S. Neri               | Plymouth, MA          | Ruth Eyerly Riaño           | Boston, MA        |
| Craig J. Nesta                | Boston, MA            | ♦ James J. Richards         | Lynn, MA          |
| • * Jessie L. Nice            | Boston, MA            | Scott A. Robillard          | Stoneham, MA      |
| James F. O'Brien              | West Roxbury, MA      | • * Michael P. Roche        | South Boston, MA  |
| Kerry Ann O'Brien             | Lunenburg, MA         | Stephen Joseph Roche        | Quincy, MA        |
| • Daniel J. O'Connell         | Belmont, MA           | * Holly Rogers              | Gloucester, MA    |
| Debbie-Ann O'Connell          | Barrington, RI        | Augusto Rojas, Jr.          | Pawtucket, RI     |
| * Jennifer Salvatore O'Connor | Lakeland, FL          | Rhonda Jane Roselli         | Cambridge, MA     |
| † Frank Michael O'Donnell     | Swampscott, MA        | * Michael Patrick Ruane     | Lynn, MA          |
| ♦ * Kevin Francis O'Donnell   | Londonderry, NH       | * Louis Mark Rubano         | North Haven, CT   |
| * Kevin B. O'Leary            | Dorchester, MA        | Bruce D. Rubenstein         | Sharon, MA        |
| Melissa A. O'Neill            | Peace Dale, RI        | Darren A. Rubin             | West Hartford, CT |
| * Raquel M. Ortiz             | San Juan, Puerto Rico | Jeffrey B. Rubin            | N. Easton, MA     |
| * Deborah H. O'Toole          | Millis, MA            | * Brandon M. Ruggieri       | Walpole, MA       |
| Michael John O'Toole          | Medway, MA            | Arthur S. Russo, Jr.        | Lincoln, RI       |
| Sharon M. Ouimette            | Danvers, MA           | Deborah A. Ryan             | S. Boston, MA     |
| * George N. Panas             | Dracut, MA            | • * Roxanne E. Samii        | Newton Centre, MA |
| John N. Papantonakis          | Boston, MA            | * Kathleen Marie Santangelo | East Freetown, MA |
| • * Kelly Pappas              | Burlington, MA        | * Thomas Joseph Santolucito | Waltham, MA       |
| * Christine M. Paroyan        | Arlington, MA         | Colleen Marie Santora       | Malden, MA        |
| Shea W. Peacock               | Boston, MA            | Caroline M. Sawyer          | Foxborough, MA    |
| Jason P. Pedalino             | Bridgewater, NJ       | Regina Paull Schwarzenberg  | Newport, RI       |
| Lisa M. Pellegrino            | Braintree, MA         | * Jason R. Scopa            | Everett, MA       |
| Stephen R. Pepe               | Wilmington, MA        | Christopher Jens Scott      | Belmont, MA       |
| * Deborah L. Perry            | Tewksbury, MA         | • * Liam D. Scully          | Boston, MA        |
| * Matthew C. Pezzulich        | Bennington, VT        | Jennifer Rende Seltenrich   | Ipswich, MA       |
| Christopher E. Phillips       | Quincy, MA            | Paromita H. Shah            | Andover, MA       |
| * Mildred N. Phillips         | Malden, MA            | Marty Shanahan              | Worcester, MA     |
| * Marta Marie Philpott        | Haverhill, MA         | • Elizabeth Sheehy          | Lowell, MA        |
| Gregory Laszlo Pickard        | Medfield, MA          | * Jessica Lee Shiok         | Montpelier, VT    |
| • * Jill Suzanne Picone       | Santa Cruz, CA        | Lisa S. Shouse              | Cambridge, MA     |
| • * A. Silvia Pincov          | Hingham, MA           | George Sigalos              | Glen Ellyn, IL    |
| Gregory L. Pottle             | Foxborough, MA        | * Wendy Bieber Silver       | Newton, MA        |
| Steven C. Preskenis           | Norwood, MA           | * Sandra Skabeikis          | Dorchester, MA    |
| • Hilary B. Price             | Reston, VA            | * Diann M. Slavitt          | Haverhill, MA     |
| * Robert A. Prousalis         | Wakefield, MA         | * Jacquelyn Smith           | West Roxbury, MA  |
| * Robert Edward Puopolo       | Canton, MA            | • Kristen Palmer Solo       | Camden, ME        |
| Kathleen Putney               | S. Boston, MA         | Gianpiero Spino             | Boston, MA        |
| Mark Rian Quigley             | Marblehead, MA        | Courtney Stabnick           | West Hartford, CT |
| * Therese Quijano             | Smithtown, NY         | Randi Kara Stempler         | Scarsdale, NY     |
| Stephen Rabasco               | Boston, MA            | * Wendy L. Stevens          | Milford, CT       |
| Jennifer A. Rackley           | Exeter, NH            | John S. St. Germain         | Milford, MA       |
| Peter John Radulski           | Andover, MA           | Yvette Marie Story          | Malden, MA        |
| Mayte Ramos                   | Lowell, MA            | * Mary Strachan             | Lowell, MA        |
| Kathleen Raymer               | Falmouth, MA          | Rebecca Strothers           | Clinton, CT       |
|                               |                       | Elizabeth C. Sullivan       | Dorchester, MA    |
|                               |                       | John L. Sullivan III        | Chelmsford, MA    |

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\* Cum Laude

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## THE DEGREE OF JURIS DOCTOR (Continued)

|                                |                       |                          |                       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| *Kathleen C. Sullivan          | North Conway, NH      | Robyn R. Walters         | Boston, MA            |
| Rich Sullivan                  | Old Lyme, CT          | David A. Warren          | Sea Isle City, NJ     |
| Mary Beth Lillian-Ruth Sweeney | Melrose, MA           | *Maris Jill Weiner       | Poughkeepsie, NY      |
| ††Michael C. Sweet             | Avon, MA              | Jennifer Stacey Weisman  | Los Angeles, CA       |
| Michael Talty                  | Lowell, MA            | *Barbara Diane Weninger  | Waterford, MI         |
| *Wendy Elizabeth Tamis         | Methuen, MA           | Richard H. Wheeler       | Brookline, MA         |
| Shawn M. Tanguay               | Gorham, NH            | *Lisa D. White           | Revere, MA            |
| • Todd F. Taplin               | Cambridge, MA         | *Veronica White          | Hingham, MA           |
| *Melissa Tarentino             | Woburn, MA            | • Kimberly A. Whitworth  | North Reading, MA     |
| Denis T. Teague                | North Providence, RI  | *Andrew Widger           | Philadelphia, PA      |
| Mary Love Teczar               | Amherst, NH           | *Roger Wilkinson         | LaJolla, CA           |
| Anita Thomas                   | Moorpark, CA          | *Leah Nicole Williams    | Erie, PA              |
| *Jonathan E. Tobin             | Pembroke, MA          | *Jonathan Robert Winnick | South Windsor, CT     |
| *Paul Francis Toner            | Cambridge, MA         | Nathanael E. Wright      | Hempstead, NY         |
| Christopher J. Toomey          | Medford, MA           | Victoria Ann Wright      | Martha's Vineyard, MA |
| *Ruth W. Tucker                | Lexington, MA         | Thomas J. Wynn III       | Wellesley, MA         |
| *Beth H. Tunstall              | Londonderry, NH       | • Peter Yao              | Portsmouth, NH        |
| Jennie Marie Tweet             | Thief River Falls, MN | Matthew Jason Zamaloff   | Peekskill, NY         |
| Floretta L. Vigil              | Denver, CO            | James Neil Zell          | Richmond, VA          |
| John K. Vigliotti              | Worcester, MA         | †Gary Zerola             | Lynn, MA              |
| *Francine D. Wachtmann         | Concord, MA           | Scott J. Zimmerman       | Hudson, NH            |
| Tammy L. Wade                  | Pensacola, FL         | *Ken Zwicker             | Bellingham, MA        |
| MaryBeth A. Waite              | Malden, MA            |                          |                       |
| *Mark A.B. Walter              | Needham, MA           |                          |                       |
| John M. Walters                | Binghamton, NY        |                          |                       |

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**LAW FACULTY OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD**

*Day Division*

Jacqueline González Fernández  
David John Santeusanio

*Evening Division*

Thomas Richard Barker

**THE LEO J. WYMAN MEMORIAL FUND AWARD**

*Day Division*

Todd Spencer Anderson

*Evening Division*

Melissa Lynne Fletcher

**THE DANIEL J. FERN AWARD**

*Day Division*

Daniel T. Kajunski

*Evening Division*

Catherine J. Kara

**THE PROFESSOR ALEXANDER J. CELLA AWARD**

Paula W. Foley

**THE JUDGE HARRY KALUS AWARD**

Daniel T. Kajunski

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS**

Carlotta E. McCarthy

## ACADEMIC ATTIRE

The academic attire worn during the commencement exercises by the graduates, faculty members, deans, trustees, the president, and the other members of the academic procession, had its origin during the Middle Ages at the medieval universities. The long black gown, the basic garment of the academic attire, was worn for warmth and to conceal food and sometimes wine to be consumed during lecture recesses. The square cap, the shape of which resembles a book, a mason's mortarboard, or the quadrangle shape of the Oxford University campus, usually has a black tassel indicating a bachelor's or master's degree, or a gold tassel indicating a doctoral degree. The hood, which is the most colorful raiment, was used as a cowl, a cape, an alms sack or to protect the wearer's wig from the elements.

In modern times, the wearing of academic attire was codified by the American Council on Education. Contemporary guidelines specify that the standard color for caps and gowns is black, that the material be cotton poplin, that there be no trimming on the gowns worn by recipients of baccalaureate or master's degrees, that the doctoral gown may be faced with black velvet trim with three bars of black velvet across the sleeves, that the trimming of the doctoral hood be of velvet and signify the academic area of the degree, and that the hood lining reflect the official color or colors of the college or university conferring the degree. The hood trimming color white designates bachelor of arts; yellow: bachelor and master of science; magenta: bachelor of science in journalism; drab olive: bachelor and master of business administration; peacock blue: bachelor and master of public administration; blue: master of education and certificate of advanced graduate study in education; and purple: juris doctor (law) degree.

Within certain permissible limits, universities may vary the style and color of the caps and gowns worn by their graduates. These variations may be noticed in the academic procession.