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2019 Commencement

Commencement

5-28-2019

2019 Commencement Exercises

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

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Benjamin N. Cardozo
School of Law
Forty-First Annual
Commencement Exercises

Tuesday, May Twenty-Eighth, Two Thousand Nineteen

David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center, New York City



Yeshiva University

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*Sheldon H. Solow Professor of Law
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law*
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*Provost and Vice President for
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Yeshiva University*
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Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman
*President
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Class of 2008

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*Rosh Yeshiva
Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological
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2007–2019*

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*LLM Class Speaker
Class of 2019*

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*JD Class Speaker
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Dean Leslie

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Cantor Heller

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LLM, 1988, New York University

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The Academic Procession

A HISTORICAL SKETCH BY THE LATE PROFESSOR MORRIS SILVERMAN, UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR

Since colonial times, American colleges and universities have held annual graduation ceremonies known as commencement exercises. While their nature has changed a great deal over the past three centuries, they have always featured the academic procession, in which the graduates, faculty, and administration march to the scene of the exercise.

Traditionally, graduates receiving the lowest degrees march first (after the marshal), followed by those receiving higher degrees in the order of importance of the degree; then come the faculty, and here, too, those of highest rank march last; last come the administrative officers, board of trustees, and recipients of honorary degrees, the president, and chairman of the board at the end. Degrees are awarded in the order of the procession. At the recessional closing of the exercises, participants withdraw in reverse order; the president marches first (after the marshal), and the recipients of the lowest degrees march last.

The persons in charge of ceremonies at the commencement exercises are called the marshals. As symbols of their authority, they carry batons, which are descendants of the war clubs carried by the original marshals, who were military officials. At Yeshiva University, the Chief Marshal carries a silver mace, a gift to the University from the late Stanley E. Stern, its friend and supporter, and the other marshals carry silver batons or wear gold epaulets.

The most colorful feature of the procession is the academic attire worn by all participants. A direct survival from medieval days, the costume originated about the 12th century, when almost everyone wore long flowing robes with hoods even indoors, as protection against the cold. Persons of different social standing and occupation were distinguished by the shape and color of their robes and hoods; university students and graduates, therefore, also were awarded special attire.

In 1895, an intercollegiate commission established a uniform academic costume system for American colleges and universities. This code has been reviewed and amended periodically by the American Council on Education.

Principal features of the standard academic dress are the gown, the cap, and the hood. The gown is black for all degrees. Bachelor's gowns have long pointed sleeves; Master's have either long sleeves, square and closed at the bottom with slits near the elbows through which the arms are placed, or oblong sleeves, open at the wrist; and Doctor's gowns have round open sleeves. For the Bachelor's and Master's degrees, the gown has no trimmings; for the Doctor's degree, it is faced down the front with velvet and has three bars of velvet across the sleeves, either in black or the color of the hood's border.

The square cap is known as a mortarboard and is black for all degrees. The tassel is gold for the Doctor's degree and black for all others. At Yeshiva University commencements, the tassel is worn on the right side by candidates for the Bachelor's degree

until the degree is conferred, when it is moved to the left. Those receiving higher degrees wear it at the left throughout the exercises, since they have already received a Bachelor's degree.

The hood is also black, but its shape, trim, and lining vary to show the level of the degree, the subject of the degree, and the school conferring it. In medieval times hoods were worn over the head in bad weather, but they are now thrown over the shoulders. Those receiving Bachelor's degrees wear no hoods; Master's hoods are three and one-half feet long; and Doctor's hoods are four feet, with added panels at the sides. (Those with Bachelor's degrees who are not members of the graduating class may wear a hood three feet long.)

The trim or binding of the hood is velvet, and the higher the degree the wider the trimming. The color indicates the subject of the degree. Colors most frequently seen at Yeshiva University commencements are white, for arts, letters, and humanities (such as Master of Arts); yellow, for science (Bachelor of Science and Master of Science); citron, social work (Master of Social Work); dark blue, philosophy (Doctor of Philosophy); light blue, education (Doctor of Education); scarlet, theology (Doctor of Divinity); green, medicine (Doctor of Medicine); and purple, law (Juris Doctor). Many of these colors have symbolic meanings. For example, white stands for the purity of the liberal arts, yellow for the golden wealth that scientific research has brought to the world, scarlet for the burning zeal of the dedicated clergyman, and green for the medicinal herbs of the physician.

The lining of the hood shows the institution conferring the degree. If a school has two official colors, it may use one or divide them in a variety of ways. Yeshiva University's colors are blue and white, and we use a solid, light blue hood lining. To distinguish them, the President and the Chief Marshal wear special robes.

Participants who are not in the graduating class—faculty, administration, etc.—wear costumes indicating their alma maters and highest academic attainments. This diversity, blending with the more uniform appearance of the graduates, affords added beauty to the commencement scene.

Description of Awards

THE BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO SCHOOL OF LAW AWARD FOR EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP

In recognition of magnificent leadership and extraordinary dedication to the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and for steadfast devotion to the pursuit of justice, which is central to its mission.

CARDOZO JUSTICE AWARD

For distinguished service in the pursuit of justice. Bestowed by the Cardozo faculty in recognition of significant and sustained work that has improved our system of justice and transformed lives.

DEAN'S AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

For outstanding service to the students of the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

MONRAD PAULSEN AWARD

For a member of the faculty or administration or for an individual who has provided devoted service to the continued vitality of the ideals and purposes of legal education. In memory of Cardozo's founding dean.

FELIX FRANKFURTER AWARD

For outstanding academic achievement, maturity, responsibility, diligence, and judgment.

DR. SAMUEL BELKIN AWARD

For exceptional contributions to the growth and development of Cardozo School of Law.

LOUIS HENKIN AWARD

For demonstrating academic achievement and superior scholarship in the LL.M. program.

PROFESSOR JOHN APPEL AWARD

For exemplary service to the student body.

ANDREW S. ZUCKER AWARD

For academic excellence, commitment to the law school's future success, and community activism and dedication to the legal profession. In memory of Andrew Steven Zucker, Class of 1999, a victim of the September 11th World Trade Center terrorist attacks.

E. NATHANIEL GATES AWARD

For outstanding academic work or public advocacy that contributes to the achievement of equal justice under law.

TELFORD TAYLOR AWARD

For outstanding achievement in the fields of constitutional law and international human rights.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING GRADUATE

For academic achievement, motivation, tenacity, and drive, and showing promise to contribute to the advancement of women in society.

JAMES LEWIS AWARD

For outstanding achievement, academic or clinical, in the field of taxation.

STANLEY H. BECKERMAN PUBLIC INTEREST AWARD

For outstanding commitment to assisting less fortunate persons in need of legal assistance by virtue of excellent performance in a clinic, exceptional personal qualities, and career choice.

JONATHAN A. WEISS AWARD FOR PUBLIC INTEREST LAW

For commitment to public interest law during the student's law school career.

ARCHIE A. GORFINKEL AWARD

For the most promising and accomplished graduate entering the field of criminal law.

JACOB BURNS ETHICS CENTER IN THE PRACTICE OF LAW AWARD

For the demonstrated commitment through scholarship, activity, and interest in advancing professionalism and access to justice.

STEVEN ERIC TANENBAUM LEADERSHIP AWARD

For exemplary service to the Cardozo community.

ALI-ABA SCHOLARSHIP AND LEADERSHIP AWARD

Awarded to the graduate who best represents a combination of scholarship and leadership, qualities embodied by the sponsoring organizations—the American Law Institute and American Bar Association.

BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO WRITING AWARDS

Awards recognizing the best written work for publication, in civil advocacy, and the best course/independent research paper.

CHARLES BALLON WRITING AWARD

For the best written work published outside of the Cardozo community.

DISTINGUISHED PERFORMANCE IN THE LL.M. PROGRAM

For overall contribution to the academic life and extracurricular activities of the law school community.

CARDOZO SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

For achievement and outstanding service to the law school.

FEDERAL BAR COUNCIL AWARD

For achievement in Con-Law courses.

BEATRICE COHEN AWARD

For achievement in Jewish Studies.

JACOB BURNS MEDALS

For special and significant achievements and contributions in a variety of law school academic or professional activities.

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Awarded to a Moot Court Honor Society Head Coach with sincere passion for and commitment to their MCHS team. In memory of the great head coach, Michael Downing, Class of 2013.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AWARD

For outstanding performance in the field of Intellectual Property.

National Anthem of Israel

HATIKVAH

THE HOPE—THE NATIONAL ANTHEM OF ISRAEL

(TRANSLITERATION)

Kol od baleyvav penimah
Nefesh Yehudi homiyah,
Ulfa'asey mizrach kadimah
Ayin leTziyon tzofiyah.

REFRAIN

Od lo avdah tikvateynu,
Hatikvah shenot alpayim,
Lihyot am chofshi be'artzeynu
B'Eretz Tziyon V'Yerushalayim.
(repeat last two lines)

(ENGLISH TRANSLATION)

So long as still within our breasts
The Jewish heart beats true,
So long as still towards the East
To Zion, looks the Jew.

REFRAIN

So long as our hopes are not yet lost—
Two thousand years we cherished them—
To live in freedom in the Land
Of Zion and Jerusalem.

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