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Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

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Commencement

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5-24-2017

## 2017 Commencement Exercises

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

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Benjamin N. Cardozo  
School of Law  
Thirty-Ninth Annual  
Commencement Exercises

Wednesday, May Twenty-Fourth, Two Thousand Seventeen

David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center, New York City



Yeshiva University





# Order of Exercises

## PROCESSIONAL

Rabbi Herbert C. Dobrinsky, EdD  
*Vice President for University Affairs*  
Yeshiva University  
HERALD

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*Provost and Vice President for*  
*Academic Affairs*  
Yeshiva University  
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Richard M. Joel, JD  
*President*  
Yeshiva University

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

Cantor Ira W. Heller, JD  
*Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law*  
Class of 2008

## INVOCATION

Rabbi Ozer Glickman  
*Rosh Yeshiva*  
Rabbi Isaac Elchanan  
*Theological Seminary*  
Yeshiva University  
*Adjunct Professor*  
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

## WELCOME

David P. Samson  
*Chair, Cardozo Board of Overseers*  
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law  
Class of 1993

## REMARKS

Melanie Leslie, JD  
*Dean*  
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

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*President and CEO*  
*The Leadership Conference on*  
*Civil and Human Rights*  
*Former Principal Deputy Assistant*  
*Attorney General and Acting Head*  
*Civil Rights Division at the*  
*U.S. Department of Justice*

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*Chair, Alumni Association*  
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law  
Class of 1982

## STUDENT REMARKS

Alexander N. Rias  
Class of 2017

## STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Joshua L. Wright  
Class of 2017

## AWARDS AND HONORS

Myriam Gilles  
*Vice Dean*  
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law  
HEAD MARSHAL

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Dean Leslie

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President Joel

Robert M. Morgenthau, LLB  
*Of Counsel, Wachtell, Lipton,*  
*Rosen & Katz*  
*Former District Attorney for*  
*New York County*  
RECIPIENT

## CONFERRING OF MASTER OF LAWS (LLM) DEGREES

President Joel

Dean Leslie

## CONFERRING OF JURIS DOCTOR (JD) DEGREES

President Joel

Dean Leslie

## HATIKVAH

Cantor Heller

## RECESSIONAL

Please remain seated until the recessional is completed.



# Degree Candidates

## **BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO SCHOOL OF LAW**

### **Master of Laws as of January 13, 2017**

---

Salma Akhter  
*LLB, LLM, Northern University  
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*BA, MA, Islamic Azad University–  
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DIPLO, Indian Institute of Foreign  
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*STEX1, STEX2, State of Bavaria–  
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JD, Thomas M. Cooley Law School*

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JD, Hofstra University*

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*BA, JD, University of Puerto Rico*

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South Korea*

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University–Hungary*

### **Master of Laws as of May 24, 2017**

---

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MA 1, Université Paris Ouest  
Nanterre La Défense–France*

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LLM, Queen Mary University of  
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\*Contributed to the 2017 Class Gift Campaign (as of May 3, 2017)

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JD, New England School of Law

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## Juris Doctor as of May 24, 2017

---

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## Degree Candidates

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JD, 2003, Yale University  
MSc, DPhil, 2004, University of Oxford

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*Professor of Legal Research*  
*Associate Dean for Library Services*  
*Director, Law Library*  
BA, 2000, University of California,  
Berkeley  
JD, 2005, University of New Hampshire  
MLIS, 2008, University of Washington

Richard H. Weisberg

*Walter Floersheimer Professor of*  
*Constitutional Law*  
BA, 1965, Brandeis University  
PhD, 1970, Cornell University  
JD, 1974, Columbia University

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*Clinical Associate Professor of Law*  
*Director, Tech Startup Clinic*  
BA, 2002, Tufts University  
JD, 2005, Benjamin N. Cardozo School  
of Law, Yeshiva University

Felix Wu

*Professor of Law*  
AB, 1996, Harvard University  
PhD, JD, 2005, University of California–  
Berkeley

Charles M. Yablon

*Professor of Law*  
BA, 1972, Columbia University  
JD, 1975, Yale University

Ekow N. Yankah

*Professor of Law*  
BA, 1997, University of Michigan  
JD, 2000, Columbia University  
BCL, 2002, University of Oxford

Edward A. Zelinsky

*Morris and Annie Trachman  
Professor of Law*  
Ba, 1972; MA, JD, 1975; MPhil, 1978,  
Yale University

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*Interim Director of the Cardozo Law*  
*Institute in Holocaust and*  
*Human Rights*  
2013–2017

AB, 1971, University of Arizona  
JD, 1976, Northeastern University

Robert Collins  
*Professor of Practice*  
*Director, Divorce Mediation Clinic*  
2010–2017

BA, 1972, Yale College  
JD, 1975, University of Pennsylvania

Stanley Fish  
*Floersheimer Distinguished Visiting*  
*Professor of Law*  
2013–2017

BA, 1959, University of Pennsylvania  
MA, 1960; PhD, 1962, Yale University

Jocelyn Getgen Kestenbaum  
*Telford Taylor Visiting Clinical*  
*Professor of Law*  
2015–2017

BA, 2000, Cornell University  
MPH, 2007, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg  
School of Public Health  
JD, 2008, Cornell Law School

Barbara Kolsun  
*Professor of Practice*  
*Director, Fashion, Arts, Media and*  
*Entertainment (FAME) Law Center*

BA, 1971, Sarah Lawrence College  
JD, 1982, Benjamin N. Cardozo  
School of Law

Charles Moxley  
*ADR Practitioner in Residence*  
2010–2017

BA, 1965; MA, 1966, Fordham  
University  
JD, 1969, Columbia University

Lindsay Nash  
*Visiting Clinical Assistant*  
*Professor of Law*  
2016–2017

BA, 2004, American University  
JD, 2010, Yale University

Edwin Rekosh  
*Visiting Professor of Law*  
*Director, Human Rights Initiatives*  
2016–2017

AB, 1984, Cornell University  
JD, 1988, Columbia University

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*Visiting Assistant Professor of Law*  
2015–2017

BM, 2004, University of North Carolina  
at Chapel Hill  
MM, 2006, Eastman School of Music,  
University of Rochester  
JD, 2009, Benjamin N. Cardozo School  
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*Visiting Professor of Law*  
2014–2017

BA, 1973, Brandeis University  
JD, 1978, Vermont Law School  
LLM, 1997, Columbia University

Bernhard Schlink  
*Visiting Scholar*  
2016–2017  
Referender, 1968; JD, 1974,  
Heidelberg University  
PhD, 1981, Freiburg University

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LLB, 1995, Bar Ilan University  
BA, 1998, Tel Aviv University  
LLM, 1998; JSD, 2002, Yale University

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2013–2017

BA, 1978, Trinity College  
JD, 1981, Harvard 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.

# 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.

Notes



# Notes

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# Commencement 2017

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## COMMENCEMENT-PAST AND PRESENT

Today's exercises mark the 86th Annual Commencement of Yeshiva University, the 30th to be held off campus. Annual academic commencements were not instituted until 1932, when the first graduates of Yeshiva College completed their studies. Graduates of each of the University's schools and divisions are participating in today's exercises. Two outstanding individuals are receiving honorary degrees. During this commencement season, more than 1,700 degrees and diplomas are being awarded at this ceremony and others.

Ceremonies were held on the Wilf Campus for Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration on May 9, Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology on May 15, and Wurzweiler School of Social Work on May 16. Albert Einstein College of Medicine, with its Einstein Graduate Programs in the Biomedical Sciences—Sue Golding Graduate Division and Belfer Institute for Advanced Biomedical Studies, held its ceremony on May 23, and Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law held its ceremony on May 24, both at Lincoln Center's David Geffen Hall.

Alumni reunions are being held for the Yeshiva College Class of 1957 on its 60th anniversary, the Yeshiva College and Stern College for Women Classes of 1967 on their 50th anniversaries, and Classes of 1977 on their 40th anniversaries. Reunions are also being held for the Yeshiva College, Stern College for Women and Sy Syms School of Business Classes of 1992 on their 25th anniversaries.

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