



GRADUATION CONVOCATION

HONORS PROGRAM

NEWARK CAMPUS CEREMONY

May 22, 2026



ORDER OF THE COIF

The order of the Coif is an honorary scholastic society, the purpose of which is to encourage excellence in legal education by fostering a spirit of careful study, by recognizing those who as law students attained a high grade of scholarship, and by honoring those who as lawyers, judges and teachers attained high distinction for their scholarly or professional accomplishments. Of the 199 American law schools, 87 have been granted a charter to establish a Coif Chapter. In 1991 Rutgers Newark was the first New Jersey law school to establish a Coif chapter. In 2018, a charter was issued to Rutgers Law School as a whole.

Individual membership in the Order of the Coif may be conferred upon graduates of member schools who rank at least in the top 10% of their class.

CERTIFICATE IN CRIMINAL LAW

Christopher Maffeo

Robert Proko

Courtney Stonefelt

CERTIFICATE IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

Jamil AbuRoomi

Helen Morejon

Brianna Alvarez

Anjali Patel

Brandon Aufiero

Benedetta Pellerano

Brianna Conroy

Teresa Sapichino

Cherlean Darko

Max Sedlak

Peter Dinolfo

Areeba Shahzad

Madeline Donovan

Devansh Sheth

Gabriella Furman

Madison Staffordsmith

Michael Giorgio

Sneha Thomas

Nicholas Haggerty

Rashmi Vasthare

Sungwon Hwang

Mikayla Walsh

Joshua Johnwell

Cara Williams

Seungeun Lee

Nina Zadushlivy

Kathryn Mauro

CERTIFICATE IN CORPORATE AND BUSINESS LAW

Michelle Ancil	Madison Moran
Haoqing Bi	Priten Patel
Andrew Borbely	Haneen Rashid
Yun-Chien Chiu	Francesco Reitano
Jacke Dickenson	Anupam Sharma
James Hanna	Michaela Whalen
Seungeun Lee	Robert Zarouni
Christopher Maffeo	

CERTIFICATE IN FAMILY LAW

Samaya Abdus-Salaam
Denisse Ledesma Pumarol

CERTIFICATE IN IMMIGRATION LAW

Luana Guerreiro Pereira
Nicolette Lewis
Nicolas Ortiz

CLASS OF 2026 HONORS

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Travis Collins ❖
Kristen Gioioso ❖
Brendan Keane ❖
Christopher Lomonaco ❖
Samantha Plewa ❖
Max Sedlak ❖
Patrick Vinchur ❖

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Anastasiya Bazalyuk ❖	Seungeun Lee ❖
Meaghan Bohny ❖	Catherine Mazzola ❖
Andrew Borbely ❖	Ryan McCabe ❖
Jared Chimento ❖	Amanda Melillo ❖
Devin Deflora ❖	Madison Moran ❖
Dominica Dul ❖	Jake Noss ❖
Daniel Froelich ❖	Luana Pereira ❖
Lauren Hadam ❖	Marc Raimondi ❖
Lakshmi Priya Krishnamoorthy ❖	Daniel Trocchia ❖

CUM LAUDE

Mehrin Ali	Kiran Mehta
Kamal Almashhawari	Jake Newcomb
Matthew Bellinger	Chaewon Park
Samantha Bolen	Ralph Passante
Drew Breedlove	Casey Perrelli
Sierra Conboy	Terrence Rumer
Charles Dewey	Jamicka Rutherford
Peter Dinolfo	Caroline Savage
Ilene Goudarzi	Rashmi Vasthare
Joseph Kelmon	Veronica Vicente
Kathryn Mauro	
James McGuire	

PRIZE AND AWARD RECIPIENTS

Lakshmi Priya Krishnamoorthy	JUSTICE HENRY E. ACKERSON, JR. PRIZE This prize is awarded to the student who has most distinguished themselves in the area of legal skills.
Jannet Musleh	RUTGERS LAW SCHOOL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH LAW This award is given to honor superior academic performance in the area of health law.
Kathryn Mauro Max Sedlak	RUTGERS LAW SCHOOL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW This award is given to the student demonstrating the highest academic achievement in the area of intellectual property law.
Veronica Vicente	RUTGERS LAW SCHOOL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN LABOR & EMPLOYMENT LAW This award will be presented to the student with the highest academic achievement in the fields of labor and employment law.
Drew Breedlove	THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MATRIMONIAL LAWYERS AWARD This award is sponsored by the New Jersey Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and is given to the student who has shown the most aptitude in Family Law.
Michael Giorgio Kathryn Mauro Helen Morejon	INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW CLINIC AWARD The award is given to the student who demonstrated the greatest proficiency in the Clinical Practice of Intellectual Property Law.
Israa Al-Shrouf Jannet Musleh	THE FRANK AND MARILYN ASKIN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL STUDIES This prize is awarded by the law school clinical faculty to the student who, over the course of their legal education, has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the clients of the Rutgers Law School Clinics and to the principles and values of clinical legal education.
Samantha Plewa	THE ALLAN AXELROD PRIZE This prize was established to recognize the immense commitment by Professor Axelrod to Rutgers Law School, and is given to the student with the best grades in Commercial Law.
Chaeyoung Moon Anupam Sharma	THE BANKRUPTCY EXCELLENCE PRIZE This prize is awarded to the student who most excelled in the area of bankruptcy studies.

PRO BONO AWARDS

PRO BONO RECOGNITION

Rutgers Law School's Pro Bono Program recognizes those students who have performed a certain amount of law-related service hours through the public interest program.

Dean's *Pro Bono Publico* Award for Exceptional Service with Distinction

Full Time: 200 hrs

Part Time: 140 hrs

Sungwon Hwang
Elia Jefferson-Gonzalez
Sangyoon Lee
Nicholas McClure
Helen Morejon
Robert Proko
Dina Sayedahmed
Gianna Tapanes

PRO BONO AWARDS

PRO BONO RECOGNITION

Rutgers Law School's Pro Bono Program recognizes those students who have performed a certain amount of law-related service hours through the public interest program.

Dean's Pro Bono Publico Award

Full Time: 50 hrs

Part Time: 35 hrs

Gabriela Abreu	Chelsea Johnson
Tania Arik	Brendan Keane
Brett Bakalar	Kiran Mehta
JC DeMaria	Priten Patel
Greer Egan	Michaela Whalen
Laura Garcia	Farhana Zaman

Dean's Pro Bono Publico Award for Exceptional Service

Full Time: 100 hrs

Part Time: 70 hrs

Amneh Alqudah	Christopher Maffeo
Israa Al-Shrouf	Devansh Sheth
Brianna Bond	Josie Simmons
Claudia Campanella	Alexanda Sipos
Kory Gaskin	Varronika Siryon

Michaela Whalen

CHARLES DAVENPORT PRIZE IN TAX LAW

This prize is awarded to the member of the graduating class having the best grades and highest achievement in Tax Law.

Samantha Plewa

MORRIS GANN PRIZE IN EVIDENCE

This prize is given to the member of the graduating class having the best grade in Evidence.

Brendan Keane

LEONARD GARTH APPELLATE ADVOCACY AWARD

This award is given to the student or students showing the most promise as an appellate advocate.

Christopher Maffeo

MYRON HARKAVY PRIZE

This prize is awarded to the member of the graduating class showing the most promise as a trial lawyer.

Paul Buckley

CHIEF JUSTICE RICHARD J. HUGHES PRIZE

This prize is awarded to the graduating student who has achieved the best record in the New Jersey Practice course.

Casey Perrelli

ELI JARMEL MEMORIAL PRIZE

This prize is awarded to the student who demonstrated the greatest interest and proficiency in public interest law.

Katrina Butler

G. A. MOORE, JR. PRIZE

This prize is awarded to the student who has done distinguished work in the field of equal employment opportunity law. It was donated by Mr. Moore, a participant in a symposium held in 1975 at the law school to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act.

Abigail Lashbrook

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS AWARD

This prize is given to the student or students showing the greatest commitment to women's issues.

Alexandra Sipos

CAROL RUSS MEMORIAL PRIZE

This prize is awarded to the student who has best demonstrated a commitment to and a record of distinction in promoting women's rights through the law.

Gabriela Ulloa Parra

SERA RAMCHARITAR MEMORIAL AWARD

This prize is awarded to the student who has excelled in work on behalf of the underprivileged, particularly women, children and families.

Madison Moran

H. THEODORE SORG PROPERTY PRIZE

This prize is awarded to the student with the highest average in Property.

Brandon Aufiero	MIRON. M WALLEY MEMORIAL PRIZE This prize is awarded to the student with the highest average in Property.	Chaeyoung Moon	ANTHONY ENGELBRECHT PRIZE This prize is awarded annually to the graduating student who attains the highest average in their final year.
Daniel Froelich	KENNETH G. WOLFSON PRIZE Greatest Interest and Scholarship in the Field of Land Use.	Travis Collins	PHILIP KRAVITZ MEMORIAL PRIZE This prize is awarded to the part-time student with the highest academic average.
Farhana Zaman Declan Harkness	OUTSTANDING CLINICAL STUDENT AWARD This prize is presented by the Clinical Legal Education Association to a member of the graduating class based on the high quality of representation provided to clients and for exceptionally thoughtful, self-reflective participation in and accompanying clinical seminar.	Christopher Lomonaco	A. HARRY MOORE & SAUL TISCHLER MEMORIAL PRIZES These prizes are awarded to the student with the highest grades for their entire three or four years.
Mehrin Ali Samantha Bolen	RUTGERS LAW SCHOOL FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP AND LEADERSHIP AWARD Demonstration of excellence in a combination of scholarship and	Charles Bendick Erika Castillo	JUDGE J. SKELLY WRIGHT PRIZE This prize is awarded to the student who has done most for civil rights, civil liberties, and human affairs.
Nina Glikshtern	RUTGERS OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR BEST STUDENT NOTE, COMMENT OR SCHOLARLY PAPER	Mehrin Ali Kathryn Mauro	ALUMNI SENIOR PRIZE This prize is awarded to the graduating senior exhibiting the greatest achievement during their entire law school career, and who has the greatest promise as a future member of the legal profession.
Lauren Hadam	RUTGERS OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR CRIMINAL LAW		
Lakshmi Priya Krishnamoorthy	RUTGERS OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR CORPORATE AND BUSINESS LAW		
Gabriela Abreu Elaine Robbins	RUTGERS OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW		
Elia Jefferson-Gonzalez	RUTGERS OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR CONSTITUTIONAL & CIVIL RIGHTS LAW		