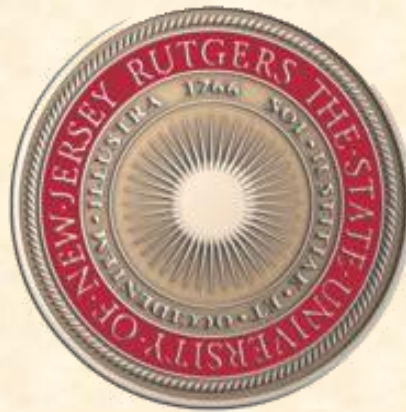


2020

# Honors Program



RUTGERS LAW SCHOOL  
NEWARK LOCATION



**RUTGERS**  
Law School

## CLASS OF 2020 HONORS

### SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Samuel J. Allaman †  
Cassandra A. Essert †  
Erin E. Gilgen †  
Ruby E. Kish †  
Julie A. Minicozzi †  
Spencer J. Mizerak †

### MAGNA CUM LAUDE

|                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Amanda K. Cipriano †  | John W. Meyer †          |
| Ernesto R. Claeysen † | Joana C. Romero †        |
| Raymond S. Cooper †   | Brian Schoepfer †        |
| Akua L. Dawes †       | Maxwell J. Smith †       |
| Trevor D. Dickson †   | Erin E. Stidham †        |
| Kamaria A. Guity †    | Zachary J. Styczynski †  |
| Trevor G. Korb †      | Arthur Usvyat †          |
| Michelle Lotfalla †   | Christopher M. Winters † |

### CUM LAUDE

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Andy Balbuena        | Desiree Mcdonald    |
| Soundous Bouchouar   | Marta J. Paczkowska |
| Diana A. Felipe      | Emma W. Pallarino   |
| Lucas D. Katzenmeier | Michael D. Pugliese |
| Ryan E. Kotler       | Alexa F. Scarpaci   |
| Thomas R. Lahey      | Amrit P. Singh      |
| Hidehiro Machii      | Michelle K. Smith   |
| Connor M. Mannion    | Brooke A. Taylor    |
| Jared G. Marthaler   | Jessica M. Terry    |
|                      | Nicole M. Virella   |

† Elected to the 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 205 American law schools, 86 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

## PRIZE AND AWARD RECIPIENTS

*Spencer J. Mizerak*

**JUSTICE HENRY E. ACKERSON, JR. PRIZE**

This prize is awarded to the student who has most distinguished himself or herself in the area of legal skills.

*James R. Stone*

**RUTGERS LAW SCHOOL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH LAW**

This award is given to the student demonstrating superior performance in the area of health law.

*Michael T. Furda*

**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.

*Maxwell J. Smith*

**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.

*Alexa F. Scarpaci*

**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.

*Morgan C.  
McGoughran*

**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 his or her 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.

*Fiona Wang &  
Ernesto Claeysen*

**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.

*Caitlyn Ford*

**THE AMERICAN BANKRUPTCY INSTITUTE MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE**

This prize is awarded to the student who most excelled in the area of bankruptcy studies.

*Christopher Winters*

**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.

*Amanda Cipriano &  
Joana Romero*

**MORRIS GANN PRIZE IN EVIDENCE**

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

*Sam J. Taddeo*

**LEONARD GARTH APPELLATE ADVOCACY AWARD**

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

*Opeyemi Akinde &  
Jessica Shapiro*

**MYRON HARKAVY PRIZE**

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

*Brooke Taylor &  
Hellen Tuckett*

**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.

*Ruby Kish*

**ELI JARMEL MEMORIAL PRIZE**

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

*Michael Licciardi &  
Erin E. Stidham*

**MENDLOVITZ FAMILY FUND PRIZE**

This prize is awarded for outstanding and distinguished work in law and humanities.

*Kimberlin L. Ruiz*

**G. A. MOORE 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 tenth anniversary of the Civil Rights Act.

*Erin E. Stidham*

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS AWARD**

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

*Taylor Craney*

**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.

*Nina DePalma*

**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.

*Yadilsa Diaz*

**H. THEODORE SORG PROPERTY PRIZE**

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

*Kristen Peterson  
Krag*

**MIRON M. WALLEY MEMORIAL PRIZE**

This award is given to a graduating student who has excelled in course work in the area of Real Estate transactions.

*Holly Burke & Amir  
Salar Tavangar*

**KENNETH G. WOLFSON LAND USE PRIZE**

This prize is awarded to the graduating student showing the greatest interest and scholarship in the field of land use.

*Ryan C. Duffy*

**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.

*Erin E. Stidham*

**RUTGERS LAW SCHOOL FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP AND LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Demonstration of excellence in a combination of scholarship and leadership.

*Lucas Katzenmeier  
& John Meyer*

**RUTGERS OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR BEST STUDENT NOTE, COMMENT OR SCHOLARLY PAPER**

*Lucas Katzenmeier*

**RUTGERS OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS AND CORPORATE LAW**

*Trevor Dickson &  
Erin Gilgen*

**RUTGERS OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CRIMINAL LAW**

*Priscila Abraham*

**RUTGERS OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN IMMIGRATION LAW**

*M'Ballou Sanogho*

**RUTGERS OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN INTERNATIONAL LAW**

*Collin Congelton &  
Emma Pallarino*

**JUDGE J. SKELLY WRIGHT PRIZE**

This prize is awarded to the student who has done most for civil rights, civil liberties, and human affairs.

*Julie Minicozzi*

**ALUMNI SENIOR PRIZE**

This prize is awarded to the graduating senior exhibiting the greatest achievement during his or her entire law school career, and who has the greatest promise as a future member of the legal profession.

*Cassandra Essert*

**ANTHONY ENGELBRECHT PRIZE**

This prize is awarded to student with the highest grades in the final year of law study.

*Samuel Allaman*

**SAUL TISCHLER MEMORIAL PRIZE**

This prize is awarded to the student with the highest academic average in the entire course of legal study.

*Samuel Allaman*

**A. HARRY MOORE PRIZE**

This prize is awarded to the student with the highest academic average in the entire course of legal study.

*Cassandra Essert*

**PHILIP KRAVITZ MEMORIAL PRIZE**

This prize is awarded to part-time student with the highest academic average in the entire course of legal study.

# PRO BONO AWARDS

## PRO BONO RECOGNITION

The Eric R. Neisser Public Interest Program is delighted to recognize students who contributed **50 or more** hours of pro bono service during their law school careers. Thank you all for your service.

### 50 – 100 Hours of Service

Shervin Abachi  
Hannah Andrade  
Janika S. Best  
Verna J. Chan  
Cassandra A. Essert  
Janai Candace Fraser  
Jhonattan N. Gonzalez  
David Han  
Mariam Hashmi  
Jasmeen Manhani  
Desiree McDonald  
John William Meyer  
Geovanny M. Mora  
Aladekemi Shadeyonla Omoregie  
Michelle Kathryn Smith

### 100+ Hours of Service

|                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Maryanne M. Abdelmesih     | Lucas D. Katzenmeier    |
| Priscila Diana Abraham     | Ruby Kish               |
| Abdulrehman Ahmed          | Ryan Edward Kotler      |
| Opeyemi Deborah Akinde     | Rowan Nicole Lambie     |
| Bryan Cheah                | Michelle Lotfalla       |
| Leo B. Choi                | Catherin Anna Macduff   |
| Danielle Maria Ciniello    | Connor M. Mannion       |
| Adam R. Conrad             | Veronica Rosa Medina    |
| Taylor Leanne Craney       | Alexis D. Miller        |
| Nina Rose DePalma          | Julie A. Minicozzi      |
| Trisha Efiom               | Emma Woodbury Pallarino |
| Diana A. Felipe            | Dipa Patel              |
| Joseph Eugene Ferencik     | Maria Emilia Ponce      |
| Caitlyn Rose Ford          | Humza Qureshi           |
| Sherry Lynn Gelenius       | Anya Daria Sahaydachny  |
| Stephanie Alexandra Gibson | Brooke Ashlyn Taylor    |
| Katarina L. Gonzalez       | Angel L. Tirado Jr.     |
| Diego A. Gonzalez Cordero  | Hellen C. Tuckett       |
| Audrey J. Han              | Micauri Vargas          |
| Sophia Hockman             | Eric P. Vivino          |
| Vivian Isaboke             |                         |

## **CERTIFICATES**

### **Certificate in Corporate & Business Law**

Amir Salar Tavangar

Leo Choi

Emily Davis

Alex Dyvig

Diana Felipe

Sherry Gelenius

Stephanie Gibson

Katarina Gonzalez

Justin Hill

David Idokogi

Lucas Katzenmeier

Zachary Klein

Trevor Korb

Thomas Lahey

Andreina Mazzei

Alexis Miller

Dimitry Nakhla

Khushbu Patel

Colman Preziosi

Humza Qureshi

Jawier Ramos

Kenneth Sebastianelli

Kevin Smedley

Erin Snowden

Sam Taddeo

Faisal Waged

Lei Wang

Christopher Winters

### **Certificate in Criminal Law**

Danielle Ciniello

Adam Conrad

Trevor Dickson

Yoon Jang

Ryan Kikenny

Julie Minicozzi

Brandon Morrissey

Emma Pallarino

Jade Reyes

Justin Rucci

Eric Vivino

**Certificate in Family Law**

Verna Chan  
Paulina Dearaujo  
Jennifer McLaughlin  
Maria Emilia Ponce  
Ashley Rojas  
Alexa Scarpaci

**Certificate in Immigration**

Shervin Abachinejadasl  
Maryanne Abdelmesih  
Larissa Kramer  
Rowan Lambie

**Congratulations to the Class of 2020!**