



# GRADUATION CONVOCATION

## HONORS PROGRAM

NEWARK CAMPUS CEREMONY

May 24, 2024



Rutgers Law School

# 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.

# CLASS OF 2024 HONORS

## SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Colleen Patricia Callander †  
Marissa Catalano †  
Kathryn Anne Daniel †  
Brennan J Gray †  
Daniel R Kozimbo †  
Ryan Robert Protter †  
Madison Rihga Schaper †  
Merissa Rhea Shebell †  
Willa Sweeney †

## MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Daniel Adamek †	Keanu Goncalves Oliveira †
Jordan Bondurant †	Frank J Petracco †
Elias Soulé Bull †	Jonathan Rawson †
Frederick Erwin Davis †	Nicole Kennedy Ryu †
Fiona Catherine Finnegan †	Daniel Mark Salerno †
Megan Therese Galante †	Taylor Marie Spallanzani †
Sandra L Halbing †	Lauren Spinazze †
Yehudis Lichtenstein †	Lucy Isabella Sprague †
Jannine Masoud †	Elizabeth A Weinman †
Gabriella Victoria Gomes Teixeira Mendes Ferreira†	Ronald Philip Wielenta † Cagla Yetis †

## CUM LAUDE

Maihan Far Alam	Chase T Gunther
Kristine Baffo	Matthew D Harm
Conor J Barron	Matthew Singer Kassirer
Joseph S Bavolar	Shawn David Kraemer
Nicholas Bykov	Avraham Krieger
Joseph M Carusone	Alexander MacPhee
Daniel Peter Cucino	Mallory Blair Olwig
Maurice E Daniel	Matthew L Raber
Rebecca Doherty	Kristen Noelle Reilly
Livia Anne Engel	Hayley A Schultz
Emma Mary Rose Enright	Nicholl G Simmonds
Narayan A Escolin	Francis G Tiongson
Jonathan Fisher	Penelope M Way
Kelsey Leigh Gorman	Diana M Woody
Taylor Ann Gospodarek	Walter Wynkoop
	Solo Ye

# PRIZE AND AWARD RECIPIENTS

Collen Patricia Callander	<b>JUSTICE HENRY E. ACKERSON, JR. PRIZE</b> This prize is awarded to the student who has most distinguished themselves in the area of legal skills.
Colleen Patricia Callander	<b>RUTGERS LAW SCHOOL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH LAW</b> This award is given to honor superior academic performance in the area of health law.
Francis G. Tiongson Nicole Kennedy Ryu	<b>RUTGERS LAW SCHOOL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW</b> This award is given to the student demonstrating the highest academic achievement in the area of intellectual property law.
Matthew D. Harm	<b>RUTGERS LAW SCHOOL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN LABOR &amp; EMPLOYMENT LAW</b> This award will be presented to the student with the highest academic achievement in the fields of labor and employment law.
Laura Elizabeth Ryan	<b>THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MATRIMONIAL LAWYERS AWARD</b> 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.
Fotini A. Sisois Bryana Y. Asakiewicz	<b>THE FRANK AND MARILYN ASKIN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL STUDIES</b> 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.
Michael Leon	<b>THE ALLAN AXELROD PRIZE</b> 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.
Esther Soon Joo Hwang	<b>THE AMERICAN BANKRUPTCY INSTITUTE MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE</b> This prize is awarded to the student who most excelled in the area of bankruptcy studies.
Ningning Hong	<b>CHARLES DAVENPORT PRIZE IN TAX LAW</b> This prize is awarded to the member of the graduating class having the best grades and highest achievement in Tax Law.

Megan Therese Galante  
Joseph S. Bavolar

**MORRIS GANN PRIZE IN EVIDENCE**

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

Matthew L. Raber  
Willa Sweeney

**LEONARD GARTH APPELLATE ADVOCACY AWARD**

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

Elizabeth A. Weinman  
Livie Elise Ruhl

**MYRON HARKAVY PRIZE**

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

Andre L. McMillion  
Yehudis Lichtenstein

**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.

Daniel Adamek

**ELI JARMEL MEMORIAL PRIZE**

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

Mason Wilkes

**MENDLOVITZ FAMILY FUND PRIZE**

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

Merissa Rhea Shebell

**KENNETH G. WOLFSON PRIZE**

Greatest Interest and Scholarship in the Field of Land Use.

Katie Ann Insinga

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS AWARD**

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

Kathryn Anne Daniel  
Anika L. Nelson

**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.

Juliana Balabusta  
Edianys Lima Enriquez

**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.

Merissa Rhea Shebell	<p><b>H. THEODORE SORG PROPERTY PRIZE</b>  This prize is awarded to the student with the highest average in Property.</p>
Nicholas Ayala-Auffant	<p><b>OUTSTANDING CLINICAL STUDENT AWARD</b>  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.</p>
Francis G. Tionsgon Nicole Kennedy Ryu	<p><b>INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW CLINIC AWARD</b>  The award is given to the student who demonstrated the greatest proficiency in the Clinical Practice of Intellectual Property Law.</p>
Kathryn Anne Daniel	<p><b>RUTGERS LAW SCHOOL FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP AND LEADERSHIP AWARD</b>  Demonstration of excellence in a combination of scholarship and leadership.</p>
Naomi D. Grayck Franco	<p><b>THE LEIGH BIENEN AWARD</b>  This award is given to the student whose written work published in the Women's Rights Law Reporter exemplifies the highest standard of legal scholarship.</p>
Madison Rihga Schaper Jordan Bondurant	<p><b>RUTGERS OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR BEST STUDENT NOTE, COMMENT OR SCHOLARLY PAPER</b></p>
Hayley A. Schultz	<p><b>RUTGERS OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR IMMIGRATION LAW</b></p>
Brennan J. Gray	<p><b>RUTGERS OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR LEGAL WRITING &amp; RESEARCH</b></p>
Anna Marie Griffith	<p><b>RUTGERS OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR PUBLIC INTEREST LAW</b></p>
Kevin Scott Leach	<p><b>RUTGERS OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW</b></p>

Elias Soulé Bull

**ANTHONY ENGELBRECHT PRIZE**

This prize is awarded annually to the graduating student who attains the highest average in their final year.

Brennan J. Gray

**PHILIP KRAVITZ MEMORIAL PRIZE**

This prize is awarded to the part-time student with the highest academic average.

Madison Rihga Schaper

**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.

Anna Marie Griffith

**JUDGE J. SKELLY WRIGHT PRIZE**

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

Sandra L. Halbing

**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.

# 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**

Sarah Austino  
Tiani Boapeah  
Molly Case  
Hayley Schultz  
Alexander Slizewski  
Shanelle Whyte  
Diana Woody  
Jeffrey Zhang



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## 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**

Joseph Baldofsky  
Nicholas Bykov  
Wilbert Davis  
Susan Derasmo  
Anaiis Gonzalez  
Tayler Gospodarek  
Barbara Hairs-Jackson  
Max Hermann  
Naana Ofosuhene  
Matthew Raber  
Daniel Salerno  
Merissa Shebell  
Nicole Sodano  
Lucy Sprague  
Marissa Wellington

### *Dean's Pro Bono Publico* Award for Exceptional Service

**Full Time: 100 hrs**  
**Part Time: 70 hrs**

Conor Barron  
Lee Crutcher  
Laura Ensminger  
Nathaly Espinoza  
Alexander Guerra  
Yasmine Hafez  
Esther Soon Joo Hwang  
Erik Lascano  
Jannine Masoud  
Anika Nelson  
Daniela Nieves  
Fotini Sisois

# CERTIFICATE IN CRIMINAL LAW

Richard Anderson

Daniel Cucino

Jannine Masoud

Elizabeth Paterno

Fotini Sisois

Penelope Way

Melanie Zelikovsky

# CERTIFICATE IN FAMILY LAW

Daniel Adamek

Joseph Baldofsky

# CERTIFICATE IN IMMIGRATION LAW

Juan Pacheco

Hayley Schultz

Bryan Velasco

# CERTIFICATE IN CORPORATE AND BUSINESS LAW

Brenda Alves

Michael Kleen

Michael Aust

Monique Klitbo

Joseph Baldofsky

Avraham Krieger

Julianna Bongiovanni

Erik Lascano

Joseph Carusone

Gabriella Gomes Mendes Ferreira

Anthony Conte

Stephen Mirsky

Michael Coviello

Tihga Nwana

Livia Engel

Ryan Swiezbin

Cristian Gomez

Francis Tiongson

Alexander Guerra

Robert Tousignant

Ningning Hong

Çagla Yetis

Thomas Kiesel

Daniel Zaslavsky