

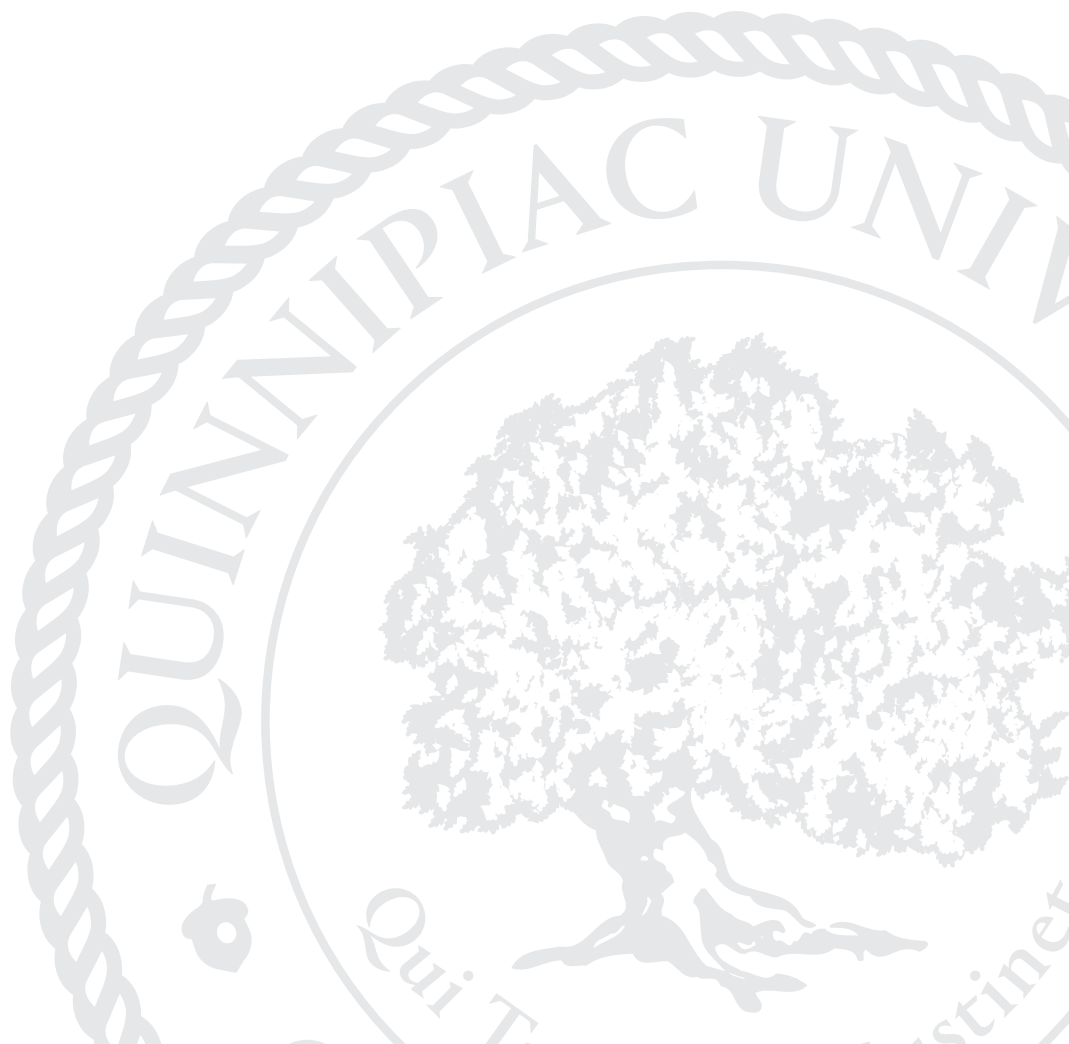
Quinnipiac
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF LAW
COMMENCEMENT
AND DOCTORAL HOODING

Friday the Eighth of May

2026

Two o'clock





GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT HARDIN

Congratulations to the Class of 2026. We're delighted to welcome your families and friends to Quinnipiac today. They have been key partners in your journey to this milestone moment, and we celebrate them, too.

Your education in the School of Law has prepared you well to serve your clients and your communities. The tenets of justice, fairness and integrity have helped you become whole lawyers, skilled legal practitioners who retain their personal values and authentic sense of self while thinking holistically about those they represent.

As you prepare to embark upon your law careers, remember that you have learned from a distinguished faculty and a dedicated staff. They have watched you grow and thrive as the lawyers of the future, the ones who advance social justice, impact legislation and fight for those without a voice.

We are proud of you and all that you've accomplished. You are ready for the opportunities and the challenges that lie ahead. A bright future filled with purpose and meaning awaits.

Warmly,

Marie C. Hardin, PhD



A MESSAGE FROM DEAN GALLINI

Congratulations to the Class of 2026. Completion matters. Not simply because you have finished law school, but because of the way you finished it—through sustained effort, demanding conversations, and the daily discipline of learning how to think, listen, and decide as lawyers. Those habits will matter far more than any single outcome that follows.

During your time at Quinnipiac Law, you moved beyond answers toward judgment. You learned to navigate ambiguity, to hold competing truths in tension, and to advocate forcefully without losing perspective or humanity. In a profession that increasingly rewards speed and certainty, those skills—and that restraint—are rare and essential.

As you take your next steps, some of you will enter courtrooms, some boardrooms, some communities, and some pathways still taking shape. Wherever you land, remember that the law is ultimately a public trust. How you practice it—and how you treat the people affected by it—will define your success far more than titles or credentials.

Know that you leave here with our confidence and our respect. You will always have a home at Quinnipiac Law, and a faculty and staff who remain invested in your growth, your integrity, and your impact.

With pride and best wishes,

Brian Gallini, JD, LL.M

ORDER OF EXERCISES

Trumpet Prelude and Processional

Pomp and Circumstance | Sir Edward Elgar

Call to Commencement

Debra J. Liebowitz, PhD
Provost

National Anthem

Olivia Ventura, JD '26

Greetings

Marie C. Hardin, PhD
President

Remarks

Brian Gallini, JD, LL.M.
Dean of the School of Law

Introduction of Commencement Speaker

Sara Cates, JD
Associate Professor of Legal Skills

Commencement Address

The Honorable Michael P. Shea
Chief United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut

Presentation of Candidates for Degrees and Conferral of Hoods

Brian Gallini

Mark Schroeder, JD
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of Legal Skills

Hooders:

W. John Thomas, JD, *Professor of Law, Professor of the Year*
Neal Feigenson, JD, *Lynne L. Pantalena Professor of Law*
Jennifer Levine, JD, *Professor of Practice in Tax Law*

Conferral of Degrees

Marie C. Hardin

Remarks

Shianne Marie Taylor, JD '26
President, Student Bar Association

W. John Thomas
Professor of the Year

Alumni Welcome

Adam Swanson, JD '08
Partner, McCarter & English LLP, Alumni Association Board Member

Recessional

Please remain at your seats until the Commencement procession files out.
A post-ceremony reception will take place at the Rocky Top Student Center.

CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

Subject to completion of all curricular requirements, degrees will be conferred upon all candidates listed herein and any others who meet the graduation requirements.

Included in the May ceremony are students who completed the requirements for graduation in December 2025 and May 2026, and those who expect to complete their requirements by July 2026.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Projected candidates for Latin honors based upon cumulative grade point average at the end of Fall 2025 are noted in the program.



JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE CANDIDATES

Kawther A. Ahmed
Melina Almonte +*
Alexis M. Apruzzese *
Madeline Hope Ariola +
Kyle R. Arndt
Lauren Arthenayake +
Kade N. Bendici +
Matthew James Bleile +
Noah Block
Brian Bobka +
Ashley Linea Bocek +
Sara Elisabeth Bonsall +
Ryley D. Brohel +
Daniel A. Casadonte +
Devon Cavaliere
Joycette I. Charles +
Cora Lynn Cogill +
Mark Constantin Cojocar +
Kaila C. Coleman +
Ryan Gregory Covino +
Nicholas Robert Crocco
Kailey Bryanne Davis *
Juliana R. de Castro
Jessica DellaRatta +
James Ian Dobson +
Liam Michael Drobny +*
Charles Stanley Dumais +
Gabrielle Faith Dwyer +
Lily Victoria Eicholzer
Iyanna Ellis
Connor Errato +
Maxwell Ficker +
Seth Lakhan Freeman +
Jakob Gati +
Gulay Burcu Gencturk
Shawn J. Gokey +
Samantha Gorley
Anthony N. Guadagna Jr. +
Catherine Alice Hahn +
Adam Hughes +
Sawera Hussan +
Matthew Iannantuoni +

Christian J. Isidoro +
Jessica Brooke Jackson
Julia R. Jastrzembski +
Nermine Kamberi
Ryan Andrew Kelapire +
Kelly Nicole Koba +
Noor Kouki +
Erin Elizabeth Leather +
Michael Lefebvre +
Michael Arthur Leibowitz +
Amanda Grace LoMonte +
Alexandra Nicole Luehrman +
Tina Macari +
Natalie Marie Maisonet +
Ariana Michele Martoral +
Beatriz B. Mendes +
Jhoana Teresa Merino Martinez +
Jorge Issac Monroy-Palacio +
Isabella Noel Nazzaro +
Trinh Nguyen +
Michael Isaiah Nieves
Daniel R. O'Brien
Ian M. O'Grady +
William B. Ollayos +
Rebecca C. Ouellette +
Paul J. Palma +
Matthew Pendagast
Hannah Pokornowski +
Jordyn Hannah Powell +
Andrew J. Pulcini +
Daniela Rae Ramos
Ryan Robinson +
Kolby Rogers +
Micaela Rufus
Cristina Ruiz
James B. Rusiecki III +
Allison Marie Salzo +
Elia M. Sanchez +
Isabel Anna Sanchez +
Kelsey E. Savoy +
Robert J. Schroeder +
Natasha Ivette Silva +

Kyleigh Rae Sisk +
Bridget Smestad +
Abigail Leigh Stock +
Riley E. Stone +
Megan Nicole Stoner +
Leah Nicole Strachan +
Joshua A. Strassburger
Abigail Olivia Strauzer +
Guillermo Alberto Suniaga Berrizbeitia +
Vincenzo R. Suppa +
Angela M. Taggart +
Jeremy David Tammaro +
Kate Alice Taylor
Shianne Marie Taylor
Julia Elizabeth Teti +
Nicole Tonelli +
Hannah Ann Marie Tucci +
Santiago Ernesto Velasquez +
Olivia Mary Ventura +
Sybelle Kaye Catipay Villanera
Sydney Devin Webb +
Dana Abigail Ferrer White +
Lindsay A. Wielgus
Christopher J. Winters +
Ana France Wojnarowicz
Kate B. Woloszyn
Hamzah Mohamed Yaghi +

*+ projected candidate for Latin honors based upon
the Fall 2025 grade point average*

** candidate for joint JD/MBA or JD/MSW*

School of Law Administration

Marie C. Hardin

University President
BA, Ambassador University
MA, Georgia State University
PhD, University of Georgia

Debra Liebowitz

Provost
BA, University of Oregon;
MA, PhD, Rutgers University

Brian Gallini

Dean and Professor of Law
BA, College of the Holy Cross;
JD, University of Michigan;
LLM, Temple University

Mark E. Schroeder

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
and Associate Professor of Legal Skills*
BA, Williams College;
JD, University of Connecticut

Kevin M. Barry

*Associate Dean of Student Success
and Professor of Law*
BA, JD, Boston College;
LLM, Georgetown University

Jordan Jefferson

*Law Library Director and Associate
Professor of Law*
MA, University of Washington;
JD, University of La Verne College of Law;
BS, University of Evansville

Kathy A. Kuhar '02

Associate Dean of Students
BS, Eastern Connecticut State University;
JD, Quinnipiac University

Alice Rosenthal

*Assistant Dean of Experiential Education
and Clinical Professor of Law*
BA, University of Wisconsin-Madison;
JD, Rutgers University-Newark

Millie VandenBroek

Associate Dean of Career Development
BA, University of Michigan;
MPH, Johns Hopkins University;
JD, Georgetown University

Shelley Sadin

*Associate Dean Emerita of Career
Development*
BA, Yale University;
JD, Georgetown University

Joan Metzler

*Associate Dean of Law School Admissions
and Financial Aid*
BA, Widener University;
JD, Temple University

Katherine Mills '07

Director of Financial Aid
BS, Fairfield University;
JD, Quinnipiac University

Rosemarie Rodrigues

Director of Law Admissions
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MA, Fairfield University

Megan Frederick '25

Assistant Director of Law Admissions
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Cassidy Willie-Lawes

Assistant Director of Law Admissions
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State University

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*Operations Manager of Career
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James Benson '18

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Student Services*
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Wendy Berchek

*Administrative Assistant to
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BA, California State University
San Marcos

Lauren Cushman

*Administrative Assistant to the Associate
Dean for Academic Affairs*

Charlene Fusco

*Administrative Assistant
to the School of Law*

Sue Ann Ney

*Administrative Assistant to
Experiential Education*
BS, Post University

Annette Velez

*Administrative Assistant,
School of Law Legal Clinic*

Law Library

J S Liptrap

*Assistant Director of Legal Research
Instruction and Research Librarian*
LLM, Harvard Law School;
PhD, Faculty of Law, University of
Cambridge

Mary K. Tartaglia

*Administrative and Technical
Services Librarian*
BS, MLS, Southern Connecticut
State University

Mary Ellen Lomax-Bellare

Bibliographic and Serials Manager
AA, BA, MAT, University of Bridgeport

Erica M. Papa

Administrative Services Coordinator
BA, MA, Southern Connecticut State
University

Nicole Nichols

Access Services Manager
BA, Central Connecticut State University

Hepsie B. Leslie-Abbott '09, '12

Law Library Serials Assistant
BA, MS, Quinnipiac University

School of Law Faculty

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JD, Stanford University

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Professor of Law
Dean Emerita
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JD, University of Illinois at
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LLM, New York University

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& Writing*
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JD, University of Connecticut

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JD, Harvard University

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JD, Cornell University;
LLM, New York University

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JD, Rutgers University

Sheila N. Hayre

Clinical Professor of Law
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JD, Yale University

Jennifer L. Herbst

*Carmen Tortora Professor of Law and
Professor of Medical Sciences*
AB, Dartmouth College;
JD, MBE, University of Pennsylvania;
LLM, Temple University

Brendan C. Holt '06

Director of the Mediation Clinic
BS, St. Joseph's University;
JD, Quinnipiac University

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JD, Boston College

Cat Itaya

*Director of the Federal Pro Se Legal
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JD, University of Chicago Law School

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JD, University of Connecticut

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JD, Yale University

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Family Law*
BS, Brooklyn College;
MLS, Queens College;
JD, University of Bridgeport

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JD, Columbia University

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BA, Brown University;
JD, University of Connecticut

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MA, PhD, University of Illinois at Chicago;
JD, University of Chicago

Martin B. Margulies

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LLB, Harvard University;
LLM, New York University

Elizabeth P. Marsh

Professor of Law Emerita
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JD, New York University

John J. Martin

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JD, Columbia University

Dolace McLean

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MS, PhD, New York University;
JD, Cornell University

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JD, PhD, University of California Berkeley

Suzanne Nathanson

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JD, Case Western Reserve University

Joseph Olivenbaum

Director of Academic Support Programs
BA, New York University;
JD, Northeastern University

Charles Pillsbury

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JD, Boston University

Angela Robinson

*Waring and Carmen Partridge
Faculty Fellow*
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JD, Yale Law School

Toni Robinson

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JD, Columbia University;
LLM, New York University

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Dean Emeritus*
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JD, University of Virginia

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State University;
JD, Quinnipiac University

Danielle Andree Gentin Stock

Assistant Professor of Law
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JD, Yale Law School

W. John Thomas

Professor of Law
BA, JD, University of Arizona;
LLM, MPH, Yale University

Wayne Unger

Assistant Professor of Law
BS, JD, Arizona State University

Robert White

*Distinguished Practitioner in Residence,
Commercial Law*
BA, Tufts University;
JD, New York University

Graduate's Professional Oath

I am leaving the academic community of Quinnipiac University School of Law and embarking on a professional career. As a law student and future lawyer I understand that the study and practice of law carry both privileges and responsibilities. I willingly accept the responsibilities that accompany those privileges and the responsibilities that the faculty, the bench, the bar and the public entrust to me.

I promise to do my utmost to adhere to the ideals of the legal profession and to uphold the highest standards of professional honesty and ethical practice during my career. I will remember that my actions reflect not only on me, but upon Quinnipiac University School of Law, my fellow alumni and the legal profession.

To strengthen the legal community, I will conduct myself with dignity and civility and will treat all of my colleagues with kindness and respect.

I will conduct my professional and personal life so as to uphold the values and standards that are expressed in the Rules of Professional Conduct and the traditions of the legal profession.

May 8, 2026

