



Thank you for joining us to celebrate the University of Pittsburgh School of Law's 2024 Commencement. In so doing, you are helping us continue a longstanding and distinguished tradition where we unite as a community to recognize our students and celebrate their tremendous accomplishments. We are so proud of each of them.

We also know that as our students, and now graduates, have faced challenges during law school, they have been able to forge ahead and soldier through because a diverse group of family, friends, faculty, and staff has offered them vital support. For this, we also thank you deeply.

Our graduates will soon join the ranks of an even bigger Pitt Law community—one that is more than 12,000 alumni strong and is defined by individuals living out our law school's collective embrace of the principles of justice, intellectual rigor, professionalism, equity, and inclusive excellence. We welcome them to this incredible group and look forward to their contributions to Pitt Law's lasting legacy.

And finally, to all of you who are members of our Class of 2024, congratulations! You made it!

University of Pittsburgh School of Law

Interim Dean Mary Crossley

COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

WELCOME	Interim Dean
	Mary Crossley
STUDENT ADDRESS	Min Song
	SBA PRESIDENT
ROBERT T. HARPER EXCELLENCE	KATERINA VASSIL
In Teaching Award Presentation	CLASS PRESIDENT

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS EMILY KINKEAD (JD '16)

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

- ONLINE CERTIFICATES
- Master of Studies in Law
- Master of Laws
- DOCTOR OF JURIDICAL SCIENCE
- Juris Doctor

A COMPLETE LIST OF THE **2024 G**RADUATING **A**WARD **W**INNERS WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT LAW.PITT.EDU/AWARDS IN THE COMING WEEKS.

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES

At this commencement ceremony, degrees and certificates are conferred upon persons who have either completed the relevant requirements for the respective degree or certificate in December 2023 or are expected to complete them in May 2024. The diploma or certificate of the University, signed and sealed by its proper officers, remains the official testimony of possession of a degree or certificate.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER: EMILY KINKEAD (JD '16)



Representative Emily Kinkead (JD '16) is a native Northsider working passionately to empower Pennsylvanians and break down barriers for working families.

Since 2020, Representative Kinkead has represented the 20th Legislative District Ross Township, Bellevue Borough, Avalon Borough, West View Borough, and parts of the City of Pittsburgh. As a member of the General Assembly, she sits on the following committees: Appropriations, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Human Services, Judiciary, and the Committee on Committees.

Before 2020, Representative Kinkead dedicated her life to being a strong voice for those who most need strong voices. After earning

degrees in biology and political science at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, she began her career working and advocating with people with disabilities in Washington, D.C. She then pivoted to return to the work she had started in college – advocating for good government reform. Kinkead joined Common Cause, where she helped to organize public education programs exposing the disenfranchising effects of gerrymandering and money in politics while mobilizing youth to demand responsive climate change policy. She then moved to the Legislative Policy Office of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which works to educate members of Congress about the need for investment in medical research and reviews the impact of proposed legislation on NIH and its projects. Kinkead also worked, through the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars, as the Logistics Coordinator for the U.S. Department of Transportation's summer diverse internship program.

Looking to make an even bolder difference by expanding the type of help she could provide, Kinkead applied to law school and attended the University of Pittsburgh. While working toward her law degree, she protected the rights of HIV+ individuals and victims of gender or domestic violence through a legal aid clinic in Eldoret, Kenya. She applied those skills and refined them during her stateside internship at Pittsburgh's Neighborhood Legal Services office, where she assisted low-income tenants in landlord-tenant disputes across the region, and at the Pitt Law Immigration Clinic, where she helped clients seeking asylum or otherwise needing assistance navigating the complex U.S. immigration system. She also served as an intern law clerk to U.S. Magistrate Judge Lisa Pupo Lenihan (JD '83). Finally, after law school and before entering private practice, Kinkead served as a judicial law clerk for Commonwealth Court Judge Michael Wojcik, assisting in the drafting of more than 60 opinions. She is an avid volunteer on numerous boards, including Scenic Pittsburgh, ALCOSAN, and the State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision. As a member of Pittsburgh's 50 Finest 2019, she worked tirelessly to raise money and awareness surrounding cystic fibrosis.

Kinkead ran for office because she feared Pennsylvanians would lose faith in their democracy and the promise that hard work would bring success and a better life for their children. By providing outspoken and tireless representation in Harrisburg, and comprehensive resources at home in Allegheny County, she believes we can work together to bring equity, fairness, and progress to working families and underrepresented neighborhoods.

A staunch believer that government's calling is to do the most good for the most people, Kinkead is pursuing legislative priorities that promote a living wage, responsible development and infrastructure, criminal justice reform, reproductive justice, LGBTQIA+ equality, safer (and more equitable) communities, and clean air and water for all Pennsylvanians, along with working to make the Pittsburgh area live up to the moniker of "Most Livable" for every person.

SCHOOL OF LAW CLASS OF 2024

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

HEALTH CARE COMPLIANCE ONLINE CERTIFICATE

DECEMBER 2023 GRADUATES

Vanessa Andrukonis

Alexis Bruni
Lindsay Edgar
Ada Ferrer
Kim Guyer
David Kennedy
Christine Larkin
Edward McAnany
Margaret O'Neill
Emily Poole

AUGUST 2024 GRADUATES

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Jennifer Story

Ian Szilagyi

Constance Denise Clay

Shawn Day Jennifer DeMao Elizabeth Diaz Sabrina G. Douglas Christina Garcia

Michele Christine Hamilton

Austen Hardman Ashbeel Jacob Tanya Leisey

David M. Lishinsky, Jr.

Kestrel Merritt Uma Natarajan Bethany Nickle

Mavis Nyatepe-Attipoe Dvan Moorhead-Rachuba

Darlene Sotelo Jyoti Srivastava Sonia Vaze

Amanda Keith Verrastro

Mario Woods Paula Young Fatin Yousufzai Ellyn Zeng

HUMAN RESOURCES LAW ONLINE

AUGUST 2024 GRADUATES

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John Daub
Kayla Dunn
Kori Eckstrom
Logan P. Frey
Christine Gavin
Desiree Harrison
Heather Laabs
Erika L. Lewis
Alison Lithgow
Oshin Morris

Chiamaka Anulika Nwokolo

Kara Quinn Puszko Alyssa Spotts Diana L. Volkar

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS LAW ONLINE CERTIFICATE

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Harold Blake, Jr. Karen E. Faunce Karen E. Hall Amanda Tolbert Nathan Zehua Sun

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RACHEL CUMBERLAND, BA Thiel College, 1993

AYNSLEY JIMENEZ, BSBA Slippery Rock University, 2000

YAWAH NICHOLSON, BA Creighton University, 2016

MICHELLE SERGENT, BS, MPH
University of Pittsburgh, 2013
University of Pittsburgh, 2014

NATHAN ZEHUA SUN, BS, PhD
Hefei University of Technology,
2010
University of Hong Kong, 2015

JESSICA L. THOMAS, BA University of Pittsburgh, 2019

MAY 2024 MSL GRADUATES

JASON COLLIER, Jr., BA University of Pittsburgh, 2022

MILAGROS PEREYRA-ROJAS, BS, BA, BS, MMT, MPM, PhD Carlow University, 2000, 2003 Carnegie Mellon University, 2006 Case Western University, 2014

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LISA M. ANDRUD, BS Central Michigan University, 1981 RAMI S. ASHAMALLA, BA Alexandria University, 2006

ALEXIS CANTANDO-ADAMS, BA Mansfield University, 2009

JOSEPH L. BIELEVICZ, BA University of Pittsburgh, 2003

STEPHANIE L. CONFER, BA Duquesne University, 2015

CHEYENNE COPELAND, BS
Abilene Christian University, 2021

JENNIFER M. DEMAO, BA University of Pittsburgh, 2004

VICKI L. DIDOMENICO, BA University of Pittsburgh, 2020

LOGAN P. FREY, BS University of Pittsburgh, 2019

MICHELE CHRISTINE HAMILTON, BA, MFS, MS
Bellevue University, 2003
Nebraska Wesleyan University,
2006
Bellevue University, 2009

DESIREE HARRISON, BA University of Pittsburgh, 2021

Lynette K. Kahn, BS University of Pittsburgh

ALISON PAIGE LITHGOW, BA Thiel College, 2000

REBECCA LYNN MILLER, BA, MPPM University of Pittsburgh, 2009 University of Pittsburgh, 2022

Oshin Olivia Morris, BS Defiance College, 2016

BETHANY A. NICKLE, BA, AAS Millersville University, 2002 Lancaster General College of Nursing and Health Sciences, 2006

BRIDGET RIDGE, BA, MPPM University of Pittsburgh, 2011 University of Pittsburgh, 2016

ERICA M. Rocha, BS, MS Southwest Texas State University, 2001 University of Phoenix, 2007

Joshua R. Stewart, BA University of Pittsburgh, 2011

KATHRYN E. STUMPP, BA Marietta College, 2008

ANTONIA WROTEN, BS Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, 2020

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MASTER OF LAWS

Iva Grgić, MA-BA, Master of Laws University of Zagreb Faculty of Law, 2013

NADINE MOWAFQ FARES HAFAITHA, Bachelor of Laws, Master of Laws An-Najah National University, 2017

Master of Laws Damascus University, 2004 University of Pittsburgh, 2014 University of Pittsburgh, 2016

University of Pittsburgh, 2019 LLM

DIYAR AL-AKHRAS. Bachelor of Laws Aliragia University College of Law, 2020

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Aliragia University College of Law, 2019

STEFANO AVOGARO, Master of Laws University of Verona, 2023

ALINA BERGMANN

University of Augsburg, Germany

Onyinye-Gandhi Chukwunyere. Bachelor of Laws. Master of Public and **International Affairs** Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria, 2010 University of Pittsburgh, 2016

HANNAH GRIMM

University of Augsburg, Germany

KLARA KLINGESBERGER, Magistra iuris University of Vienna, 2020

Yuliia Komisarchuk, Bachelor of Laws, Master of Laws Vadym Hetman Kyiv National Economic University, 2021 Bocconi University, 2023

Shadi Hanna Shahoud, Bachelor of Laws,

ZAHIDULLAH OMARZAI, Bachelor of Laws Dunya University, 2017

ANASTASIIA PANCHAK, Bachelor of Laws, Master of Laws National University of "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy", 2017 Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, 2018

MARIAM PIRVELI, Bachelor of Laws, Master of Laws Georgian Institute of Public Affairs, 2019 Ilia State University, 2022

AMILA PIVIĆ, Bachelor of Laws University of Zenica, 2023 OKSANA RIABININA, Bachelor of Laws, Master of Laws, Master of International Business Vadym Hetman Kyiv National Economic University, 2013 Vadym Hetman Kyiv National Economic University, 2014 Taras Schevchenko National University of Kyiv, 2018

MEENA SADR, Bachelor of Laws American University of Afghanistan (AUAF), 2021

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JD Juris Doctor

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Carnegie Mellon University, 2023

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Washington State University, 2021

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BAILEY A. VARRATI, RN, BSN University of Pittsburgh, 2019

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The Pennsylvania State University,
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Courteny N. Hager

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CONCENTRATION

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FINALISTS

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ALLEGHENY COUNTY ACADEMY OF TRIAL LAWYERS MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

Yasmeen Ahmed Noah Clark Kaitlin Correa Turner Pipes Katerina P. Vassil

Coaches: Kerven Moon Joshua Sallmen

Faculty Advisor: Prof. Chalon Young

CASE CLASSIC MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

Amanda March Gwenyth A. Ortman Anna K. Rakich Claudia I. Rosado Sanitago

Min Song Alea C. Tiberi Kiley M. Verbanac Nina S. Wiramidjaja

Coaches: Brad Linsenmeyer Antoinette Luchini Carmen Nocera

Faculty Advisor: Prof. Chalon Young

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Coaches: Tara Tighe Kevin McCarthy Jaden Rankin-Wahlers

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Dave Oberdick

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Coach:

Lynn Alstadt

Faculty Advisor: Prof. Michael Madison

L. EDWARD BRYANT, JR. NATIONAL HEALTH LAW TRANSACTIONAL COMPETITION

Desiree Amanda Bsales

Joan Pyle

Katerina P. Vassil

Coach: Bill Maruca

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Brown

LLM INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL

ARBITRATION MOOT

Stefano Avogaro Zahidullah Omarzai Anastasiia Panchak

Amila Pivic Coach:

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Faculty Advisor: Ronald Brand

NATIONAL TAX MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Dustin R. Foley Luke S. Kastenhuber Nina S. Wiramidjaja

Coaches:

Toni Luchini

Natalija Vignjevich

Faculty Advisor: Prof. Alice Stewart

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Coaches:

Toni Luchini

Natalija Vignjevich

Faculty Advisor: Prof. Alice Stewart

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Seth Bowes Tilman Cooper Kevin Hills Jason Powell TJ Rodman

TJ Rodmai Coaches:

Coaches: Carmen Nocera Amanda Shields Cassie Scanlon Gabrielle Shaulis

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