

ORDER OF ACADEMIC PROCESSION

GRADUATES OF THE SCHOOL OF LAW

FACULTY OF THE SCHOOL OF LAW

OFFICERS OF ADMINISTRATION

FACULTY SPEAKER

DEAN

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIRST ACADEMIC YEAR

SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2021
9:00 A.M.

PRESIDING

SIMON G. MØLLER, PH.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
St. John's University

PROCESSIONAL*

DIRECTOR OF PROCEEDINGS

SARAH JEAN KELLY
Vice Dean for Administration
St. John's School of Law

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

INVOCATION

REV. JOHN GOULDRICK, C.M. '99HON
Chaplain
St. John's School of Law

WELCOME

MICHAEL A. SIMONS
Dean and John V. Brennan Professor of Law and Ethics
St. John's School of Law

FACULTY SPEAKER

ROSEMARY C. SALOMONE
Kenneth Wang Professor of Law
St. John's School of Law

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIRST ACADEMIC YEAR

SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2021
9:00 A.M.

CERTIFICATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES EARNED IN COURSE

MICHAEL A. SIMONS

Dean and John V. Brennan Professor of Law and Ethics
St. John's School of Law

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

SIMON G. MØLLER, PH.D.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
St. John's University

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES FOR DEGREES EARNED IN COURSE

SARAH JEAN KELLY

Vice Dean for Administration
St. John's School of Law

ALUMNI MESSAGE

ALAIN V. MASSENA '97C, '00L

Principal
Massena Law P.C.

BENEDICTION

REV. JOHN GOULDRICK, C.M. '99HON

Chaplain
St. John's School of Law

RECESSIONAL*

**Please stand during the Academic Procession and remain in place until all participants in the Academic Recession leave the area.*

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIRST ACADEMIC YEAR

SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2021
12:00 P.M.

PRESIDING

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FACULTY SPEAKER

CHRISTOPHER J. BORGEN
Professor of Law and Co-Director,
Center for International and Comparative Law
St. John's School of Law

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COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIRST ACADEMIC YEAR

SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2021
3:00 P.M.

PRESIDING

REV. BRIAN J. SHANLEY, O.P.
President
St. John's University

PROCESSIONAL*

DIRECTOR OF PROCEEDINGS

SARAH JEAN KELLY
Vice Dean for Administration
St. John's School of Law

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

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Chaplain
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FACULTY SPEAKER

MARC O. DEGIROLAMI
Cary Fields Professor of Law and Co-Director,
Center for Law and Religion
St. John's School of Law

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SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2021
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St. John's School of Law

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

REV. BRIAN J. SHANLEY, O.P.

President
St. John's University

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES FOR DEGREES EARNED IN COURSE

TRENT ANDERSON

Associate Dean for External Relations
St. John's School of Law

SARAH JEAN KELLY

Vice Dean for Administration
St. John's School of Law

ALUMNI MESSAGE

ALAIN V. MASSENA '97C, '00L

Principal
Massena Law P.C.

BENEDICTION

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COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIRST ACADEMIC YEAR

SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2021
6:00 P.M.

PRESIDING

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President
St. John's University

DIRECTOR OF PROCEEDINGS

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St. John's School of Law

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

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FACULTY SPEAKER

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Professor of Legal Writing and Associate Dean for
Experiential and Skills-Based Education
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St. John's School of Law

SARAH JEAN KELLY

Vice Dean for Administration
St. John's School of Law

ALUMNI MESSAGE

MICHELLE M. JOHNSON '05

President
St. John's School of Law Alumni Association

BENEDICTION

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St. John's School of Law

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Graduates of the Class of 2021

Candidates for LL.M. Degree in Bankruptcy

Ryan Christopher Beil
Christina Buru
Sonali Doshi
Joseph Andres Martin
Yesero Tebba Olowo-Okello
Yong Hyun Ryu

Candidates for LL.M. Degree in Transnational Legal Practice

Sarah Alderaie
Alhanouf Almuqaybil
Xuefen Bai
Yanan Bai
Margaux Pauline Beun
Nina Elvire Bouillon
Calixte Bouton
Pauline Creach
Binqiang Fu
Xiaoqi Gao
Deyao Li
Nan Qi
Yixin Sun
Qinyin Wang
Xiaoli Yuan
Yali Zhang

Candidates for LL.M. Degree in U.S. Legal Studies for Foreign Law School Graduates

Paul Eduardo Abad Molina
Tarsis Aragao
David Aronov
Aysecik Ceylan
Rudy Simon Cohen-Zardi
Chunxia Cole
Ouidad Dghoughi
Yenis F. Diaz Macea
Sondra Macollins Garvin-Pinto
Romuald Kazadi Lutungadio
Chrystalla Potamitou
Jeevan Rajeev
Raisa Stepanova
Yuen Nien Teng
Kailin Yang

Graduates of the Class of 2021

Candidates for J.D. Degree

Rosanna Gabriella Abdilla
Aleksandra Adamska
Francis Salvatore Alaimo
Cassandra Alexandre
Samantha Vera Alfano
Aminah Shazada Ali
Norah Catherine Alimonos
Melissa Marie Andrews
Gina Antoun
Michelle Artiles
Jeremy Ashton
Brandon N. Auerbach
Christina Marie Autovino
Brittany Erin Bachus
Erik W. Barron
Emma Grace Bausert
Amelia Lauren Bayroff
Edward Belotte
Zachary T. Benaharon
Joseph Benincasa IV
Damyre Kassandre Benjamin
Evan Scott Biegel
Abigail Kennedy Bittel
Andrew Kieran Bloomfield
Brent Ernest Bomkamp
Daniel Bornstein
Martha Alexandra Brancato
Carmine Antonio Broccole
Maxwell Chase Brown
Jillian Maire Burke
Eric J. Butkiewicz
Christopher John Byrne
Anthony Joseph Calenzo
Melissa Marie Capalbo
Laura Capicotto
Michelle Taylor Capobianco
Kimberly Elizabeth Capuder
Nicole Taylor Cardascia
Gregory Wright Carman III
Melissa A. Carroll
Michael Edward Catapano
Sarah Elizabeth Catterson
Douglas S. Chau

Nicole Yongmin Cho
Edward A. Cho-O'Leary
Thomas Matthew Cilla
Elyssa Cislucyis
Emily Elizabeth Clark
Matthew Kirby Cleaver
Joseph D. Clifford III
Lauren Melissa Collins
Joanne Therese Corrielus
Eric W. Dang
Michael S. Dauber
Brian Edward Dean
Frank Quentin DellaFera
Elliot Dervich
Beth D. Do
Christopher J. Elefante
Ronald Vincent Eniclerico
Rourke T. Feinberg
Valeria Fernandez
Gia Fernicola
Sierra Lani Fischer
Matthew Richard Fischman
Lawrence Leighton Flynn
Brady Matthew Foster
John Michael Freeze
Daniela Gagliano
Samantha Claire Gagnon
Christopher Joseph Gaine
Meghan Elizabeth Garvey
Emily Nicole Gault
Eva-Maria Ghelardi
John Patrick Gilroy
Sydney Bree Goldstein
Andres Gomez
Jessica L. Gorski
Anthony Vincent Graci
Ricardo Ariel Gray
Tara Marie Guarino
Ross Guthrie Gudis
Deniz Alexander Gunaydin
Joseph Anthony Gusmano
Latoya Jenell Haley
Ryan Patrick Hallock

Nicole A. Hanna
Rachel N. Harris
Mohammed S. Hassan
Lindsey A. Haynes
Jon Lanham Hedges
Catherine Louise Helde
Justin Scott Henderson
Rebecca Leigh Hendricks
Tiffany R. Heravi
Christopher Daniel
Hernandez
Danielle L. Hofer
Kaitlin Maureen Hoffmann
Fiona Rose Hogan
Jennifer Joanne Hopkins
Ruben Huertero
Ryan Ramon Iglesias
Haim Edward Ilyayev
Kathryn Marcella Ingle
Nicole Rose Intrieri
Anna Lise Isker
Dilara A. Islam
Bradley W. Jennings
Jiayi Ji
Jessica Rachel Joe
Jasmine Marie Johnson
Sandra Jovic
James C. Kalcheim
Thomas P. Kane
Nicholas Michael Kania
Alexandra Joanna Karambelas
Anthimos Karanikolas
Irma Katsman
Benjamin James Kazenoff
Komal Khosla
Yalda Khwaja
Alexander Cirkovic Koban
Gregory Joseph Kramer
Andrew P. Laurino
Bradley Joseph LeDoux
Jingyi Leng
Yaqarah Letellier
Heather Faith Lewin

Graduates of the Class of 2021

Candidates for J.D. Degree

Christy Li
Morgan Catherine Liptak
Carole Ann Liscio
Alexa Marie Major
Zachary James Manasia
Catherine Elizabeth Mapelli
Federica Marini
Danielle Rae Marino
Colin Marinovich
Samantha Leigh McCarthy
Valerie Elizabeth McGovern
Sarah McMahan
Brendan John McSweeney
Elena J. Menagias
Fatih Mercan
Cameron Philip Michelsen
Loredana B. Miranda
Kayla M. Mistretta
Alexander Grant Mitchell
Alexa Mia Moreno
Casey Elizabeth Murphy
Michael Sean Murphy
Michael Ajay Nair
Dallas J. Neely
Spencer Scott Nelson
Anthony James Norris
Gavin Francis O'Brien
Shannon Duignan O'Brien
Michael Ofori
Jeleesa Omala
Nicholas John Orbon
Dallas Sangho Park
Lauren Kelsey Petersen
Tashila Ashley Pierre-Peter
Andrei Alexeivich Pilipetskii
Alexander James Pirraglia
Veronika Podoprighora

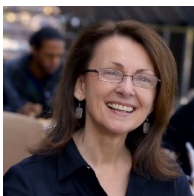
Amanda Beatriz Pomarico
Emily Katelin Price
Gabrielle Grace Pullo
Marie Drennan Puntillo
Cameron Philip Purcell
John Stanislaus Puszcz
Alexine J. Ralph
Benjamin Robert Ranalli
Rocco Joseph Recce
Berta Reizin
Laila Rizk
Samuel Michael Rizzitelli III
Frederick Corey Roberts
Adalgiza Maria Rodamis
Cali Ann Ross
Theodore Michael Ryan
Anthony Reid Scarcella
NallyAnn Scaturro
Hunter Joseph Schiro
Paul Aaron Schochet
Eric James Seltzer
Sadia Shamid
Jonathan Shaw
Bridget Sheerin
Ellie Sage Sheinwald
Jia Xin Theresa Shim
Heidi Elizabeth Simpson
Manvinder Singh
Charles John Sirek
Spencer Thomas Sklar
Marybeth Lynn Smith
Ryan Mattie Smith
Zachary Sobel
Kylie R. Springs
Gerlene St Jean
Caoimhe Patricia Stafford

Andrew Henry Stanko
Rebecca A. Stark
Willow Nita Stowe
Kelan Campbell Sullivan
Pharoah Sutton-Jackson
Albert Joseph Tagliaferri
Joseph Cesar Taormina
Tiffany Testa
Matthew A. Timlin
Korrine Cierra Torres
Alexandra Rose Turpin
Danielle Ullo
Michele Beverly Urbinati
Jenna Rose Valente
Maria Estefania Vaz Ferreira
Baylee Luis Vazquez
Francine A. Velis
Katherine A. Vidmar
Sarah Ann Vinci
Anton Vlahek
Zachary Walter Wagman
Jessica Wang
Lili Wang
Conor McGinniss Ward
Stephanie Anne Weaver
Ross Arin Weiner
Eli Weingast
Ashley Fatima Williams
Roger Wong
Nicole Z. Yang
Emmanuelle N. Yeremou-Ngah
Gabriela Zapata
Zachary Nolan Zayas
Manny Zayrov
Yuebing Zheng
Torrey Nicole Zullo

FACULTY SPEAKER

ROSEMARY C. SALOMONE

Kenneth Wang Professor of Law



Rosemary Salomone, the Kenneth Wang Professor of Law, teaches Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, and seminars on Comparative Equality and Anti-Discrimination Law, and Children and the Law. In past years she has served as Associate Academic Dean and Director of the Center for Law and Public Policy. She is a Senior Fellow of the University's Vincentian Center for Church and Society and a member of the University CRS Global Campus Committee.

Prior to St. John's, Professor Salomone was an Associate Professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education where she taught education law, school finance, and language policy and was a lecturer in Harvard's Institute for Educational Management. She has been a recipient of numerous research and academic awards including St. John's University's highest honor, the St. Vincent de Paul Teacher-Scholar Award; the University Outstanding Faculty Achievement Award; and grants from the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, the Spencer Foundation, and Harvard University. She has held fellowships at Columbia University School of Law and at the Soros Foundation's Open Society Institute. She is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York where she served for 10 years. She also is a former chair of the Section on Education Law of the Association of American Law Schools and of the Education and the Law Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, where she served on the Council on Children. She is an elected member of the American Law Institute and of the American Bar Foundation. She serves on the Advisory Board of the Education Law Abstracting Journal and is a member of the Study Group on Language and the United Nations.

Professor Salomone has lectured internationally and published extensively on education law and policy and children's rights and has served as a legal consultant or expert witness in cases covering elementary, secondary, and higher education. She is the author of *True American: Language, Identity, and the Education of Immigrant Children* (Harvard University Press); *Same, Different, Equal: Rethinking Single-Sex Schooling* (Yale University Press) (selected as an "Outstanding Academic Title for 2005" by *Choice* magazine); *Visions of Schooling: Conscience, Community, and Common Education* (Yale University Press); and *Equal Education Under Law: Legal Rights and Federal Policy in the Post "Brown" Era* (St. Martin's Press). Her most recent book is the *Rise of English: Global Politics and the Power of Language* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2021).

Professor Salomone is a graduate of Columbia University (Ph.D., LL.M., M.Phil.), Brooklyn Law School (J.D.), Hunter College (M.A.), and Brooklyn College (B.A.).

FACULTY SPEAKER

CHRISTOPHER J. BORGEN

Professor of Law and Co-Director,
Center for International and Comparative Law



Christopher J. Borgen is Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Center for International and Comparative Law at St. John's University School of Law. From 2009 to 2014 he was also the Associate Dean for International Studies for the Law School. Professor Borgen teaches, or has taught, International Law, National Security and the Law, Space Law, International Environmental Law, International Finance, the International Law Colloquium, and Contracts, among other courses.

One area of Professor Borgen's research focuses on secession and on how states use international law as a diplomatic tool in international crises. He is the principal author of *Thawing a Frozen Conflict: Legal Aspects of the Separatist Crisis in Moldova*, a report issued by the New York City Bar. He has written widely on the overlap of self-determination, secession, the recognition of states, and international conflicts. Another area of Professor Borgen's scholarship addresses the regulation of activities in space. He is a one of the core experts contributing to the *Woomera Manual on the International Law of Military Space Operations*, a project convening international lawyers and technical experts from around the world to develop a model manual that will objectively articulate and clarify existing international law applicable to military activities in space. Professor Borgen's scholarship has been published in the *Yale Journal of International Law*, the *Chicago Journal of International Law*, the *German Yearbook of International Law*, *International Law Studies*, and in other journals and volumes.

Among his other professional activities, in 2005 Professor Borgen co-founded *Opinio Juris*, a website devoted to debate and discussion about international law, and he was a senior member of the masthead until 2018. He recently concluded serving as Co-Rapporteur for the International Law Association's Committee on Recognition and Non-Recognition in International Law. The Committee had been established by the Executive Council of the ILA with the purpose of examining "whether contemporary issues of secession, break-up of States and the creation of new States have changed international law and policy with respect to recognition." Professor Borgen is currently the Chair of the Arms Control Committee of the American Branch of the ILA. He was also a founding Co-Chair of the American Society of International Law's Space Law Interest Group. While at St. John's, he has also served as the Chairperson of the United Nations Committee of the New York City Bar, on the Executive Council of the American Society of International Law, and as a member of the European Affairs and the Foreign and Comparative Law Committees of the New York City Bar.

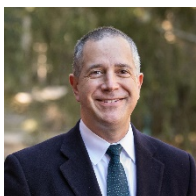
Prior to joining the faculty at St. John's, Professor Borgen was the Director of Research and Outreach of the American Society of International Law. He was previously a clerk for Federal Magistrate Judge Arlene R. Lindsay of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York and an associate at Debevoise & Plimpton, practicing in both the litigation and international corporate groups.

Professor Borgen has received of the Order of Civic Merit, the highest honor awarded to a civilian by the Republic of Moldova, for his role in the NY City Bar's Report concerning the ongoing separatist conflict.

FACULTY SPEAKER

MARC O. DEGIROLAMI

Cary Fields Professor of Law and Co-Director,
Center for Law and Religion



Professor DeGirolami has research interests in law and religion, freedom of speech, constitutional law, tort law, and criminal law. His book, *The Tragedy of Religious Freedom*, was published by Harvard University Press in 2013. His papers have been or will be published in various law journals including *Notre Dame Law Review*, *Washington University Law Review*, *Stanford Law and Policy Review*, *Constitutional Commentary*, *Legal Theory*, *Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law*, *Boston College Law Review*, *San Diego Law Review*, *Alabama Law Review*, and *St. John's Law Review*, among others. He has written for *The New*

York Times, *The New Republic*, *The Weekly Standard*, *First Things*, *Commonweal*, and *The Library of Law and Liberty*. He is the Cary Fields Professor of Law and the Co-director of the Center for Law and Religion.

Following law school, Professor DeGirolami clerked for Judge William E. Smith of the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island and Judge Jerome Farris of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. His professional experience includes service as an Assistant District Attorney in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Prior to joining the St. John's faculty, he was an Associate-in-Law at Columbia Law School, and Visiting Assistant Professor and Scholar in Residence at Catholic University's Columbus School of Law. He was a Visiting Fellow at Princeton University in 2019, in the Department of Politics' James Madison Program, and a Visiting Professor at Notre Dame Law School in Spring 2020.

At St. John's, he teaches or has taught Constitutional Law, Constitutional Theory, Criminal Law, courses in Law and Religion, Professional Responsibility, and Torts.

FACULTY SPEAKER

RACHEL H. SMITH

Professor of Legal Writing and Associate Dean for
Experiential and Skills Based Education



Rachel H. Smith joined the law school faculty in 2016. She is a Professor of Legal Writing and the Associate Dean for Experiential & Skills-Based Education.

Rachel is the author of two legal writing books: *The Handbook for the New Legal Writer* (with Jill Barton) and *The Legal Writing Survival Guide*. Both books aim to demystify the process of legal writing and serve as a source of encouragement for beginning and more experienced legal writers. Rachel has presented at national and regional legal writing conferences on topics including teaching with positivity, using popular non-fiction in the legal writing classroom, and the pedagogy of using examples. In 2009, Rachel received a grant from the Association of Legal Writing Directors to prepare a series of legal writing podcasts called “Perk Up Your Pens.”

Before coming to St. John’s, Rachel was a founding member of the Legal Communication and Research Skills faculty at the University of Miami School of Law. In addition to teaching the first-year legal writing course, she developed a popular course on Advanced Techniques in Written Persuasion. Before that, she was part of the Legal Analysis Research and Writing Faculty at Santa Clara University School of Law, where she was twice awarded the Legal Writing Teacher of the Year Award.

Rachel received her J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. After graduation, she worked as a litigator in the San Francisco office of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP where she worked on a variety of intellectual property disputes for toy, tech, and casino gaming companies.

ALUMNI SPEAKER

ALAIN V. MASSENA '97C, '00L

Principal

Massena Law P.C.



Alain V. Massena is the proud son of the late Marie Lourdes and Jean Claude Massena. Fleeing the rule of Haiti's brutal dictator, Alain's parents immigrated to America in the 1960's and settled in Brooklyn to build a better life. Marie and Jean Claude successfully raised three boys in the heart of Flatbush. They interwove the importance of education and commitment to community and church to create the foundation of their family values.

After graduating Brooklyn Technical High School, Alain attended St. John's University where he earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in English. Alain served in various leadership roles on campus and in the community while twice being named to University's Dean list. Inspired by the late Honorable Philip D. Roache, Alain entered St. John's University School of Law to prepare himself to best serve his community. Alain's law school internships with the Honorable Reinaldo Rivera of the Appellate Division 2nd Dept., Honorable Arthur D. Spatt of the 2nd Circuit of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York and at the Kings County District Attorney's office ignited his love for litigation – the fight for justice. Armed with his law degree, prepared with the practical experience of his internships and his heart motivated to serve, he began his legal career a prosecutor in Brooklyn.

While an Assistant District Attorney in the Kings County District Attorney's office Alain worked hard and fought to ensure the swift and fair administration of justice in all of his cases. He successfully tried over 15 criminal cases and prosecuted over 1,000 misdemeanor and felony cases, ranging from attempted murders, to kidnappings and even multiple defendant narcotic takedowns.

After four years at the Kings County District Attorney's office, Alain took his fight for justice from the heart of Brooklyn to the heart of Africa. Alain traveled to Ghana, West Africa and spent the next six months working *pro bono* with FIDA, a United Nations sponsored organization that advocates for women's rights in third world countries across the globe. While in Ghana, Alain also volunteered at an orphanage where he taught a class of 10-year-old children, helped write and file the orphanage's constitution and raised funds in the United States that helped build a new building for the orphanage.

Still committed to the fight for justice and service to his community, Alain founded Massena Law P.C., a downtown boutique criminal defense law firm dedicated to personalized zealous representation. Alain is also an active member of the bar, having served on numerous bar associations and committees such as: New York County Bar Association - State Courts of Superior Jurisdiction Committee, New York County Lawyers Association, NACDL – lifetime member, Metropolitan Black Bar Association, Federal Bar Council, Downtown Lawyers Association, New York Criminal Bar Association, Kings County Judicial Screening Committee, Kings County Criminal Bar Association – Board of Directors.

The St. John's University family is an integral part of Alain's personal and professional life. Alain routinely hires law school students and graduates to work at his law firm because he knows they are smart and they have grit to get the job done. Also being active at St. John's is a chance for Alain to stay connected to his roots and return some of the blessings that St. John's gave him – his education, his profession, many of his closest friends and even his family. Alain is married to Cheryl Massena, a St. John's University alumnae, and they are blessed with three beautiful daughters Āva, Soleil and Laline, who are the center of their world.

ALUMNI SPEAKER

MICHELLE M. JOHNSON '05

President
St. John's School of Law Alumni Association



Michelle Johnson is an entertainment lawyer working across television, digital and new media content for over ten years. She currently serves as a Digital Attorney on the Business Affairs team of William Morris Endeavor, a leading entertainment and media talent company. At WME, she handles digital and new media agreements to support the development and production of content on leading streaming and digital platforms including Spotify, Amazon and Netflix.

Prior to WME, she has held various roles in the legal departments of Vox Media, Sony Pictures Entertainment, ABC and MTV. Prior to working as an attorney in the entertainment industry, she served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Bronx District Attorney's Office from 2006-2010.

Michelle graduated from St. John's University School of Law in 2005. Prior to St. John's, she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in English from New York University in 2002 and graduated from Western High School in Anaheim, California.

In 2016, Johnson founded a St. John's Law alumni affinity group focused on entertainment and intellectual property.

In Summer 2020, Johnson assumed the one-year role of St. John's Law Alumni Association president, becoming the first Black person to hold the position for the organization.

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW THEN AND NOW

St. John's University School of Law opened its doors on September 28, 1925. Founded 55 years after the opening of St. John's University by the Vincentian Community, the school initially dedicated itself to educating the children of individuals who had been denied access to economic and educational opportunities.

In the Law School's first year, classes were held in the Terminal Building at 50 Court Street, Brooklyn. Classes filled so quickly that expansion was necessary almost immediately. In August 1926, the school leased additional space in neighboring buildings. Soon, even they overflowed and the school needed a new facility in which to grow. It subsequently moved into a new 14-story building at 96 Schermerhorn Street in downtown Brooklyn.



As college and graduate school applications skyrocketed in the late 1960s, the entire University began to once more feel confined. In 1970, the Law School held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new building on the Queens Campus, where most of the University stands today. The School of Law moved into its new home in 1972—finding space for more classrooms, an expansive law library, and offices for the growing faculty. St. John's Law later expanded again, thanks to the generosity of benefactor Leon Finley '29, '85HON, creating Finley Hall. Through the generosity of Jerome '48, '84HON and Maxine '98HON Belson, the older building was renovated. The combined buildings, Belson and Finley Halls, provide a spacious facility for the Law School.



The Law School currently boasts more than 17,000 living graduates and attracts students from over 200 colleges and universities throughout the world. The current student body of approximately 800 represents students from many backgrounds, all of whom have excelled in undergraduate institutions, and many of whom have been employed prior to starting their law studies.

St. John's Law provides an exceptional education, grounded in the fundamentals of legal reasoning, writing, skills, and ethics. Students gain experience through the School's 17 centers and clinics, learn cutting-edge subjects that will help them succeed in today's global and technological profession, study abroad at St. John's campuses in Europe, and contribute to the production and dissemination of legal scholarship through journals and publications, all while being guided and mentored by a dedicated faculty, administration, and staff.

The Law School is relentlessly focused on outcomes that matter most to students, their families, and alumni. St. John's is ranked high in the state for bar passage and employment, and alumni donate generously of their time and resources to help current students. The full-time faculty of 41 publish in the top journals of the country and have authored books on a variety of subjects, all while winning praise from students for the quality of their teaching and mentoring. The adjunct faculty, which consists of over 100 attorneys and judges, teach cutting-edge subjects and infuse the curriculum with skills training.

From its humble beginnings in Brooklyn, St. John's School of Law continues to provide educational opportunity, graduating students well-suited for the challenges of the 21st Century.

ACADEMIC HERALDRY

The caps, gowns, and hoods worn at college and university functions date back to the Middle Ages. Monks and students of those days wore them to keep warm in the damp and drafty 12th century castles and halls of learning.

The gown for the bachelor's degree has a semi-stiff yoke, long pleated front, and intricate shirring across the shoulders and back. It is primarily distinguished by its long pointed sleeves.

The holder of a master's degree wears a gown with the same yoke effect as the bachelor's. The gown, however, is worn open and the very long sleeve is squared and closed at the end, the forearm coming through a slit near the elbow.

The gown for the doctor's degree is also worn open; it has broad velvet panels down the front and three velvet bars on the large, bell-like sleeves. This velvet trimming may be either black or the color distinctive of the field of learning to which the degree pertains.

Generally, all caps may be of serge or broadcloth. In addition, doctor's caps may be of velvet and adorned by a gold tassel.

The hood gives color and distinction to the academic costume. The hood—a black shell-like affair of varying size for the three degrees and material to match the gown—is silk-lined stressing the colors of the institution conferring the degree. The hood is then bordered with velvet of the color signifying the respective fields of learning.

The colors indicative of the various fields of learning are as follows:

Arts and Letters.....	White
Library Science	Lemon
Law.....	Purple
Education	Light Blue
Philosophy.....	Blue
Science	Golden Yellow
Fine Arts.....	Brown
Business Administration	Light Brown
Pharmacy.....	Green

It is important to note that the field of learning having prior mention in the conferment of a degree, and not the department governing the major work, determines the color that is proper for the velvet of the hood. The doctor of philosophy degree requires the blue velvet irrespective of the major field. If more than one degree is held, the gown and hood of the highest degree are worn.