

# 2023 COMMENCEMENT AWARDS

## Special Recognition Awards

### **ALI-CLE Scholarship and Leadership Award**

Awarded to the student in the graduating class who best represents a combination of scholarship and leadership, the qualities embodied by the American Law Institute.

**Billy Michaca**

### **Chief Judge Edward D. Re Commencement Award**

Established in honor and memory of Chief Judge Edward D. Re, an honor graduate of the class of 1943, who was Chief Judge Emeritus of the U.S. Court of International Trade and served as a professor at St. John's University School of Law. Awarded to the students in the graduating class who are selected by the Dean based on outstanding scholarship and service.

**Ezra Rash  
Julia Shea**

### **Daniel A. Furlong Award**

Awarded to students in the graduating class who, in the opinion of the Dean, have rendered outstanding service and leadership to the Law School community.

**Nadia Balkaran  
Rory Buckley**

### **National Association of Women Lawyers Award**

Awarded to an outstanding law graduate of each American Bar Association approved law school who shows promise to contribute to the advancement of women in society.

**Valerie Rodriguez**

# 2023 COMMENCEMENT AWARDS

## Academic Excellence Awards

### Joseph Kerzner Prize

Established through a generous endowment from Joseph Kerzner and awarded to the student in the graduating class who has achieved the highest cumulative grade point average.

Ryan Fenn  
Ashley Flores

### Esterina Giuliani Award

Established by Esterina Giuliani '06 and awarded to the student in the part-time division who has achieved the highest cumulative grade point average.

Sophie Muller

### American Bankruptcy Institute Medal for Excellence in Bankruptcy Studies

Awarded to the J.D. and LL.M. students in the graduating class who have demonstrated excellence in the study of Bankruptcy Law.

Victoria Giorgio (J.D.)  
Chazz C. Coleman (LL.M.)

# 2023 COMMENCEMENT AWARDS

## 2023 Commencement Awards

### **Justice Harold Birns Award**

Established by Renee Birns in memory of her husband, Justice Harold Birns, an honor graduate of the class of 1937, and awarded to the student in the graduating class who has published the best note in a student journal.

**Adele Irwin**

### **Beatrice Levine Awards**

Established by Beatrice Levine in memory of Abraham, Gussie, and Max Levine and awarded to students who achieve the highest grades in Property; Drafting: Real Estate Transactions; and Condominiums, Cooperatives & Homeowner Associations, respectively.

**Ashley Flores  
(Property)**

**Robert Ibrahim  
(Drafting: Real Estate Transactions)**

**Thomas Goddard  
(Condos, Coops, and Homeowner Assoc.)**

**William Gross  
(Condos, Coops, and Homeowner Assoc.)**

### **Cornelius W. Wickersham, Jr. Award**

Established by the Federal Bar Council and awarded to the student in the graduating class who achieves the highest grade in Constitutional Law.

**Brendan Spagnuolo**

# 2023 COMMENCEMENT AWARDS

## **Dean Mary C. Daly Memorial Award**

Established by alumni and friends in memory of Dean Mary C. Daly, former Dean and John V. Brennan Professor of Law and Ethics (2004–2008) and awarded to the student in the graduating class who has achieved the highest grade in Professional Responsibility.

**Ryan Fenn  
Ashley Flores**

## **Michele G. Falkow Excellence in Legal Writing Award**

Established in memory of Michele G. Falkow, a former School of Law Assistant Professor of Legal Writing and is awarded each year to the first year J.D. student who submits the best brief in the Legal Writing II course. The student is recognized again at Graduation.

**Michael Rawlings**

## **International Academy of Trial Lawyers Award**

Awarded to the student in the graduating class who achieves the highest grade in Evidence.

**Maria Jelda Doria  
Ashley Flores**

## **Justice David T. Gibbons Award**

Established by the Bar Association of Nassau County, New York and members of the Gibbons family in memory of the late Justice David T. Gibbons, a member of the class of 1949, and awarded to the student in the part-time division who has achieved the highest grade in Evidence.

**Sophie Muller**

# 2023 COMMENCEMENT AWARDS

## **Justice Louis Wallach Memorial Award**

Established by friends and family of the late Justice Louis Wallach, a graduate of the class of 1946, and awarded to the student in the graduating class who achieves the highest grade in New York Practice.

**Andrew Henriquez**  
(New York Civil Practice: Pre & Post-Trial)

**Michael Quintman**  
(New York Civil Practice:  
Jurisdiction & Pleading)

## **Morton Wasserman Award**

Established by Frances Wasserman in memory of her husband, Morton Wasserman, and awarded to the student in the graduating class who achieves the highest grade in Introduction to Intellectual Property.

**Simcha Weisz**

## **Ned D. Frank Award**

Established by Justice and Mrs. Harry B. Frank to perpetuate the memory of their son, Ned D. Frank, a member of the class of 1960, and awarded to the student in the graduating class who achieves the highest grade in Criminal Law.

**Ashley Flores**  
**Erin Stahley**  
**Amanda Zoda**

## **Rita Giannone Memorial Award**

Established by friends and family in memory of Rita Giannone, a member of the class of 1981, and awarded to the student in the part-time division of the graduating class who has achieved the highest grade in Constitutional Law.

**Sophie Muller**

# 2023 COMMENCEMENT AWARDS

## **Timothy J. Meehan Memorial Award**

Established by the family and friends of the late Timothy J. Meehan, a member of the class of 1974, and awarded to the student in the graduating class who achieves the highest grade in Real Estate Transactions.

**Robert Ibrahim  
Peter Klensch**

## **The Wann Family Foundation Award**

Established by Robert Wann, Jr. '07 and awarded to the students in the graduating class who achieve the highest grade in each of the following courses: Business Planning, Consumer Protection, Corporate Finance, , and Securities Regulation.

**Anthony Crasto  
(Business Planning)**

**Chelsea Frankel  
(Consumer Protection)**

**Robert Ibrahim  
(Consumer Protection)**

**Michael Rawlings  
(Corporate Finance)**

**Brendan Spagnuolo  
(Corporate Finance)**

**Michael Russo  
(Securities Regulation)**

# 2023 COMMENCEMENT AWARDS

## **Appellate and Trial Advocacy Excellence Awards**

### **Center for Trial and Appellate Advocacy Award for Excellence in Mock Trial**

Awarded to the graduating member of the Polestino Trial Advocacy Institute who best demonstrated talent in the art and science of trial advocacy through external competitions.

**Ryan Fenn**

### **Center for Trial and Appellate Advocacy Award for Excellence in Moot Court**

Awarded to the graduating member of the Moot Court Honor Society who best demonstrated talent in the art and science of appellate advocacy through external competitions.

**Sarah Hautzinger**

### **Justice Albert H. Bosch Award**

Established by Justice Albert H. Bosch, a graduate of the class of 1933, and awarded to the students in the graduating class who have demonstrated excellence in the area of appellate advocacy and trial advocacy.

**Gabriella Blum**  
**(Appellate Advocacy)**

**Ariston (Joseph) Papeo**  
**(Trial Advocacy)**

# 2023 COMMENCEMENT AWARDS

## **New York City Trial Lawyers Alliance Trial Advocacy Award**

Awarded to the student in the graduating class who has shown excellence in civil trial advocacy.

**Michael Pecorella**

## **Tyler Ramaker Memorial Award**

Established by the family and friends of the late Tyler Ramaker, a member of the Moot Court Honor Society, and awarded to the graduating Moot Court student who demonstrates outstanding service, leadership through action, dedication, and cooperative teamwork.

**Jordan Milite**

## **Public Interest Awards**

### **Dianne Marie Arrue Memorial Award**

Established by the classmates of the late Dianne Marie Arrue, a student committed to public interest work and service, and awarded to a graduate who has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to public interest work, including dedication to and leadership of the Public Interest Law Student Association.

**Claire Frink**

### **School of Law Alumni Association Pro Bono Award**

Established by the School of Law Alumni Association and awarded to a student in the graduating class with exceptional pro bono service.

**Christa Alexander**



# 2023 COMMENCEMENT AWARDS

## Excellence in Experiential Education Awards

### St. Vincent de Paul Clinic Awards

Awarded to the students who made the most outstanding overall contribution to each of the following clinics: Bankruptcy Advocacy Clinic; Child Advocacy Clinic; Consumer Justice for the Elderly: Litigation Clinic; Criminal Defense & Advocacy Clinic; Domestic Violence Litigation Clinic; Economic Justice Clinic; Prosecution Clinic; Refugee and Immigrant Rights Litigation Clinic; Securities Arbitration Clinic; and Tenants' Rights Advocacy Clinic.

**Cristian Catanese**  
(Bankruptcy Advocacy Clinic)

**Kayla Nieves**  
(Child Advocacy Clinic)

**Tracy Remy**  
(Consumer Justice for the Elderly:  
Litigation Clinic)

**Christa Alexander**  
(Criminal Defense & Advocacy Clinic)

**Sophie Brill**  
(Domestic Violence Clinic)

**Julia Mackey**  
(Economic Justice Clinic)

**Carly Berntsen**  
(Prosecution Clinic)

**Ezra Rash**  
(Refugee and Immigrant Rights Litigation Clinic)

**Anastasia Greer**  
(Securities Arbitration Clinic)

**Jessica Bain Bird**  
(Tenants' Rights Advocacy Clinic)

# 2023 COMMENCEMENT AWARDS

## **CLEA Outstanding Externship Student Award**

Awarded to the student who has shown excellence in the field work component of the externship course determined by the quality of the student's performance in assisting or representing individual or organizational clients or in undertaking advocacy or policy reform projects; excellence in the seminar component of the externship determined by the quality of the student's thoughtfulness and self-reflection in exploring the legal, ethical, strategic, and other pertinent issues raised in the particular clinic or externship; and the nature and extent of the student's contribution to the clinical community at the law school, legal community, or broader community.

**John Jabbour**

# 2023 COMMENCEMENT AWARDS

## LL.M. Achievement Awards

### **Outstanding Academic Achievement Award - LL.M. Programs**

Awarded to the students in the graduating class who achieve the highest grade point average in each of the Master's Degree programs.

**Alan Alexander**  
(Bankruptcy)

**Aileen Gómez Figueroa**  
(Transnational Legal Practice)

**Jacey Johns**  
(U.S. Legal Studies)

### **Applied Legal Skills Award**

Awarded to the LL.M. student who has demonstrated excellence in applied legal skills.

**Marine Vaudaine**

### **Excellence in Legal Writing Award**

Awarded to the student who has demonstrated superior academic performance in two sections of Legal Research, Analysis, and Writing.

**Zhenghong Wang**

### **Excellence in Transnational Legal Practice**

Awarded to the LL.M. student in Transnational Legal Practice who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement over two semesters in required Transnational Legal Practice courses.

**Aileen Gómez Figueroa**

# 2023 COMMENCEMENT AWARDS

## **Global Leadership Award**

Awarded to LL.M. students from either the USLS or TLP Program who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and citizenship within the St. John's Law Community.

**Simon St-Onge**  
(Transnational Legal Practice)

**Zhenghong Wang**  
(Transnational Legal Practice)

**Estefania Betancourt**  
(U.S. Legal Studies)

**Francys Chacon**  
(U.S. Legal Studies)

# 2023 COMMENCEMENT AWARDS

## Latin Honors - J.D.

## Summa Cum Laude

Ryan Fenn  
Ashley Flores

## Magna Cum Laude

Michael Allain  
Sophie Brill  
Maria Jelda Doria  
Robert Ibrahim  
Chloe Lucatuorto  
Ariston (Joseph) Papeo  
Ezra Rash  
Jagjot Singh  
Anthony Vecchio  
Amanda Zoda

## Cum Laude

Ryan Biggs  
Gabriella Carnazza  
Giuseppe Chiara  
Katherine Chung  
Patrick Clancey  
Anthony Crasto  
William Eddy  
Sarah Franzetti  
Victoria Giorgio  
Samantha Giuglianotti  
Thomas Goddard  
Bridget Golden  
William Gross  
Sarah Hautzinger  
Adele Irwin  
Aron Kaplan

Peter Klensch  
Brendan McNerney  
Billy Michaca  
Rashad Moore  
Joseph Mottola  
Sophie Muller  
Megan O'Connor  
Matthew Pate  
Zita Petrahai  
Joseph Pizzingrillo  
Kassandra Pugliese  
Michael Rawlings  
Erica Romeo  
Michael Russo  
Alexa Schimp  
Jessica Serviss  
Brendan Shaw  
Julia Shea  
Brendan Spagnuolo  
Erin Stahley  
Ashlyn Stone  
Gina Varvaro  
Nicholas Vota

# 2023 COMMENCEMENT AWARDS

## Dean's List - J.D.

Michael Allain

Ryan Biggs

Alex Bisogno

Sophie Brill

Gabriella Carnazza

Giuseppe Chiara

Katherine Chung

Patrick Clancey

Anthony Crasto

Kiersten Daly

Maria Jelda Doria

William Eddy

Ryan Fenn

Ashley Flores

Sarah Franzetti

Victoria Giorgio

Samantha Giuglianotti

Thomas Goddard

Bridget Golden

William Gross

Ilayna Guevrekian

Sarah Hautzinger

Robert Ibrahim

Adele Irwin

Aron Kaplan

Jenna Kirkland

Peter Klensch

Kimberly Lee

Chloe Lucatuorto

Brendan Mc Nerney

Billy Michaca

Rashad Moore

Joseph Mottola

Sophie Muller

Kayla Nieves

Megan O'Connor

Brandon O'Sullivan

Ariston (Joseph) Papeo

Matthew Pate

Michael Pecorella

Zita Petrahai

Joseph Pizzingrillo

Kassandra Pugliese

Ezra Rash

Michael Rawlings

Astrid Roe

Erica Romeo

Michael Russo

Alexa Schimp

Jessica Serviss

Brendan Shaw

Julia Shea

Jagjot Singh

Nicholas Smargiassi

Brendan Spagnuolo

Erin Stahley

Ashlyn Stone

Gina Varvaro

Anthony Vecchio

Nicholas Vota

Amanda Zoda

Chaninah Zweihorn

# 2023 COMMENCEMENT AWARDS

## Latin Honors - LL.M.

### Summa Cum Laude

#### Bankruptcy

Alan Alexander

#### Transnational Legal Practice

Aileen Gómez Figuero

#### U.S. Legal Studies

Jacey Johns

### Magna Cum Laude

#### Bankruptcy

Sean Johannsen

#### Transnational Legal Practice

Zhenghong Wang

#### U.S. Legal Studies

Maria Betancourt

### Cum Laude

#### Transnational Legal Practice

Marine Vaudaine

#### U.S. Legal Studies

Navjot Kaur

## Dean's List – LL.M.

#### Bankruptcy

Alan Alexander

#### Transnational Legal Practice

Aileen Gómez Figuero

Zhenghong Wang

Marine Vaudaine

Juliette Barbary

Xin Lu

# 2023 COMMENCEMENT AWARDS

## **U.S. Legal Studies**

Jacey Johns

Maria Betancourt

Navjot Kaur

Francys Chacon

Andrea Bohorquez Romero

## **Public Service Award**

Awarded to the students who, in furtherance of the goal that members of the legal profession and those aspiring to enter the legal profession have a special professional responsibility to assist in providing quality legal services to those who cannot afford them, successfully completed at least 500 hours of pro bono work prior to graduation.

Christa Alexander

Michael Allain

Ivanovich Almonte

Fanta Ba

Nadia Balkaran

Brittany Battista

Carly Berntsen

Sophie Brill

Sara Cardamone

Gabriella Carnazza

Bida Chen

Giuseppe Chiara

Patrick Clancey

Isabelle Dudek

William Eddy

Ryan Fenn

Sarah Franzetti

Claire Frink

Bridget Golden

Ashley Guido

Daniel Hansen Jr

Kimberly Henry

Cesar Herrera Campos

John Jabbour

Emma Lammers

Sara Leston

Jakub Lewandowski

Kate Long

Spencer Luchs

Julia Mackey

Kelly Madigan

Gissel Marquez

Yorlibeth Martinez

Cecelia Masselli

Charles McCracken

Sabrina McDonald

Brendan Mc Nerney

Ramona Miller

Rashad Moore

Joseph Mottola

Megan O'Connor

Jared Paul

Luisa Paz Canton

Anna Poulakas

Ezra Rash

Christine Raso

Tracy Remy

Mary Rizk

Victoria Rubino

Alexa Schimp

Jagjot Singh

Abigail Sloan

Brendan Spagnuolo

Erin Stahley



# 2023 COMMENCEMENT AWARDS

**Madelyn Starks**

**Yujie Stulberg**

**Julie Varughese**

**Gina Varvaro**

**Anthony Vecchio**

**Sachika Yadav**

**Tatiana Zapata**

**Amanda Zoda**