

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Celebration

2025 GRADUATION CELEBRATION

THE EIGHTEENTH OF MAY, TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE



LAW

2025 GRADUATION CELEBRATION

MAY 18, 2025 | 3 P.M. | CHARLES E. SMITH CENTER

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This program is meant to be a guide to the ceremony. Although every effort has been made to ensure its accuracy, the program is not an official record of an individual's degree status. Please bring any errors or omissions to the attention of the Dean promptly. The university will endeavor to publish a correction in a subsequent program.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Dayna Bowen Matthew
*Dean and Harold H. Greene
Professor of Law*

Congratulations, Class of 2025!

I am overjoyed to celebrate this momentous day with you. I know that you and your loved ones have looked forward to this day for a long time. Yours is a very special class to me. Throughout our years together, I've personally witnessed your passionate commitment to making an impact for good through the law that you have studied at GW Law. Now, more than ever, the world needs lawyers who are dedicated to advancing the rule of law, protecting democracy, and creating a more just society. There is no right way to stand for these bedrock principles. You will each find your voice and choose the way you can bend the moral arc of the universe towards justice. I am confident that you will do just that.

As a group, you are academically gifted, passionate, articulate, and service oriented. It has been my great privilege to serve as your Dean. You are leaving here as professionals with the power to protect the principles of equality, liberty, and freedom, and we look to you to help build a better world for us all. Now it's time for you to craft your own pathway to practice—the options are limitless. The world's most pressing challenges require the problem-solving skills with which your study of the law has equipped you. I charge you, by paraphrasing John Wesley, to use those skills to do all the good in the world that you can, at all the times that you can, to all the people that you can, for as long as ever you can.

Today, you join GW Law's worldwide alumni community of 33,000 graduates, with whom you now share a transformative experience. You will find among the GW Law alumni network a vast number of preeminent leaders in all sectors of the economy and society—across the United States and around the globe. I encourage you to take advantage of this unique and powerful gift of belonging and make your fellow alumni a part of your journey for the rest of your professional lives.

Please keep in touch and come back and visit us often. We cannot wait to see your future achievements. Congratulations again on reaching this significant milestone and my very best wishes to each of you for good health, great happiness, and many successes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dayna Bowen Matthew', written in a fluid, cursive style.

Dayna Bowen Matthew
Dean and Harold H. Greene Professor of Law

ORDER OF EXERCISES

PRELUDE AND PROCESSIONAL	Corcoran Brass
ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DIPLOMA CEREMONY	Steven L. Schooner <i>Jeffrey & Martha Kohn Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs</i>
NATIONAL ANTHEM	Corcoran Brass
WELCOME	Senior Associate Dean Schooner
PRESENTATION OF AWARDS	Dayna Bowen Matthew <i>Dean of the Law School</i>
Recognition of Grand Marshall	Weston Burnett, JD '75 <i>Announced by Dean Matthew</i>
University Provost's Remarks.....	Christopher A. Bracey <i>Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs</i>
Student Bar Association President's Remarks	Cherissa Lindsay, Class of 2025
Distinguished Associate or Assistant Dean Award	Laurie Kohn <i>Jacob Burns Foundation Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs</i> <i>Announced by Ms. Lindsay</i>
Distinguished Faculty Service Award	Kathryne Young <i>Associate Professor of Law</i> <i>Announced by Ms. Lindsay</i>
Distinguished Adjunct Faculty Service Award	Gregory Maggs, Professorial Lecturer in Law and Craig Leen, Professorial Lecturer in Law <i>Announced by Ms. Lindsay</i>
Student Bar Association Distinguished Service Award.....	Cheryl A. Kettler <i>Associate Professor of Fundamentals of Lawyering</i> <i>Announced by Ms. Lindsay</i>
Distinguished Staff Service Award	Bobby Walis, Program Coordinator <i>Announced by Ms. Lindsay</i>
Announcement of Student Awards	Dean Matthew
INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER	Dean Matthew
THE diZEREKA LECTURE/CEREMONY ADDRESS	Harold Koh
PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS	Senior Associate Dean Schooner
CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES	Dean Matthew
ALMA MATER	Corcoran Brass
RECESSIONAL	Corcoran Brass

Faculty Marshals: Scott B. Pagel; Alfreda Robinson, JD '78; and Joan E. Schaffner

The Dean and faculty of the law school suggest that the graduates reunite with their families and friends in Kogan Plaza immediately following the ceremony.

*Mr. Koh's Commencement Address is supported by The Susan N. and Augustus diZerega, Jr., Lectureship Fund.
Mr. Thomas diZerega, JD '56, established the fund in 1990 in honor of his parents' interest in education.*

Degrees noted are those earned at the George Washington University.



Harold Hongju Koh
Sterling Professor of International
Law and former Dean
Yale Law School

Dear Friends:

I am deeply honored to have a chance to speak with all of you who will be graduating from George Washington University Law School on May 18, 2025. I am grateful to Dean Matthew for inviting me and to all of you for listening.

Your law school means so much to me. The George Washington University Law School was the very first place that I ever taught my own law class: a course in International Business Transactions that I taught at night starting 42 years ago. At the time, I had just finished clerking and was working first as a young associate at a Washington, D.C., firm and then as an attorney at the Justice Department. When I realized that I was better suited to law teaching than law practice, I decided to become a full-time law teacher, and I returned to my hometown, New Haven, Connecticut, to teach at Yale for the last 40 years.

Our family affection for GW runs deep. In the decades since, I've visited your school frequently, both as a private citizen and a government official, and I've taught and lectured many times at your human rights program at Oxford University. When I first started teaching there, I had only recently met my wife of 41 years, Mary-Christy Fisher, who had received her JD from GW Law in 1979. She began her legal career teaching Consumer Law at GW while I was an adjunct. For those three years back in the 1980s, the two of

us were briefly and happily on the same law faculty. At about the same time that I decided I'd rather have students than clients, she decided the opposite. This spring, she finished more than 40 years as a public interest attorney providing legal services for the underprivileged. So for both of us, our daughter Emily, who now lives in Washington, and our son Will, who lives in San Francisco, your graduation will be a rare chance to take a nostalgic visit back to the place where our family first began.

I wish that I were speaking to you in happier times. One member of your class wrote me, "Recent events have certainly proved unimaginably challenging for all of us. Now, more than ever, commitment to the rule of law and speaking truth to power hold special importance." As you become lawyers, I urge you to fight for the rule of law in these troubled times, not to stay silent or cave in the face of bullying and intimidation. If the rule of law collapses on our watch, why did we become lawyers? Today, you become guardians for the rule of law and keepers of an oath to uphold the Constitution and laws of the United States of America. Over the last five decades, I've had the privilege of taking that oath six times—working in four presidential administrations for presidents of both parties, as well as for two judges from parties different than my own. What I have learned is that if we lawyers don't fight for the rule of law, who will? Since I started law school, I have always taken that to be my mission. I hope you will take it as yours as well.

Happy Graduation! I know you will make me proud.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Harold Hongju Koh".

Harold Hongju Koh, Sterling Professor of International Law and former Dean at Yale Law School, is a leading expert in public and private international law, national security law, and human rights. For his human rights work, Professor Koh has received 18 honorary degrees and more than 30 awards.

He has served four presidents of both parties over five decades at the U.S. Departments of State and Justice.

He has appeared before the U.S. Supreme Court as well as many international courts and tribunals, including as counsel to Ukraine against Russia before the International Court of Justice.

Alongside his work as a dean, teacher, government official, and human rights practitioner, Professor Koh is the author of hundreds of articles and 10 books.

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

The George Washington University Law School, the oldest law school in the District of Columbia, was established in 1865 with a formal program of two years of study. This was largely through the efforts of the Reverend Whitefield Samson, President of Columbian College, whose action resulted in the purchase of a separate building for holding law classes. The building had belonged to Trinity Church, of which Francis Scott Key had been senior warden. It was occupied by the law school until 1884.

Sixty graduates, from 22 of the then 37 states, received degrees in 1867. The school continued to have a student body and a faculty that reflected the fact that it was at the seat of our nation's government. Supreme Court Justices David J. Brewer and John Marshall Harlan were among the prominent members of the bench and bar who were on the faculty.

In 1877, one year after the first such program was adopted in the United States, the law school instituted a course leading to the degree of master of laws. In 1898, the course of instruction for the degree of bachelor of laws was extended to three years. The law school took part in 1900 in the organization of the Association of American Law Schools.

Over the past century, the law school has expanded its course and seminar offerings with consideration of the needs of first-degree and graduate students. The degree of doctor of juridical science was instituted in 1940. In 1946, the law school began accepting foreign attorneys into specially designated programs. Today, lawyers from the United States and abroad are accepted into the master of laws program.

In 1954, the National University School of Law, which had held an important place in legal education in the District of Columbia since 1869, was absorbed by the George Washington University Law School.

Since 1954, special programs of advanced study have enriched the basic curriculum. At present these include business and finance law; environmental and energy law; intellectual property law; international and comparative law; government procurement law; litigation and dispute resolution; national security and cybersecurity law; and national security, cybersecurity, and U.S. foreign relations law. These special programs reflect the breadth in public law for which the law school is well known. Additionally, a clinical law program has been developed that is the equal of that at any law school in the nation.

The law school has a total enrollment of approximately 1,700 students. Approximately 1,400 students are in the full-time division for the JD degree and 125 are enrolled in the part-time division. Approximately one hundred seventy-five students, many from abroad, are enrolled in graduate law degree programs.

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Business and Finance Law

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National Security and

Cybersecurity Law

MASTER OF STUDIES IN LAW

Michael Manuel Gomes

Government Procurement

ALMA MATER

Hail al - ma ma - ter, to thy spir - it

guid - ing, Know - ledge thy close - est friend in its strength a -

bid - ing, Pledge we fi - del - i - ty ne'er its place re -

sign - ing, Hail thee George Wash - ing - ton.

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