

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

# Celebration

# 2021

2021

## 2021 GRADUATION CELEBRATION

THE SIXTEENTH OF MAY, TWO THOUSAND TWENTY ONE



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The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of a light gold logo. Each logo consists of a stylized building icon above the year '1821', followed by 'GW' and '200' in a large font, and 'BICENTENNIAL' and '2021' in smaller text below. The logos are arranged in a grid that is slightly offset from one another, creating a textured effect.

# 2021 GRADUATION CELEBRATION

MAY 16, 2021 | VIRTUAL

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*The 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.*

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Thomas J. LeBlanc**  
*President*

## *A Message to the Graduates from President Thomas J. LeBlanc*

Two hundred years ago, the George Washington University was established to educate our best and brightest future leaders. Today, you are one of them.

You came to GW Law, the oldest law school in the District of Columbia, motivated and passionate, ready to contribute to our vibrant community of legal scholars and practitioners.

During your time here, you have been driven by the pursuit of knowledge and your own ideals and desire to serve, including through pro bono work for those in need. You have excelled inside and outside the classroom. And even in the face of the challenges of a once-in-a-century pandemic, you have remained committed to creating a better world.

Now, as you join GW Law's alumni community during our historic bicentennial year, you are ready for your next adventure. On behalf of your alma mater, I wish you every personal and professional success.

Congratulations!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. LeBlanc". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas J. LeBlanc  
President

# A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



**Dayna Bowen  
Matthew**

*Dean and Harold H. Greene  
Professor of Law*

## *Congratulations, Class of 2021!*

The late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg often told law students: “If you are going to be a lawyer and just practice your profession, you have a skill—very much like a plumber. But if you want to be a true professional, you will do something outside yourself... something that makes life a little better for people less fortunate than you.”

Today, as you receive your GW Law degree, Justice Ginsburg’s words take on special meaning. You have overcome extraordinary adversity to graduate in the midst of a global pandemic. You have demonstrated strength and resilience, emerging stronger as a result. You are not alone in the struggles you have faced this past year, which will forever tie you to each other and to this moment in time. Your experiences are not just local but felt by our country and nations around the globe. Today, as you become lawyers, I encourage you to take those personal experiences and translate them into action to improve society, work for the greater good, and build a better world for us all. If you do, your rewards will be many.

I know that you and your families have looked forward to this day for a long time. Commencement is the culmination of years of hard work, and I am inspired by your many great accomplishments. You are academically gifted, passionate, articulate, and service oriented, and it was my incredible privilege to serve as your Dean. On behalf of our entire faculty and staff, congratulations on reaching this significant milestone. Your time at GW Law has prepared you to impact the world, and we all look forward to your many future achievements.

Today, you join this law school’s worldwide alumni community of 37,000 graduates, with whom you have shared a transformative experience. I encourage you to take advantage of this unique and powerful gift of belonging—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. Congratulations and my very best wishes to each of you for good health, happiness, and success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dayna Bowen Matthew', written over a white background.

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

# 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 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 2,000 students. Approximately 1,400 students are in the full-time division for the JD degree and 300 are enrolled in the part-time division. Nearly 300 students, representing more than 40 countries, are enrolled in graduate law degree programs.

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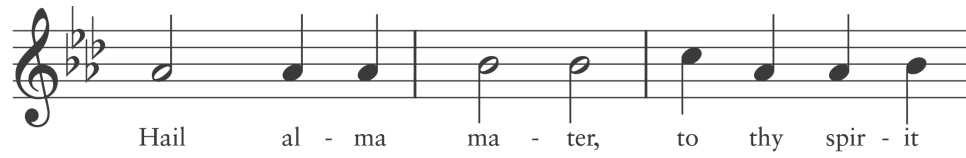
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