

The University of Iowa

**Law
Commencement**

Cover Design: The cover design represents the gold and topaz medallion worn by The University of Iowa president at formal academic ceremonies on campus. The medallion was designed and made by Karen Cantine as part of the work for her M.A. conferred August 4, 1965.

The University of Iowa

**Law
Commencement**

2 p.m., Friday

May 15, 2020

The History of the Hooding Ceremony: The Colors Old Gold and Purple

Academic dress originated in the 12th and 13th centuries, when the ordinary scholar's dress, whether a student or a teacher, was that of a cleric. With few exceptions, the medieval scholar had taken minor orders, made certain vows, and perhaps, been tonsured. Long gowns were worn possibly to stave the cold in unheated buildings and hoods covered the tonsured head until superseded by the skullcap. A University of Coimbra statute in 1321 required that all Doctors, Licentiates, and Bachelors wear gowns. In England, during the 14th century, certain colleges forbade excess in apparel and prescribed the wearing of long gowns. In the days of Henry VIII of England, Oxford and Cambridge first began prescribing a definite academic dress and brought apparel under university control.

As a result of our English heritage and bolstered by a widespread student movement in 1885, the wearing of caps and gowns at Commencement ceremonies became common in the United States. Students enjoyed the significant and dignified apparel. Faculties soon adopted the custom of wearing gowns at ceremonies with an occasional hood appearing. In 1895, the Intercollegiate Commission presented to the American institutions of higher learning the Intercollegiate Code that regulated the design, pattern, colors and materials of gowns and hoods to be used for graduation.

The gown symbolizes the wearer's academic credentials, with longer and fuller sleeves representative of more advanced degrees. The hood represents the institution granting the wearer's advanced degree and the discipline in which the degree is earned. The length of the master's degree hood is three and one half feet while the doctorate degree hood is four feet. The hood is lined with the official color or colors of the university conferring the degree. Old Gold is the color for the University of Iowa. The hood also has a velvet trim that represents the wearer's academic discipline. The color, assigned by the Intercollegiate Code, is an effort to retain historical associations. The white border, used for the department of arts and letters, is taken from the white fur trim of the Oxford and Cambridge Bachelor of Arts hoods. Throughout the ages, red has been the traditional color of the church, and so a scarlet border represents theology. Green, the color of medicinal herbs, stands for the faculty of medicine. Most importantly, the royal purple of King's Court signifies the law.

The Willard L. Boyd Public Service Distinction

This distinction was created to honor law students who demonstrate a commitment to serve by actively volunteering in the community during their tenure at the College of Law. Volunteer hours are logged during the academic year and three levels of service are recognized upon graduation: Service Honors (100 hours of service with at least 50 hours of community service), High Service Honors (150 hours of service with at least 75 hours of community service), Highest Service Honors (200+ hours of service with at least 100 hours of community service). All graduating law students who earn this distinction wear an honor cord during the commencement and have a seal placed on their diploma. "Volunteer public service" means time donated to a charitable or public service cause. Many types of volunteer public service (law-related and non-law related) are recognized and this requirement is interpreted broadly so that students may volunteer in an area of interest. Graduates who have earned the Boyd distinction wear gold honor cords.

Program

Celebrating Iowa Video

Processional

**Welcome and
Opening Remarks
Kevin K. Washburn**

N. William Hines Dean and Professor of Law

Student Address

**"The T.U.G. of Tomorrow"
Justin McCorvey
*Class of 2020***

Address

**"Being the Best"
The Honorable Kevin McKeever
*District Court Judge
Sixth Judicial District of Iowa
Class of 2001***

Special Remarks from the Commencement Announcer

"Farewell"

John-Mark Stensvaag

Charlotte & Frederick Hubbell Professor of Environmental and Natural Resources Law

**Conferral of Juris Doctor,
Master of Laws, Master of Studies in Law, and Doctor of Juridical Science Degrees**

J. Bruce Harreld

President, The University of Iowa

Special Remarks

**Michael J. Richards, M.D., President
Board of Regents, State of Iowa**

Closing Remarks

Kevin K. Washburn

N. William Hines Dean and Professor of Law

Recessional

2020 Student Honors and Awards

University Honors

Hancher-Finkbine Medallion Winner
Bernadette R. Nelson

*Hancher-Finkbine Medallion
Faculty Nominees*
Heaven Leigh Chandler
Bernadette R. Nelson

Philip G. Hubbard Human Rights Award Nominee
Karla Olivas

*Center for Diversity and Enrichment Student
Leader Award Winner*
Maliya Gabrielle Rattliffe

*Erich D. Mathias Award for
International Social Justice*
Anna Irene Burke

Judge William C. Stuart Award
Anne Meredith Carter

*Michelle R. Bennett
Client Representation Award*
Nicholas A. Mirr
Emily K. Schott

CLEA Outstanding Student Award
Clint Harris

*Randy J. Holland Award for Corporate
Scholarship*
Diana Kozlova

*Something Old, New, Borrowed, and Blue:
Analyzing Senator Elizabeth Warren's
Accountable Capitalism Act*

Robert S. Hunt Legal History Award
Thomas Martin Bright
*It is Impossible for Any Presiding Officer to
Restrain Members From Laughing*

Alan I. Widiss Faculty Scholar Award
Charles J. Pults
*America's Data Crisis: How Public Voter
Registration Data has Exposed the American
Public to Previously Unforeseen Dangers and
How to Fix It*

Iowa State Bar Association Prize
Austin R. Carlson

National Association of Women Lawyers Award
Jordyn N. Sindt

*Innovation, Business and Law (IBL) Excellence
Award*
Ashley K. DeHaan
Josh Grant
Clint Harris
Jessica Ann Lowe

College of Law Awards Conferred by Vote of the Faculty

Arthur Bonfield Award
Grace Elizabeth Bogart

John F. Murray Award
Jessica Ann Lowe

Outstanding Scholastic Achievement Award
Catherine Tamiko Lee
Wyatt Randall Nelson
Alexandra L. Newland
Matthew L. Strand

Dean's Achievement Award
Daisy D. Cruz

Donald P. Lay Faculty Recognition Award
Kameron C. Dodge

*Antonia "D.J." Miller Award for
Advancement of Human Rights*
Justin Michael McCorvey

**Matthew L. Strand
Matthew Thomas Wilkerson**

***Iowa College of Law Appellate Advocacy Award*
Mary Grace Monaco Warren**

***International Academy of Trial Lawyers Award*
Wesley J. Hoyer**

***Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers Award*
Matthew Roth**

***ALI CLE Scholarship and Leadership Award*
Kelsey F. Ridenhour**

***Cain-Love Award for Social Justice*
Taylor Anne Herr**

***American Bankruptcy Institute Medal for
Excellence in Bankruptcy Studies*
Austin R. Carlson**

Special Recognitions

***Appellate Advocacy I Best Oralist Award*
Mary Grace Monaco Warren**

***Appellate Advocacy I Best Brief Award*
Madison Schroeder**

***Appellate Advocacy I Best Advocate Award*
Charles J. Pults**

***Van Oosterhout - Baskerville Best Brief Award*
Matthew Roth**

***Van Oosterhout - Baskerville Best Oralist Award*
Charles J. Pults**

***Van Oosterhout - Baskerville Best Advocate
Award*
Mary Grace Monaco Warren**

***Jessup Competition Best Advocate Award*
Douglas W. Hathaway**

***Jessup Competition Best Oralist Award*
Douglas W. Hathaway**

***Jessup Competition Best Brief Award*
Nicholas Alan Davis**

***Stephenson Trial Advocacy Competition Winner*
Matthew Roth**

***Supreme Court Day Advocates*
Kameron C. Dodge
Zachary Solomon McFarland
Charles J. Pults
Mary Grace Monaco Warren**

***Author*
Cassandra Makenzie Sievert**

University of Iowa

College of Law Graduates

December 2019

Juris Doctor

Clay D. Haag

B.A. Economics and Political Science, 2017, Benedictine College *Topeka, Kansas*

Joo Yeon Lee

B. Law, 2006, Seoul National University, *Seoul, South Korea*

Noah Stochl

B.A. Psychology, 2017, Central College, *New Hampton*

Master of Studies in Law

Daniel Mark Tallman

B.S. Kinesiology, 2010, University of Minnesota, M.S.W. 2019, University of Iowa, *North Liberty*

Doctor of Juridical Science

Dan Ngabirano

B. Laws 2009 Makerere University, LL.M. 2011 Harvard University, *Kampala, Uganda*

May 2020

Juris Doctor

Douglas David Anderson

B.A. Economics & Political Science, 2015 Grinnell College, *Flossmoor, Illinois*

Jarrold O. Anderson

B.A. Political Science, 2014, American University

Sherezaad A. Anwar

B.A. History, 2016 Loyola University, *Glencoe, Illinois*

Adriana Aranda

B.A. Political Science, Minor in Legal Reasoning, University of Texas-El Paso, *El Paso, Texas*

Eric J. Bauer

B.A. English and American Literature, 2017, University of Texas at El Paso, *El Paso, Texas*

Joseph Bauer

B.S. Computer Engineering and Computer Science, 2016, University of Wisconsin-Madison, *Stillwater, Minnesota*

Katlyn Michelle Bay

B.A. Biology and Philosophy, 2009, Luther College *Iowa City*

Bianca M. Beam

B.A. Middle Eastern, South East Asian and African Studies, 2013, Columbia University, M.Sc. International Relations, 2015 London School of Economics, *Chicago, Illinois*

Rushabh Prakash Bhakta

B.A. 2012 Macalester College

Kyle J. Bigman

B.A. Philosophy, 2015, University of California-Berkeley

Katherine L. Birchok

B.S. Finance, 2017, University of Illinois-Urbana, *Elmhurst, Illinois*

Grace Elizabeth Bogart

B.A. Political Science, 2016, Iowa State University, *Des Moines*

Thomas Martin Bright

B.A. Political Science and History, Loyola University, *Westfield, Indiana*

Cormac Henry Broeg

B.A. History and Political Science, 2016, University of Iowa, *Parnell*

Anna Irene Burke

B.A. Biology, 2015, Luther College, M.S. Political Science, 2017, University of Glasgow, *Postville*

Nicholas Grant Bushelle

B.S. Environmental Sciences, Minor in Political Science, 2016, University of Illinois-Urbana, *Naperville, Illinois*

Austin R. Carlson

B.A. History, 2016, St. Ambrose University, *Moline, Illinois*

Anne Meredith Carter

B.A. International Studies, 2017, University of Missouri-Columbia, *Columbia, Missouri*

João Vitor Pimentel de Castro

B.A. Political Science, 2016, University of Wisconsin-Madison, *Rio de Janeiro, RJ Brazil*

Isaac Thomas Caverly

B.A. Political Science American Politics and Psychology, 2017, Ohio State University, *St. Louis, Missouri*

Heaven Leigh Chandler

B.A. English, Ethics and Public Policy, 2017, University of Iowa, *Columbus Junction*

Nicolas T. Corbett

B.A. Advertising, 2017, Iowa State University, *Cedar Rapids*

Ellen E. Cranberg

B.A. English, 2016, University of Iowa, *Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

Joshua M. Crow

B.A. Political Science, Minor Philosophy and Religion, 2015, Truman State University, *Troy, Missouri*

Dalton K. Crum

B.A. Business, Minor Economics, 2016, Bethel University, *Seattle, Washington*

Daisy D. Cruz

B.A. Spanish and German Literature, 2013, University of California, Santa Barbara, *Jefferson Park, California*

Nicholas Alan Davis

B.S. Economics and B.A. Political Science 2013, Iowa State University, *Johnston*

Ashley K. DeHaan

B.S. Psychology, B.A. Criminal Justice Studies, 2017, Iowa State University, *Des Moines*

Matthew Rees DeLange
 B.A. American Studies, Minor Sociology, 2016, Brigham Young University, *Boise, Idaho*

Emma Diver
 B.A. English, 2011, Creighton University, *Des Moines*

Kameron C. Dodge
 B.S. Learning & Organizational Change: Legal Studies, 2013, Northwestern University, *Ankeny*

Anthony Dopp
 B.A. Political Science, Minors Philosophy and Writing, 2016, Grand Valley State University, *Edwardsburg*

Andrew Thomas Elias
 B.A. Ethics and Public Policy, Minors in Philosophy and Sociology, 2016, University of Iowa, *Bettendorf*

Chandler Rebecca Elliott-Fehle
 B.A. Political Science and German, 2017 Washington University, *Isle of Palms, South Carolina*

Amirmohammad Eskandari
 B. Law 1999, B. Law Islamic Azad University, M. Law 2002, Shahid Beheshti University of Tehran, *Tehran, Iran*

Ryan Fink
 B.A. Finance, 2016, University of Las Vegas, *Las Vegas, Nevada*

Agnieszka Gaertner
 Master of Laws, 2015, University of Warsaw, M. Law 2018, University of Cambridge, Master of Law, 2017, China University of Political Science and Law, *Warsaw, Poland*

Dexter Golinghorst
 B.A. 2016 Political Science, Economics, University of Iowa, *Walcott*

Josh Grant
 B.S. Chemistry, Mechanical Engineering, 2016, Butler University, B.S. Mechanical Engineering 2016, Indiana University-Purdue University, *Park Ridge, Illinois*

Rachel C. Groves
 B.S. Agricultural Economics, 2017, University of Missouri–Columbia, *Barnett, Missouri*

Madison Ellery Gurley
 B.A. Art History, English Literature, 2015, University of Colorado, Boulder, *Grand Junction, Colorado*

Emily Rose Hagan
 B.A. English, Minor Psychology, 2016, Oakland University, *Lake Orion, Michigan*

Clint Harris
 B.S. Mechanical Engineering, 2004, University of Iowa, *Iowa City*

Douglas W. Hathaway
 B.A. Sociology, Minor Labor Studies, 2006, Indiana University, *Kouts, Indiana*

Thomas R. Hensler
 B.A. Anthropology, 2017, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, *Wauwatosa, Wisconsin*

Taylor Anne Herr
 B.A. Psychology and Criminology, 2017. University of Northern Iowa, *Grinnell*

Andrew R. Hoffmann
 B.S. Political Science, 2016, University of Iowa, *Audubon*

Jason Scott Holmes
 B.S. Psychology, 2015, Upper Iowa University, *New London*

Wesley J. Hoyer
 B.A. Philosophy, Political Science, 2017, Coe College, *Dakota, Illinois*

Llaned Huerta
 B.A. History and Legal Studies, 2017, University of California, Berkeley, *East Los Angeles, California*

Anna S. Huffman
 B.A. English and Spanish, Minors Philosophy and Business Law, 2017, Bradley University, *Bradley, Illinois*

Brooke Valerie Ingoglia
 B.B.A. Professional Selling, 2017, Baylor University, *West Des Moines*

Rebekah Washington Jalilian-Nosraty
 B.B.A. Account, B.A Spanish, 2017, University of Iowa, *Iowa City*

Sydnei Clarke Symon Jones
 B.A. Political Science and Philosophy, 2016, Mount Saint Mary's College, *Oakland, California*

Grace Elizabeth Kane
 B.A. Religion and Political Science, 2015, St. Olaf College, *Harbor Springs, Michigan*

Mitchell Kearns
 B.S. 2015 University of South Dakota-Vermillion, *Dexter*

Ryleigh Jo Keeney
 B.A. Accounting Finance, 2017, Loras College, *Miles*

Benjamin J. Kemp
 B.A. Political Science, 2017, Iowa State University, *Des Moines*

Lucy S. Korsakov
 B.A. International Relations, 2017, University of Iowa, *West Des Moines*

Diana Kozlova
 B.A. English, 2014, University of California Berkeley, *San Francisco, California*

Drew Jordan Lakin
 B.A. Political Science, 2014, University of Iowa, *Clinton*

Catherine Tamiko Lee
 B.S. Economics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, *Omaha, Nebraska*

Peter S. Lee
 B.A. Music, 2016, Emory University, *Maitland, Florida*

Sal Lee
 B.A. Political Science, Ethics & Public Policy, Minor Philosophy, 2017 University of Iowa, *Iowa City*

Chad R. Loomis
 B.A. Accounting, Business Management, 2016, Coe College

Jessica Ann Lowe
 B.S. Accounting, Management & Leadership, 2017, Bradley University, *Peoria, Illinois*

Thomas D. Lowry
 B.A. Political Science, Economics, 2013, M.S. Economics, 2014, DePaul University, *Maynard*

Kaitlyn E. Manley
 B.A. Psychology, Minors Economics and Philosophy, 2017, Michigan State University, *Hartland*

Joseph Marin
 B.A. Political Science, 2016, Loyola Marymount University, *Redondo Beach, California*

Brittany Anna Martin
 B.A. English, 2017, University of Iowa, *Monona*

Zackary Anthony Martin
 B.A. Philosophy, 2017, University of Northern Iowa

Justin Michael McCorvey
 B.S. Political Science, 2013, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, *Birmingham, Alabama*

Maxwell Ryan McDaniel
 B.S. History, 2017, Iowa State University, *Bettendorf*

Edward McDavid
 B.B.A. Economics, 2015, University of Iowa, *Oak Park, Illinois*

Zachary Solomon McFarland
 B.A. Political Science, 2017, Saint John's University, *Saint Cloud, Minnesota*

Samantha K. McLaughlin
 B.A. Ethics & Public Policy and International Relations, 2017, University of Iowa, *Woodstock, Illinois*

Derek W. Miller
 B.A. Political Science and History, 2014, University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign, *Naperville, Illinois*

Alexander Urban Milona
 B.A. Political Science, 2015, Emory University, *Atlanta, Georgia*

Nicholas A. Mirr
 B.A. Spanish, 2016, University of Iowa, *Iowa City*

John Miscevich
 B.S.E. Electrical and Computer Engineering, 2017, Northern Arizona University, *Peoria, Arizona*

Jessica M. Molano
 B.A. Political Science and Criminal Justice, Minor in History, 2014, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, *Port Chester, New York*

Golnoosh Mostoufi
 B.A. Psychology, Minor Law, Societies & Justice, 2015, University of Washington, *Dublin, California*

Alissa Taryn Myers
 B.A. History, 2015, College of Charleston

Sana Naqvi
 B.A. Ethics and Public Policy, 2015, University of Iowa, *LeMars*

Amanda B. Ndemo
 B.S. Anthropology, 2014, Virginia Commonwealth University, M.S. Anthropology, Medical Anthropology, 2015, University College London

Bernadette R. Nelson
 B.S. Science, Technology and International Affairs, 2014, Georgetown University Walsh School of Foreign Service, *Jackson, Wyoming*

Wyatt Randall Nelson
 B.A. Business Administration and History, 2017, College of the Ozarks, *Springfield, Missouri*

Alexandra L. Newland
 B.S. Accounting, 2013, Northern Kentucky University, *Cincinnati, Ohio*

Aileen Nguyen
 B.A. Quantitative Economics, Minor in Statistics, 2015, University of California-Irvine, *Carlsbad, California*

William R. O'Brien
 B.A. Political Science, 2008, University of Minnesota-Morris

Karla Olivas
 B.A. Art History, 2015, University of Texas-El Paso, *Hastings, Nebraska*

Abigail Olson
 B.A. Ethics and Public Policy, and Sociology, 2017, University of Iowa, *Pomeroy*

Rachael Kristine Page
 B.A. Justice and Peace Public Policy, Minor in Political Science, 2017, University of St. Thomas, *Iowa City*

Famatta Effie Passawe
 B.S. Business Administration, 2017 Old Dominion University, *Woodbridge, Virginia*

Alexandra R. Pecora
 B.A. Political Science and Psychology, Minor in Arabic, 2017, University of Iowa, *Marlton, New Jersey*

Nathan M. Peterson
 B.A. Political Science, Minor in Philosophy, 2016, University of Iowa, *Des Moines*

Bryan Porter Jr.
 B.S. Psychology, 2017, University of Iowa, *Chicago, Illinois*

Joseph Porter
 B.A. Philosophy 2015, Iowa State University, M.A. Philosophy 2017, Georgia State University, *Cedar Rapids*

Charles J. Pults
 B.A. Political Science and History, 2013, Saint John's University, *Oakdale, Minnesota*

Christopher S. Ramsey
 B.A. History, 2007, Concordia University, M.S. Criminal Justice 2015, Grand Canyon University

Maliya Gabrielle Rattliffe
 B.A. Criminology, Law and Justice, Ethics and Public Policy, 2017, University of Iowa, *Cedar Rapids*

Kelsey F. Ridenhour
 B.A. Political Science and Legal Studies, 2014, Northwestern University, *Davenport*

Natasha Marie Riggelman
 B.S. Criminology and Criminal Justice, 2016, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, *Omaha, Nebraska*

Seth Rosenberg
B.S. Finance 2017, Northern Kentucky University, *Skokie, Illinois*

Thomas Patrick Roster
B.B.A, Finance and Investment Banking, 2015, University of Wisconsin-Madison, *Northfield, Minnesota*

Matthew Roth
B.A. Philosophy, Political Science, 2016, Drake University, *Dubuque*

Emma Louise Russ
B.A. Economics, 2016, Carleton College, *Eagan, Minnesota*

Madison J. Scaggs
B.A. English and Communication, 2017, University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign, *Petersburg, Illinois*

Emily K. Schott
B.A. International Development, 2014, American University, *Des Moines*

Madison Schroeder
B.S. Public Relations & Advertising, Spanish, 2017, DePaul University, *Rockford, Illinois*

Zachary G. Schroeder
B.S. Chemistry and Mathematics, Minor in Physics, 2017, Loras College, *Bellevue*

Kara D. Schwee
B.A. Psychology, 2009, University of Nebraska, *Omaha, Nebraska*

Matthew James Scott
B.A. Political Science, Minor in Philosophy, 2017, Iowa State University, *Hiawatha*

Mariam A. Sher
B.A. Political Science and Middle Eastern Studies, 2014, Emory University, *Colorado Springs, Colorado*

Humaa Siddiqi
B.A. Political Science, Minor in International Studies, 2016, University of Illinois-Chicago, *Roselle, Illinois*

Cassandra Makenzie Sievert
B.S. Psychology, Minor in Child, Adult, Family Studies, 2016, Iowa State University, *Estherville*

Jordyn N. Sindt
B.A. Philosophy and Ethics and Public Policy, Minor in Political Science, 2013 University of Iowa, *Griswold*

Todd Skauge
B.A. Chinese Language & Culture, 2013, Macalester College, *Underwood, Minnesota*

Cailin P. Smith
B.A. Journalism and Mass Communications, 2014, Drake University, *Glenview, Illinois*

Hyun Hwa (Kenneth) Song
B.A. Political Science, 2006, University of Iowa, *Seoul, South Korea*

Taylor Olivia Soule
B.A. Journalism and Mass Communications, and Writing, 2014, Drake University, *Newton*

Sally Deanna Story
B.A. History and International Studies, Minor in Sociology, 2016, University of New Mexico, *Clear Lake*

Matthew L. Strand
B.B.A. Accounting and Finance, 2017, University of Iowa, *Cedar Rapids*

Cara Anne Strike
B.G.S. Communication Studies, 2014, University of Kansas, *Cedar Falls*

Olivia K. P. Underwood
B.A. 2015 Emory University, *Atlanta, Georgia*

Shruti Vaid
Law, LLB 2005, Guru G. Singh Indraprastha University, *New Delhi, India*

Elizabeth Anne Vandenberg
A.B. International Studies, 2016, Bryn Mawr College, *Iowa City*

Mary Grace Monaco Warren
B.A. History, Minors in Medieval & Renaissance Studies, and Studio Art, 2015, Allegheny College, *Jefferson City, Missouri*

Matthew Thomas Wilkerson
B.S. Biology, 2014, Bucknell University, *Spencer*

Yihao Zhang
B.A. Journalism and Mass Communications, 2016, University of Iowa, *Shanghai, China*

Mingming Zhao
LL.B. 2016, Shanghai Maritime University, *Shanghai, China*

Master of Studies in Law
Quinn Evan Honomichl,
B.B.A. Marketing-Management, 2019, University of Iowa, *Eldon*

Ryan James Schmidt,
B.B.A. Finance, Minor in Spanish, 2019, University of Iowa, *Marion*

Master of Laws
Sabine El Khoury,
LLB 2010 Saint Joseph University, *Beirut, Lebanon*

Thais Fernandes Pereira,
B. Law 2017, Presbyterian University Mackenzie-Sal Paulo, *Sal Paulo, Brazil*

Wanting Liu,
B.A. 2017, Jilin University, *Shenyang, Liaoning, China*

Xiaotong Liu,
B. Law, 2013, Dalian University of Technology, *Hangzhou Zhejiang, China*

2020 Graduates Recognized for Academic and Leadership Achievement

<p>Willard L. Boyd Public Service Distinction</p> <p>Highest Services Hours Earned</p> <p>Rebekah Washington Jalilian- Nosraty</p> <p>Highest Service Honors Brooke V. Ingoglia Rebekah Washington Jalilian- Nosraty Matthew Roth</p> <p>High Service Honors Matthew Rees DeLange Madison Ellery Gurley Samantha K. McLaughlin Rachael Kristine Page Taylor Olivia Soule</p> <p>Service Honors Austin R. Carlson Sana Naqvi Abigail Olson Bryan Porter Jr. Sally Deanna Story</p> <p>Admitted Student Outreach Diana Kozlova Jessica M. Molano Sally Deanna Story</p> <p>Career Services Peer Advisors Ryan Fink Clint Harris Sydney Clarke Symon Jones Lucy S. Korsakov Samantha K. McLaughlin Seth Rosenberg Taylor Olivia Soule</p> <p>First Year at Iowa Volunteers Jarrod O. Anderson Adriana Aranda Austin R. Carlson</p>	<p>Isaac Thomas Caverly Kameron C. Dodge Anthony Dopp Ryan Fink Dexter Golinghorst Clint Harris Taylor Anne Herr Quinn Evan Honomichl Llaned Huerta Rebekah Washington Jalilian- Nosraty Sydney Clarke Symon Jones Sal Lee Brittany Anna Martin Jessica M. Molano Emily K. Schott Todd Skauge</p> <p>Iowa Law Ambassadors Adriana Aranda Anthony Dopp Agnieszka Gaertner Madison Ellery Gurley Justin Michael McCorvey Samantha K. McLaughlin Maliya Gabrielle Rattliffe Cassandra Makenzie Sievert Todd Skauge Mary Grace Monaco Warren</p> <p>Iowa Law Bridge Volunteers Adriana Aranda Anne Meredith Carter Sydney Clarke Symon Jones Justin Michael McCorvey Zachary Solomon McFarland Jessica M. Molano Wyatt Randall Nelson Nathan M. Peterson Bryan Porter Jr. Maliya Gabrielle Rattliffe</p> <p>Iowa Law Review Editorial Staff Matthew James Scott <i>Editor in Chief</i></p>	<p>Dalton K. Crum <i>Executive Editor</i> Jessica Ann Lowe <i>Senior Managing Editor</i> Kameron C. Dodge <i>Administrative Editor</i> Bernadette R. Nelson <i>Senior Articles Editor</i> Kelsey F. Ridenhour <i>Senior Online Editor</i> Ellen E. Cranberg <i>Senior Note & Comment Editor</i> Jarrod O. Anderson <i>Articles Editor</i> Chandler Rebecca Elliott-Fehle <i>Articles Editor</i> Thomas D. Lowry <i>Articles Editor</i> Taylor Olivia Soule <i>Articles Editor</i> Douglas David Anderson <i>Managing Editor</i> Josh Grant <i>Managing Editor</i> Clint Harris <i>Managing Editor</i> Sal Lee <i>Managing Editor</i> Aileen Nguyen <i>Managing Editor</i> Madison J. Scaggs <i>Managing Editor</i> Sally Deanna Story <i>Managing Editor</i> Derek W. Miller <i>Note & Comment Editor</i> Charles J. Pults <i>Note & Comment Editor</i> Emma Louise Russ <i>Note & Comment Editor</i></p> <p>Iowa Law Review Contributing Editors Cormac Henry Broeg Drew Jordan Lakin Brittany Anna Martin</p>
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John Miscevich
Alissa Taryn Myers
Alexandra R Pecora

**Iowa Law Review
Student Writers**

Douglas David Anderson
Jarrod O. Anderson
Cormac Henry Broeg
Anna Irene Burke
Nicholas Grant Bushelle
Anne Meredith Carter
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Nicolas T. Corbett
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Dalton K. Crum
Kameron C. Dodge
Chandler Rebecca Elliott-Fehle
Ryan Fink
Josh Grant
Clint Harris
Lucy S. Korsakov
Drew Jordan Lakin
Catherine Tamiko Lee
Sal Lee
Peter S. Lee
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Note & Comment Editor
Joseph Marin
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Alexander Urban Milona
Note & Comment Editor
Thomas Patrick Roster
Note & Comment Editor
Kara D. Schwee
Senior Associate Editor

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Contributing Editors**
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Olivia K. P. Underwood

**Journal of Corporation Law
Student Writers**
Joseph Bauer
Katlyn Michelle Bay
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Anthony Dopp
Rachel C. Groves
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Grace Elizabeth Kane
Kaitlyn E. Manley

Joseph Marin
Zackary Anthony Martin
Alexander Urban Milona
Golnoosh Mostoufi
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Alexandra L. Newland
Nathan M. Peterson
Seth Rosenberg
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Message from Dean Washburn to the Class of 2020

As dean of Iowa Law, I am delighted to be part of this unusual 2020 graduation ceremony for the University of Iowa College of Law.

Today, I extend a special welcome—and hearty congratulations—to our most honored guests: the family, friends and loved ones of today's graduates. Thank you for supporting our students through the terror of the first year of law school, the hard work of the second year, the impatience of the third year, and especially these anxious, unpredictable and frankly stressful last two months.

Thank you for comforting and encouraging your students when things did not go exactly the way they hoped; and for cheering with us on their truly extraordinary achievements from matriculation to graduation. Without your unwavering support we would not be celebrating today. Well done. Graduates, we cannot thank them enough, so wherever you are, please join us in thanking your family and friends.

Distinguished members of the class of 2020, what a privilege it is to address you today. Even though it is not the way we hoped you would graduate, I am glad that we are able to come together, even while physically apart.

Fifty years ago, the Class of 1970 was sent home without final exams due to deaths at Kent State and fear of campus unrest here in Iowa City. My hope had been to give some members of the Class of 1970 a chance to enjoy a commencement. I invited a handful of them to walk with you on the 50th Anniversary of their own disrupted commencement. And now, here we are, in a new time of uncertainty. Unlike the Class of 1970, we have the technology to celebrate today while prioritizing safety. So, let's set aside all of the serious concerns of the day and enjoy this moment.

You are the 155th graduating class of Iowa Law. When you first arrived at the Boyd Law Building, you were asked to embrace Iowa Law's culture of "collaboration and civility." You did not disappoint. Indeed, most of your classmates are still here, in part, because you supported one another. Thank you for keeping those cultural values strong at Iowa Law. When you tragically lost one of your own members after your first year, you were brought together in an unexpected moment of grief and sorrow. All of us grieved with you and we found inspiration in the way Jim Napier chose to live his life. I hope that you feel his presence in spirit with you here today.

During your time here, you have helped keep the law school community collegial, a beacon of civility and an oasis of calm in a loud and complicated world.

As you graduate, please know that wherever you are today, you are not alone. You are part of a very rich tradition. You earned your membership in this community. You are extraordinary, each of you in different ways. Along with the faculty, I feel privileged to have spent a short amount of time with you at the beginning of the long arc of your career. Thank you for putting your mark on the College of Law community. And congratulations.

Please join me in congratulating the class of 2020. As we close, I am charged to add a few words of farewell to the newest *alumni* of the Iowa College of Law.

Our country's 35th President, John F. Kennedy, observed, "certain other societies may respect the rule of force – we respect the rule of law." If you wonder who is responsible for ensuring that this country follows the rule of law, you may now look in the mirror. More than anyone else, it is you. It was mostly lawyers who founded the United States. And there is a reason that this country has elected more than half of its presidents from the ranks of lawyers. There is a reason that 54 of the United States Senators are from our ranks. It is a lawyer who led this country out of the Civil War. It is a lawyer who led this country out of the Great Depression.

Before we close the program, I remind you that the faculty has prepared you well for this noble calling – and you were prepared in a public law school. That means that ordinary Iowans, from the farmers in their fields to the cashiers at your local HyVee – contributed to the cost of your legal education. After the celebrating is over, I ask you to think seriously about how you will give those hard-working people a return on their investment in you. The need is great, and your options many. I know you will choose well. On behalf of the faculty and the staff, I offer our affection, our admiration, and our deepest congratulations. Good luck and please come back to see us now and then.

Farewell by Professor Stensvaag

Today's commencement ceremony is my 41st as a law school teacher. It is always a mountaintop experience. The rush of joy never gets old. Graduates, you have done so much to celebrate. On behalf of your teachers and our amazing staff colleagues, let me tell you: our hearts are bursting with pride today. Pride in your hard work; pride in your accomplishments; pride in knowing you and in being a part of your lives.

The highlight of each commencement—the part that always causes my heart to skip a beat—takes place when the graduates' names are announced. Today will be no different. This year, there are 392 essential words in our ceremony. The first three are Douglas David Anderson. The last three are Ryan James Schmidt. In between, are 386 additional, beautiful words. Words first spoken in your lives, Class of 2020, in love and wonder. Words that will be heard again in love today. Your names are the music we gather to hear. In fact, they are more important than ever this year because your names must serve as placeholders for your presence. So the recital of your names is main event. But it is you—each of you—the whole, marvelous person your name represents—that we honor.

Even though we must be apart for these festivities, we will rejoice with each of you as your name is called. Through the coming years, we will rejoice whenever your name is mentioned or comes to mind. Each of you has been a gift to the College of Law. It is now time for each of you to go out and light up the world. You will do that. We will remember you with great affection, and you will continue to make us proud. Godspeed on your journey.

Message from Justin McCorvey, Class of 2020 Student Speaker

Class of 2020,

We did it! Finding the words to describe this feeling is no easy feat, especially in the midst of the global public health pandemic we've begrudgingly grown to know as COVID-19. I'm a firm believer in the old adage that everything happens for a reason. Though our current predicament is not ideal, I'm confident that this class—our class—is more than capable to overcome whatever obstacle we're faced with in the days, weeks, months, and years to come.

It seems like just yesterday that we were sitting in orientation bright eyed and ready to take over the world. Many of us started this journey as complete strangers and are now parting ways with lifelong friends and trusted colleagues. I may be a little biased but I had the gut feeling that we would be one of the best classes to walk the halls of the College of Law...and I was right. From Professor Kurtz's song about contingent remainders to Professor Bohannon's constant reminder of the elements of a prima facie case, our legal foundation began under the tutelage of some of the greatest law professors in the academy.

As holders of our hard earned Juris Doctorate degrees, we are joining an elite group of brilliant minds whose calling to help others is both unique and essential. As we embark upon our individual paths, I implore each of you to always be zealous advocates for your clients and remember for what, whom, and why you started your journey into the profession. I anxiously await to see the plethora of CEOs, partners, elected officials, and the world's top legal minds sprout from the ranks of our class.

I'd be remiss if I didn't express my deepest gratitude to the class for selecting me to address each of you during our commencement ceremony. I didn't take this task lightly and hope that I have made you proud. It has been my esteemed privilege to be your classmate. I will forever boastfully proclaim that I am a member of the history making 2020 graduating class of the University of Iowa College of Law. Go forth and be great! Congratulations, Law Hawks!

Sincerely,

**Justin McCorvey
The University of Iowa College of Law
Class of 2020 | Commencement Speaker**

“Being the Best”
The Honorable Kevin McKeever
District Court Judge
Sixth Judicial District of Iowa
Class of 2001

Greetings, my name is Kevin McKeever and the following remarks are for the 2020 University of Iowa College of Law graduating class. I am an Iowa District Court Judge and I am also a University of Iowa College of Law alum.

Members of the graduating class of 2020, it is an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to deliver a few words to you. It is my hope that the remarks I will soon provide will encourage you, will be helpful to you and will perhaps even inspire you.

The title of my speech is “Being the Best”. Permit me to begin by providing a brief explanation about the title itself. Perhaps the best way to explain to you what the title means is to highlight what it does not mean. After three years of hard work, you are poised to embark on the next phase of your lives. At this point, some of you may decide to pursue additional education. However, most of you will either embark on a career in the legal field or in some other professional area. Based on the title “Being the Best”, you may therefore conclude, that I am about to share my wisdom with you about being the best attorney or being the best professional or being the best student. However, as much as I care about your future successes, this speech is not about being the best attorney or about being the best professional or even about being the best student.

Now, please don’t misunderstand me. When you go on to the next phase of your life, whether that involves engaging in the practice of law, pursuing a professional career outside the practice of law, seeking out additional education, or pursuing some other option that I have not mentioned, I do want you to be the very best you can be. However, I don’t find it to be necessary to try to convince you of that because I believe are already committed to working hard so that you will grow and develop during the next phase of your life. I know this because I know what kind of students you are. I know what kind of people you are. I have spent enough time with students from the University of Iowa College of Law to know that you will all do well in your future endeavors.

Therefore, permit me turn to the focus of my message to you today. I want you to be the best human being you can possibly be. Let me say that again. I want you to be the best human being you can possibly be.

What does it mean to be the best human being that you can possibly be? I guess that could be subject to different interpretations? Before answering that question, I would like to quote Martian Luther King who said the following:

“Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate

concern of dedicated individuals.”

By virtue of your educational level and the positions you will soon hold, you will be leaders in this society. A society looks to its leaders to figure out its identity. People will soon look to you for answers, people will soon look to you for guidance, people will soon look to you to serve as an example for how to behave, how to live and how to treat one another. As leaders, I urge you to be the best human beings you can possibly be. In doing so, you will have a significant positive impact on the society in which you live.

One day in the not too distant future, you will find yourself working on something of great importance which will create some degree of pressure on you. You may find that pressure leading to feelings of stress, anxiousness and apprehension. This is the nature of our business. We work on important things, things that matter, things that impact people's lives, things that cause us to experience stress. When those times arrive, it would be easy for us to retreat into our own worlds or perhaps to lash out at others who happen to be nearby. When you find yourself facing stressful times, I urge you to remember that you are among society's leaders. People look up to you, people will pay attention to how act, how you react, and how you treat others. Therefore, do not forget to smile and be pleasant to the clerk, no matter how you may be feeling at the time, don't forget to be pleasant and respectful to the court reporter no matter what kind of day you are having, and don't forget to say please and thank you to the other people in your office no matter how irritated or tired you happen to be.

In my view, a good human being recognizes the value of every human being and in so doing, recognizes the fact that every human being is deserving of dignity and respect. A good human being demonstrates this by treating others with dignity and respect not because of that person's accomplishments or achievements but simply because that person is a human being. A good human being cares not only for themselves but also cares for others. My point is this, if you only remember one thing, please remember that I am asking you not only be a good human being, but as future leaders of our society I am asking you to be the to be the best human being you can possibly be.

**Presentation and Hooding of Graduates
Chosen by Class of 2020**

John-Mark Stensvaag, *Charlotte & Frederick Hubbell Professor of Environmental and Natural Resources Law*

Christina Bohannan, Professor, *Lauridsen Family Fellow in Law, and Director of Master of Studies in Law Program*

Joseph Yockey, *Professor and Michael and Brenda Sandler Faculty Fellow in Corporate Law*

Dear Iowa Law Class of 2020,

Welcome Alumni! As you transition from student to alumni, we hope that you will continue to maintain and build your relationship with Iowa Law. The Law Alumni Relations team is here to help you. From keeping alumni records and contact information updated to celebrating your career advancements, we strive to keep alumni connected, engaged, and informed about Iowa Law through alumni communications, event programs, and volunteer opportunities like the program that connects alumni to admitted students. We are serious when we say, "Keep in touch!" You can call us at: Law Alumni Relations, 319-335-9158 or e-mail Pamela Funke at pamela-funke@uiowa.edu or Jill De Young at jill-deyoung@uiowa.edu.

Congratulations!

Faculty and Staff

Deans

Collins B. Byrd, A.B. 1979, Dartmouth College, M.B.A. 1984, Northwestern University; Assistant Dean of Enrollment Management

Carin N. Crain, B.A. 1983, Scripps College, J.D. 1991, University of California, Davis; Associate Dean for Student Affairs

Jill E. De Young, A.B. 1994, University of Michigan, J.D. 1999, University of Iowa; Assistant Dean and Chief of Staff

Ann Laquer Estin, A.B. 1979, Dartmouth College, J.D. 1983, University of Pennsylvania; Associate Dean for Faculty, Professor and Aliber Family Chair in Law

Thomas P. Gallanis, B.A. 1987, Yale University, J.D. 1990, University of Chicago, LL.M. 1993, Ph.D. 1997, Cambridge University; Associate Dean for Research, Allan D. Vestal Chair in Law, and Professor of History

Emily Hughes, A.B. 1990, University of Michigan, M.A. 1992, Yale University, J.D. 1997, University of Michigan; Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor and Bouma Fellow in Law

Gordon S. Tribbey, B.B.S. 1984, M.B.A. 1999, University of Iowa; Assistant Dean for Finance and Administration

Kevin K. Washburn, B.A. 1989, University of Oklahoma, J.D. 1993, Yale University; N. William Hines Dean and Professor of Law

Adrien K. Wing, A.B. 1978, Princeton University, M.A. 1979, University of California, Los Angeles, J.D. 1982, Stanford University; Associate Dean for International and

Comparative Law Programs and the Bessie Dutton Murray Professor

Faculty

Gail B. Agrawal, B.A. 1978, University of New Orleans, M.P.H. 1983, J.D. 1983, Tulane University; Dean Emerita and F. Wendell Miller Professor of Law

John S. Allen, B.A. 1977, St. Olaf College, J.D. 1980, University of Illinois; Herschel G. Langdon Clinical Professor of Law

Dawn Barker Anderson, B.A. 1992, University of Northern Iowa, J.D. 1995, University of Iowa; Professor of Legal Analysis, Writing and Research

Patrick B. Bauer, B.A. 1972, Wesleyan University, J.D. 1975, University of Chicago; Professor

Christina Bohannon, B.S. 1994, J.D. 1997, University of Florida; Professor, Lauridsen Family Fellow in Law, and Director of Masters of Studies in Law Program

Jonathan C. Carlson, B.A. 1976, McGill University, J.D. 1979, University of Chicago; Professor of Law and International Studies and Victor and Carol Alvarez Fellow in Law

Mihailis Diamantis, A.B. 2004, Amherst College, J.D. 2009, Yale; Associate Professor

Bram Elias, B.A. 2000, University of Michigan, M.A. 2001, Queen's University of Belfast, M.P.P. 2003, Harvard University, J.D. 2009 Yale University; Clinical Associate Professor

Stella Burch Elias, B.A. 1998, M.A. 2006, University of Oxford, J.D. 2009, Yale University; Professor and Chancellor William Gardiner Hammond Fellow in Law

Ann Laquer Estin, A.B. 1979, Dartmouth College, J.D. 1983, University of Pennsylvania; Associate Dean for Faculty and Aliber Family Chair in Law

Brian R. Farrell, B.A. 1995, St. Ambrose University, J.D. 1998, University of Iowa, LL.M. 2002, Ph.D. 2013, National University of Ireland; Director, Citizen Lawyer Program, Associate Director, Center for Human Rights, and Lecturer in Law

Daria Fisher Page, B.A. 1998, Yale University, J.D. 2005, University of Michigan, LL.M. 2015 Georgetown University; Clinical Associate Professor

Thomas P. Gallanis, B.A. 1987, Yale University, J.D. 1990, University of Chicago, LL.M. 1993, Ph.D. 1997, Cambridge University; Associate Dean for Research, Allan D. Vestal Chair in Law, and Professor of History

Josephine Gittler, B.A. 1965, Barnard College, J.D. 1968, Northwestern University; Wiley B. Rutledge Professor and Director, National Health Law and Policy Resource Center

Paul A. Gowder, B.A. 1997, California State University, J.D. 2000, Harvard University, Ph.D. 2012, Stanford University; Professor and O.K. Patton Fellow in Law

Amandeep S. Grewal, B.A. 2002, Williams College, J.D. 2005, University of Michigan, LL.M. 2006, Georgetown University; Professor and Joseph F. Rosenfield Fellow in Law

Alison K. Guernsey, B.A. 2001, University of Michigan, J.D. 2008, University of Iowa; Clinical Associate Professor

Emily Hughes, A.B. 1990, University of Michigan, M.A. 1992, Yale University, J.D. 1997, University of Michigan; Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor and Bouma Fellow in Law

Carolyn C. Jones, B.A. 1976, J.D. 1979, University of Iowa; LL.M. 1982, Yale University; Dean Emerita and Orville L. and Ermina D. Dykstra Chair in Income Tax Law

Sheldon F. Kurtz, B.A. 1964, J.D. 1967, Syracuse University; David H. Vernon Professor The Honorable James A. Leach, B.A. 1964, Princeton University, M.A. 1966, Johns Hopkins University; University of Iowa Chair in Public Affairs, Visiting Professor and Senior Scholar, Center for Human Rights

Christopher J. Liebig, B.A. 1987, Yale University, J.D. 1990, Harvard University, M.F.A. 1998, University of Iowa; Professor of Legal Analysis, Writing and Research

Marc Linder, B.A. 1966, University of Chicago, M.A. 1971, Ph.D. 1973, Princeton University, J.D. 1983, Harvard University; Professor

Robert T. Miller, B.A. 1992, Columbia College, M.A. 1994, Columbia University, J.D. 1997, Yale University, M.Phil. 2000, Columbia University; Professor and F. Arnold Daum Fellow in Corporate Law

Mark J. Osiel, B.A. 1977, University of California, Berkeley, J.D. 1987, Ph.D. 1987, Harvard University; Aliber Family Chair in Law

Todd E. Pettys, B.A. 1988, Seattle Pacific University, J.D. 1995, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; H. Blair and Joan V. White Chair in Civil Litigation

Anya Prince, B.A. 2004, University of California Los Angeles, M.P.P. 2010, J.D. 2010, Georgetown University; Associate Professor and Member of the University of Iowa Genetics Cluster

Jason A. Rantanen, A.B. 1999, Brown University, M.A. 2000, J.D. 2003 University of Chicago; Professor, Ferguson-Carlson Fellow in Law, and Director of the Innovation, Business and Law Program

John C. Reitz, B.A. 1970, Harvard University, J.D. 1975, University of Michigan; Edward L. Carmody Professor of Law and Director of Graduate Programs and Visiting Scholars

Leonard A. Sandler, B.S. 1978, Northeastern University, J.D. 1981, University of Maryland; Clinical Professor

Lorie E. Schweer, B.A. 1985, University of Northern Iowa, J.D. 2003, University of Iowa; Professor of Legal Analysis, Writing and Research

Sarah A. Seo, A.B. 2002, Princeton University, J.D. 2007, Columbia University, Ph.D. 2016, Princeton University; Associate Professor

Caroline K. Sheerin, B.A. 1993, Columbia University, Barnard College, M.A. 1996, Washington University, J.D. 1999, University of Michigan; Professor of Legal Analysis, Writing and Research

Gregory H. Shill, B.A. 2002, Columbia University, M.A. 2005 Jewish Theological Seminary, 2008 J.D. Harvard; Associate Professor

Maya Steinitz, LL.B. 1999, Hebrew University, LL.M. 2000, J.S.D. 2005, New York University School of Law; Professor and Bouma Family Fellow in Law

John-Mark Stensvaag, B.A. 1969, Augsburg College, J.D. 1974, Harvard University; Charlotte and Frederick Hubbell Professor of Environmental and Natural Resources Law

Sean Sullivan, B.S. 2005, M.S. 2007, George Mason, Ph.D. 2011, J.D. 2013, University of Virginia; Associate Professor

June T. Tai, B.S. 2003, University of California at Berkeley, J.D. 2003, University of Chicago; Clinical Associate Professor and Director of Field Placement Programs

Christina C. Tilley, B.S.J. 1988, J.D. 1999, Northwestern; Associate Professor

James J. Tomkovicz, B.A. 1973, University of Southern California, J.D. 1976, University of California, Los Angeles; Edward F. Howrey Professor

Lea S. VanderVelde, B.A. 1974, J.D. 1978, University of Wisconsin; Josephine R. Witte Chair

Kevin K. Washburn, B.A. 1989, University of Oklahoma, J.D. 1993, Yale University; N. William Hines Dean and Professor of Law

Adrien Katherine Wing, A.B. 1978, Princeton University, M.A. 1979, University of California, Los Angeles, J.D. 1982, Stanford University; Associate Dean for International and Comparative Law Programs and the Bessie Dutton Murray Professor

Joseph W. Yockey, B.A. 2000, University of Kansas, J.D. 2004, University of Illinois; Professor and Michael and Brenda Sandler Faculty Fellow in Corporate Law

Emeriti Faculty

Patricia Nassif Acton, B.A. 1971, J.D. 1974, University of Iowa; Clinical Professor Emerita

Eric G. Andersen, B.A. 1974, J.D. 1977, Brigham Young University; Professor Emeritus

Arthur E. Bonfield, B.A. 1956, Brooklyn College, J.D. 1960, LL.M. 1961, Yale University, D.H.L. Honorary 1999, Cornell College; Allan D. Vestal Chair Emeritus and Associate Dean Emeritus

Willard L. Boyd, B.S.L. 1949, LL.B. 1951, University of Minnesota, LL.M. 1952, S.J.D. 1962, University of Michigan; President Emeritus and Rawlings-Miller Professor Emeritus and Founder, Larned A. Waterman Iowa Non-Profit Resource Center

Steven J. Burton, B.A. 1970, University of California, Los Angeles, J.D. 1973, University of Southern California; John F. Murray Professor Emeritus

William G. Buss, Jr., B.A. 1955, Yale University, LL.B. 1960, Harvard University; Odie K. Patton Professor Emeritus

Lois K. Cox, B.A. 1971, Rice University, M.A. 1973, Tufts University, J.D. 1978, Boston University; Clinical Professor Emerita

Patricia A. Cain, A.B. 1968, Vassar College, J.D. 1973, University of Georgia; Aliber Family Professor Emerita

N. William Hines, Jr., A.B. 1958, Baker University, J.D. 1961, University of Kansas; Dean Emeritus and Joseph F. Rosenfield Professor Emeritus

Herbert J. Hovenkamp, B.A. 1969, Calvin College, M.A. 1971, Ph.D. 1976, J.D. 1978, University of Texas; Ben V. & Dorothy M. Willie Chair Professor Emeritus

Jean C. Love, B.A. 1965, J.D. 1968, University of Wisconsin; Martha Ellen Tye Professor Emerita

Paul M. Neuhauser, A.B. 1955, LL.B. 1958, LL.M. 1963, Harvard University; Professor Emeritus

Reta R. Noblett-Feld, B.A. 1980, J.D. 1983, University of Iowa; Clinical Professor Emerita

Mark E. Schantz, B.A. 1963, University of Iowa, B.A. 1965, Oxford University, LL.B. 1968, Yale University; Professor Emeritus and General Counsel Emeritus

Barbara A. Schwartz, B.A. 1967, M.A. 1968, University of Michigan, J.D. 1975, Wayne State University; Clinical Professor Emerita

Larry D. Ward, B.S. 1966, J.D. 1969, University of Kansas, M.Ac. 1996, University of Iowa; Orville L. & Ermina D. Dykstra Chair in Federal Tax Law Emeritus

Gerald B. Wetlaufer, B.A. 1967, Princeton University, J.D. 1972, Yale University; Professor Emeritus

John B. Whiston, B.A. 1970, Yale University, J.D. 1984, University of Montana; Herschel G. Langdon Clinical Professor Emeritus

Global Affiliated Faculty

Sir Geoffrey W. R. Palmer, Q.C., LL.M. 1965 Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand; J.D. 1967, University of Chicago

Alexander Somek, Magister Juris 1984, Doctor Juris. 1984, University of Vienna

Visiting Faculty

Edward Foley, B.A. 1983 Yale, J.D. 1986 Columbia.

Geoffrey J. Heeren, B.A. 1996 University of Chicago, J.D. 2000 New York University, LL.M. 2012 Georgetown.

Nicole B. Porter, B.A. 1992 Michigan State University, J.D. 1998, University of Michigan.

David Thronson, B.G.S. 1985 University of Kansas, M.A. 1990, Columbia University Teachers College, J.D. 1994 Harvard.

Adjunct Faculty

The Honorable David L. Baker, B.A. 1975, J.D. 1979, University of Iowa

Francis "Chip" D. Baltimore, B.B.A. Iowa State University, J.D. 1993, University of Minnesota

Michael J. Bandstra, B.S. 1987, Iowa State University, J.D. 1993, University of Iowa

Sean R. Berry, B.B.A. 1982, University of Notre Dame, J.D. 1987, Northwestern University

Sarah E. Bond, B.A. 2005, University of Virginia, J.A. 2007, Ph.D. 2011, University of North Carolina

Lloyd Bonfield, B.A. 1971 University of Massachusetts-Amherst, M.A. 1974, J.D. 1975, University of Iowa, Ph.D. 1978 University of Cambridge.

Ann Byrd, B.S. 1990, Indiana University, 2000, J.D. Wake Forest University.

Charles A. Damschen, B.S. 2003, University of Minnesota, J.D. 2007, University of Iowa

Paula DeGrandis, B.S. 1992, M.S. 1993, J.D. 1998, Northern Illinois University

Donald L. Ford, B.A. (2), 1980, American University, J.D. 1985, University of Virginia, M.L.I.S. 2002, University of Pittsburgh; Foreign Comparative and International Law Librarian

Kate Melloy Goettel, B.A. 2003 University of Northern Iowa, J.D. 2007, University of Iowa

The Honorable Randy J. Holland, B.A. 1969, Swarthmore College, J.D. 1972, University of Pennsylvania, LL.M. 1998, University of Virginia

Terry A. Jacobs, B.B.A. 1979, M.A. 1981, J.D. 1981, University of Iowa

The Honorable John A. Jarvey, B.S. 1978, University of Akron, J.D. 1981, Drake University

Ellen L. Jones, B.A. 1990, J.D. 1993, M.L.S. 1994, University of Iowa; Reference Librarian

Nancy L. Jones, B.A. 1969, Luther College, M.A.T. 1970, Brown University, Ph.D. 1981, University of Iowa; Director of the Writing Resource Center

Eileen A. Kamerick, B.A. 1980, Boston College; J.D. 1984, M.B.A. 1993, University of Chicago

Amy Koopmann, B.A. 2004, University of Northern Iowa, J.D. 2009, University of Iowa; Reference and Faculty Services Librarian

Amy B. Kretkowski, B.F.A. 1988, New York University, J.D. 2008, University of Iowa

Lisa M. Krigsten, B.A. 1992, University of Kansas-Lawrence, J.D. 1995, University of Iowa

Barry A. Lindahl, B.A. 1968, J.D. 1973, University of Iowa

Andrea Lyon B.A. 1973 Rutgers University, J.D. 1976 Antioch University

Christopher L. Malloy, B.A. 2001, J.D. 2004, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Daniel Matheson, B.S. 1993, Iowa State University, J.D. 1996, University of Minnesota

Kevin McKeever, B.A. 1991, Northwestern University, J.D. 2001, University of Iowa

Megan R. Merritt, B.A. 2006, Grinnell College, J.D. 2010, University of Iowa

Kate Mueting, B.A. 2002 University of Nebraska-Lincoln, J.D. 2007, University of Iowa

Dana Oxley, B.A. 1990, University of Northern Iowa, J.D. 1998, University of Iowa

Aaron M. Page, B.A. 1998, Oberlin College, J.D. 2006, University of Michigan

Peter B. Persaud, B.A. 1983, University of Iowa, J.D. 1986, Drake University

Michael J. Pitton, B.A. 1974, Creighton University, J.D. 1977, University of Iowa

Theodore A. Potter, B.A. 1979, M.S.L.I.S. 1982, University of Illinois, J.D. 1987, University of Toledo; Reference Librarian

Meredith L. Rich-Chappell, B.S., B.A. 1997, J.D. 2000, University of Iowa

Nathan Rosenberg, B.A. 2005 Pitzer College, J.D. 2012, Harvard University

Christopher R. Rossi, B.A. 1980, Washington University, J.D. 1982, University of Iowa, LL.M. 1983, M.A. 1985, Ph.D. 1991, Johns Hopkins University

Noëlle M. Sinclair, B.A. 1989, M.A. 1993, J.D. 2003, M.A. 2007, University of Iowa; Head of Circulation

Leon F. Spies, B.B.A. 1972, J.D. 1975, University of Iowa

The Honorable David R. Stras, B.A. 1995, J.D. 1999, M.B.A. 1999, University of Kansas

Paul G. Thelen, B.A. 2002, Creighton University; J.D. 2007, University of Iowa; Director, Larned A. Waterman Iowa Non-Profit Center

Matthew Warner-Blankenship, B.A. 2001 Grinnell College, M.S. 2004, J.D. 2011, University of Iowa.

Amy Weismann, B.A. 1983, Bryn Mawr College, J.D. 2000, University of Iowa; Assistant Director, Center for Human Rights

The Honorable Charles J. Williams, B.B.A. 1985, J.D. 1988, University of Iowa, LL.M. 1997, University of Missouri-Kansas City

Masamichi Yamamoto, B.A. 1997, B.Laws, 1999, Keio University, S.J.D. 2017, University of Iowa

Administrative & Professional Staff

Dawn H. Banovitz, B.M. 1982, MacMurray College, M.A. 1985, Ph.D., 1994, University of Iowa; Administrative Services Manager

Janice L. Barnes, Admissions Coordinator

Neda H. Barrett, M.A. 2004, Vaxjo University, Sweden, Human Resources Fellow

Amy Beier Best, B.A. 2005, New York University, J.D. 2012, University of Iowa; Director of Admissions

Sherri K. Bethke, B.A. 1980, Wheaton College, M.A. 1986, University of Iowa; Continuing Collections Manager

Amanda M. Bibb, Administrative Services Supervisor

Robin Clark-Bennett, B.A. 1984 Yale; Labor Educator, Labor Center

Sara K. Clark, B.A. 1984, M.A. 1986, University of Iowa; Administrative Services Coordinator

Julie A. Collins, B.A. 1987, Iowa State University; Program Coordinator, Institute of Public Affairs

Grant N. Cook, B.A. 2012, M.A. 2015, University of Iowa; Preservation Librarian.

Kirk Corey, B.M. 1985, M.M. 1987, Illinois, Ph.D. 1991, University of Iowa; Director of Information Technology

Diane R. DeBok, M.A. 1980, M.F.A. 2001, University of Iowa; Editor and Contact Manager, Larned A. Waterman Iowa Non-Profit Resource Center

Jill E. De Young, A.B. 1994, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, J.D. 1999, University of Iowa; Assistant Dean and Chief of Staff

Brenda S. Dodge, B.A. 1993, University of Northern Iowa; Human Resources Director

Brett Elder, B.A. 1993, M.A. 2002, University of Iowa; Head of Collection Services

Jeff L. Emrich, B.B.A. Iowa; M.S. Notre Dame; Director of Development

Abraham J. Endecott, B.B.A. 2007, University of Iowa; Bookstore Manager

Nicole L. Ertl, B.A. 2012, University of Iowa; Advancement Associate, Iowa Law School Foundation

Brian R. Farrell, B.A. 1995, St. Ambrose University, J.D. 1998, University of Iowa, LL.M. 2002, Ph.D. 2013, National University of Ireland; Director, Citizen Lawyer Program, Associate Director, Center for Human Rights, and Lecturer in Law

A.J. Finch, B.A. 2001, Wilberforce University, J.D. 2004, American University Washington College of Law, Career Advisor

Donald L. Ford, B.A. (2), 1980, American University, J.D. 1985, University of Virginia, M.L.I.S. 2002, University of Pittsburgh; Foreign Comparative and International Law Librarian

Pamela Funke, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations

Julie A. Gaida, B.A. 2010, University of Texas-Dallas; M.L.I.S. 2014, University of Washington; Acquisitions Manager.

Matthew Glasson, B.A. 1977, J.D. 1981, University of Iowa; Labor Educator, University of Iowa Labor Center

Cory C. Haight, B.A. 2008, University of Iowa; IT Analyst/Classroom Technology Support

Gregory Hamot, B.A. 1975, Northwestern University, M.A. 1976, Ph.D. 1995, Ohio State University; Associate Director, Center for Human Rights

Amy M. Huston, B.M.E. 2004, Drake University; Employment Programs Coordinator

Paul Iversen, B.A. 1985, Carleton College, J.D. 1988, University of Minnesota; Labor Educator, Labor Center

Ellen L. Jones, B.A. 1990, J.D. 1993, M.L.S. 1994, University of Iowa; Reference Librarian

Nancy L. Jones, B.A. 1969, Luther College, M.A.T. 1970, Brown University, Ph.D. 1981, University of Iowa; Director of the Writing Resource Center

David W. Klein, M.A. 1987, University of Colorado, Ph.D. 2004, University of Iowa; Director of Technology, Law, Health Policy and Disability Center

Druet H. Cameron Klugh, B.A. 1975, J.D. 1978, M.S. 2007, University of Iowa; Senior Reference Librarian/Bibliographer

Amy Koopmann, B.A. 2004, University of Northern Iowa, J.D. 2009, University of Iowa; Reference and Faculty Services Librarian

Julia L. Kramer, Assistant to the Dean

Kathrina S. Litchfield, B.A. 1997, M.A. 2014, University of Iowa; Program Coordinator, Center for Human Rights

Jamie L. Matthews, B.A.S. 2016, University of Iowa; ITS Director.

Kelsey Kramer McGinnis, B.A. 2009, M.A. 2015, University of Iowa; Certificate Advisor, Center for Human Rights

John McKerley, B.A. 1998, University of Alabama, M.A. 2001, Ph.D. 2008, University of Iowa; Oral Historian, Labor Center

Angela L. McMullin, B.A. 1997, M.B.A. 2001, University of Iowa; Director of Finance

Nicole L. Mier, B.A. 2013, University of Iowa; IT Support Consultant

Melissa A. Norman, B.A. 2012, Appalachian State University; J.D. 2015, University of Missouri; Career Advisor

Karen L. Nobbs, B.A. 1977, M.S. 1978, State University College; Collection Access Manager

Yuka Ohba-Kreiter, B.A. 1991, A.M.L.S. 1999, University of Iowa; Cataloging and Serials Librarian

Colleen M. Opal, B.A. 2006, San Diego State University, M.A. 2008 Michigan State University, UICHR Program Coordinator.

Susan E. Palmer, B.A. 1979, Ripon College, M.A. 1985, University of Iowa; Director of Financial Aid

Theodore A. Potter, B.A. 1979, M.S.L.I.S. 1982, University of Illinois, J.D. 1987, University of Toledo; Reference Librarian

Christine Ralston, B.M. 2001, J.D. 2007, M.A. 2008, University of Iowa; Director of Career Services

Rene D. Schilling-Arps, Student and Administrative Coordinator.

Rodney A. Schultz, B.B.A. 1994, University of Iowa; Director of Development, Iowa Law School Foundation

Lee Seedorff, B.A. 1994, M.S.W. 1998, University of Iowa; Registrar.

Jennifer Sherer, B.A. 1995, Oberlin College, Ph.D. 2008, University of Iowa; Director, Labor Center

Noëlle M. Sinclair, B.A. 1989, M.A. 1993, J.D. 2003, M.A. 2007, University of Iowa; Head of Special Collections and Reference Librarian

Jill H. Soppe, B.A. 2006, University of Northern Iowa; Human Resources Associate

**Brenda Steinmetz, A.B. 1994,
Fisher College,
Administrative Services
Coordinator, Larned A.
Waterman Iowa Non-Profit
Resource Center**

**Paul G. Thelen, B.A. 2002,
Creighton University, J.D.
2007, University of Iowa;
Director, Larned A.
Waterman Iowa Non-Profit
Center**

**Sara E. Walker, B.S. 1995, Iowa
State University; Associate
Director of Development
Amy Weismann, B.A. 1983, Bryn
Mawr College, J.D. 2000,
University of Iowa;
Associate Director, Center
for Human Rights**