

**WIDENER LAW COMMONWEALTH  
COMMENCEMENT 2017  
SPECIAL EVENTS**

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Awards Ceremony	April 27	4:00 p.m.	A180
Barristers' Ball	March 25	6:00 p.m.	Harrisburg Hilton
Commencement Ceremony	May 21	11:00 a.m.	The Forum
Commencement Reception	May 21	12:30 p.m.	The State Museum of PA

**ABOUT THE EVENTS**

***AWARDS RECEPTION***

Recipients of various scholarship and commencement awards, donors, and families are invited to attend this special presentation and reception. It begins at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 27, in the Administration Building, with the reception immediately following. Invitations will be sent after the final determination of the awards.

***BARRISTERS' BALL***

The Student Bar Association sponsors this semi-formal/formal ball in celebration of the graduating class. All students, faculty, and staff are invited to attend. The Ball will be held at the Harrisburg Hilton on Saturday, March 25.

***COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY***

This ceremony, in celebration of the achievements of the graduates of December 2016, May 2017, and August 2017, will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 21, at the Forum Auditorium which is located at 500 Walnut Street, in the Capitol Complex, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. **Graduates should report to the back hallway of the Forum no later than 10:00 a.m.** The ceremony will end at approximately 12:30 p.m. There is no rehearsal; however, meetings will take place on April 17 for all participating graduates to review procedures for the processional.

***COMMENCEMENT RECEPTION***

All graduates, their families, and guests are invited to attend a reception immediately following the commencement ceremony at The State Museum of Pennsylvania. Light refreshments will be served.

***PARKING***

Because the ceremony takes place on a Sunday, free parking will be available on the streets around the Capitol Complex. Limited handicap parking is located directly in front of the Forum. Parking spaces are also available along 3rd and Forster Streets Harrisburg for the reception.

***DEGREE CLEARANCE***

Pass/fail information for all graduates is due by Friday, May 19, 2017. Actual grades will not be available until mid-June, which is sufficient time to certify graduates for the July bar examination. The Commencement Program reflects honors and awards based on fall grades. As part of the requirements for graduation, each graduate must file a petition to graduate and must have financial clearance from the Bursar's Office.

***ACADEMIC REGALIA***

All degree candidates will process with Widener Law Commonwealth hoods and tams. Academic regalia is provided by the law school. The shipment of academic regalia is scheduled to arrive by the April graduation meetings. You are encouraged to check for the correct size of your cap, gown, and hood early. All pieces (you may keep the tassel) must be returned immediately following the conclusion of the ceremony. If you leave with the regalia, you will be charged a rental fee; after three days, you will be charged for the cost of the regalia. Tables for cap, gown, and hood return will be set up in the back hallway of the Forum.

***INVITATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND TICKETS***

Each graduate will receive a generic packet of 10 invitations and 10 admission tickets. The Registrar's Office will manage distribution of any tickets surrendered by graduates. Distribution of invitation and ticket packets will occur at the graduation meetings in April.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC OPPORTUNITIES**

***HANDSHAKE PHOTOGRAPH***

The University has engaged a commercial photography studio to take an individual color portrait of each graduate receiving his or her diploma. The studio will mail a proof of the portrait to your home within two weeks after commencement.

***COMMENCEMENT VIDEO***

The entire Commencement ceremony will be broadcast live online, and then housed on our website for future access within the Registrar's web page.

***COMPOSITE PICTURE***

A composite picture of the entire graduating class will be presented to each graduate following the commencement ceremony.

***SPECIAL NEEDS SEATING***

Seating is available for family members and guests confined to wheelchairs or for those who have other conditions that prohibit them from walking to their seats. The Registrar's Office has request forms to be completed by Friday, May 5. Once the form is completed and returned to the Registrar's Office, the graduate will receive a pass to present at Commencement in order to gain access to the designated seating areas. Late requests will be honored on a space-available basis. Due to the limitations of seating space, we cannot guarantee that entire families will be seated in the special needs section, but we can accommodate one additional person to be seated in that area with each special needs request.

**DIRECTIONS**

***DIRECTIONS TO THE FORUM***

***From Pennsylvania Turnpike:*** Exit PA Turnpike I-76 at Harrisburg East Shore Exit #247. Drive north on I-283 to the junction with I-83. Exit left onto I-83 (Signs will indicate "Harrisburg"). Exit right off I-83 onto Second Street, Exit #43. Proceed north on Second Street. There are traffic lights at Paxton, mid-block, Chestnut and Market streets. Turn right onto Market Street. Proceed east on Market Street. There are traffic lights at Third, Fourth, and Fifth streets. Turn left onto Fifth Street. At the end of Fifth Street is Walnut Street. The Forum Building is directly across the street.

***From US 22-322 North:*** Drive south on Cameron Street until you come to the interchange of US 22-322 and I- 81, follow instructions below.

***From Interstate 81 (either direction):*** Exit I-81 at Exit 67-A, Cameron Street, South. Drive south on Cameron Street. Turn right onto Market Street (fifth traffic light). Proceed west on Market Street through subway under railroad tracks. As you exit the subway, turn right onto Fifth Street. At the end of Fifth Street is Walnut Street. The Forum Building is directly across the street.

***From Harrisburg International Airport:*** Follow signs out of the airport toward Harrisburg. The airport connector road will lead you onto I-283. Drive North on I-283. Follow remainder of directions under PA Turnpike above from I-283 North.

***From US 11 - 15 South:*** Route US 11 from Carlisle, and Route 15 from Gettysburg (at the interchange with PA 581, Capital Beltway, a few miles west of Harrisburg.) Take PA 581 north. Follow PA 581 until it joins Interstate I-83 and proceed on Interstate I-83 north across the Susquehanna River. Take the Second Street, Exit 43. Proceed on Second Street to Market Street. Turn right onto Market Street. Proceed East on Market Street. There are traffic lights at Third, Fourth, and Fifth streets. Turn left onto Fifth Street. At the end of Fifth Street is Walnut Street. The Forum Building is directly across the street.

***DIRECTIONS TO THE STATE MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA***

The State Museum of Pennsylvania is located at 300 North Third Street, which is situated on the corner of Forster and Third Streets, adjacent to Pennsylvania's State Capitol Building in the State Capitol Complex. The State Museum's main entrance faces Third Street. You can walk to the museum from the Forum by going down Commonwealth Avenue and then turning left down North Street.

***IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION***

Registrar's Office	(717) 541-3904
Bursar	(610) 499-4576
<a href="http://commonwealthlaw.widener.edu/">http://commonwealthlaw.widener.edu/</a>	

***CONGRATULATIONS***

The deans, faculty, and staff of Widener Law Commonwealth wish you the best for the future and look forward to celebrating this day with you, your family, and your friends.

February 1, 2017

Dear Graduates,

On behalf of the faculty, staff and administration of Widener University Commonwealth Law School, I am writing to congratulate you as you approach the culmination of your legal education, our 2017 commencement ceremonies.

Commencement marks the completion of your legal studies and, accordingly, it is one of the most significant events on our academic calendar. At commencement, we celebrate your achievements and all the hard work that helped you reach this stage of your career. We also recognize the faculty's role in preparing you for the future and express appreciation to all of those who helped you succeed, especially your families.

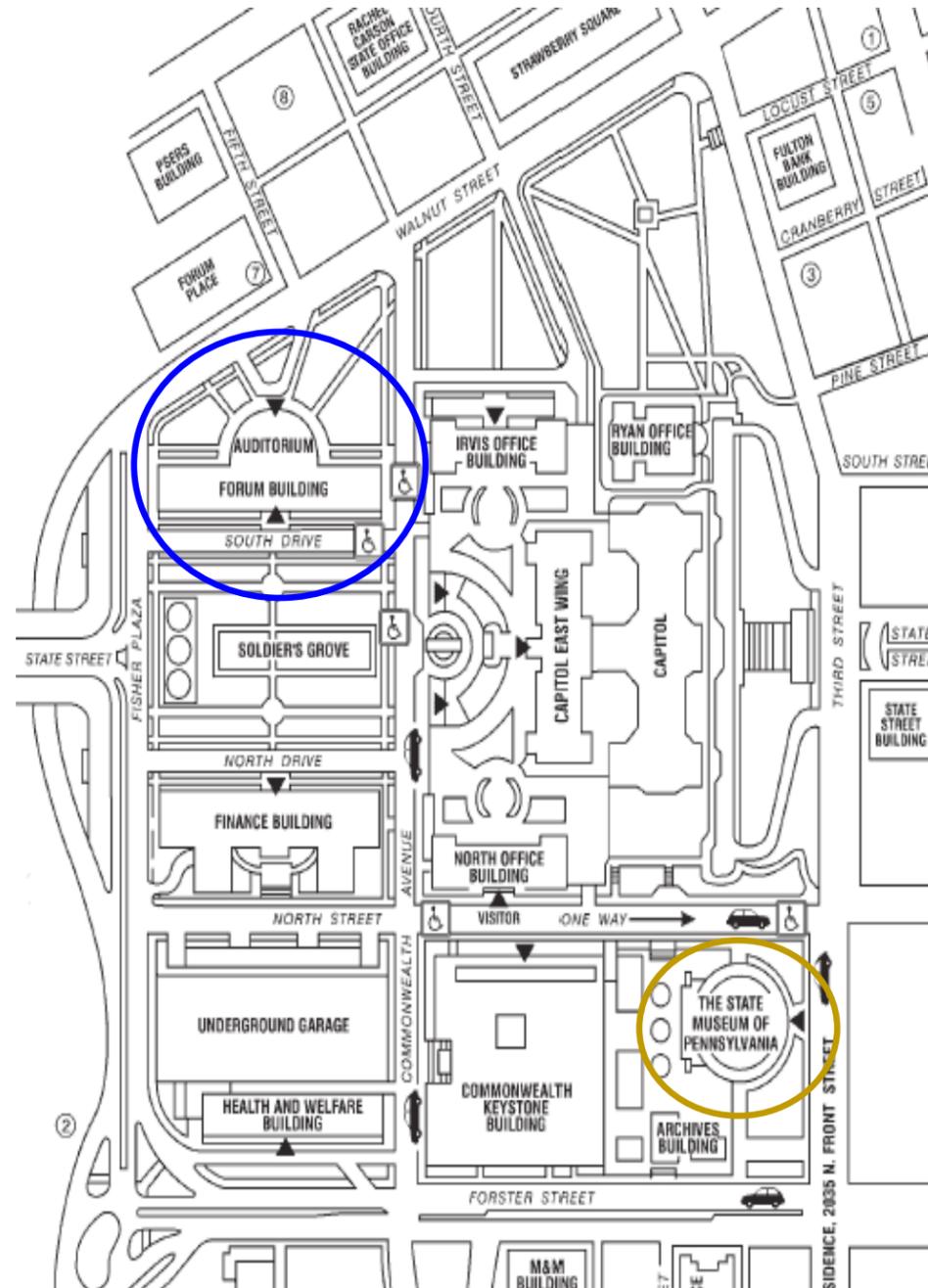
I am looking forward to participating with you in the commencement ceremony and the events which surround it, and hope that your family and friends will join us to make your graduation a memorable occasion.

Sincerely,



Christian A. Johnson  
Dean and Professor of Law

**Commencement:**  
The Forum Auditorium  
500 Walnut Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120



**Reception:**  
The State Museum of Pennsylvania  
300 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

# WIDENER UNIVERSITY COMMONWEALTH LAW SCHOOL

## COMMENCEMENT

**MAY 21, 2017**



**A Guide for Graduates  
and Their Families**