

Widener University Commonwealth Law School

2024 Commencement Ceremony

Celebrating the achievements of the graduates of December 2023, May 2024, and August 2024

May 16, 2024 at 7 pm

The Forum Auditorium

500 Walnut St, Harrisburg, PA 17101

Commencement Ceremony Guide

LIVESTREAM

The entire commencement ceremony will be broadcast online in real time and housed on our website for future access within the Widener Law Commonwealth commencement web page.

STUDENT CEREMONY PARTICIPATION

The ceremony will take place at 7 pm on Thursday, May 16 at The Forum Auditorium, located on the PA State Capitol Complex at 500 Walnut St., Harrisburg, PA 17101. Graduates must arrive by 6 pm for final instructions, robing, and lineup. The ceremony takes approximately 45 minutes. Caps and gowns must be returned after the ceremony. Light refreshments will be provided to all graduates, their families, and their guests immediately following the commencement ceremony.

ACCOMMODATED SEATING

Seating is available for family members and guests who are confined to wheelchairs or for those who have other conditions that prohibit them from walking to their seats. To request this accommodated seating, please indicate your/your guest’s needs by answering the required questions during the ticketing process in EventBrite.

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 four traffic lights at Paxton, mid-block, Chestnut, and Market streets. Turn right onto Market Street and proceed east. 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, then follow the 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 at the fifth traffic light. Proceed west on Market Street through the tunnel under the railroad tracks. As you exit the tunnel, 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: Take route US 11 from Carlisle or Route 15 from Gettysburg to the interchange with PA 581, a few miles west of Harrisburg. Get on the Capital Beltway by taking PA 581 east. Follow PA 581 until it joins Interstate I-83 and proceed on Interstate I-83 north across the Susquehanna River. Take Exit #43 to Second Street. 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.

PARKING AT COMMENCEMENT

Parking is available on-street and in numerous parking garages in the vicinity of the Capitol Complex. Limited handicap parking is located directly in front of the Forum.

TICKETS

Guest tickets will be provided electronically via EventBrite and must be presented at the ceremony.

DEGREE CLEARANCE

Pass/fail information for all graduates is due by Tuesday, May 14. 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 and may change when spring grades are processed. Final law school transcripts will reflect final honors and awards. 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 very soon after you get it. All pieces must be returned immediately following the conclusion of the ceremony (you may keep the tassel). If you leave with the regalia, you will be charged a rental fee; after three days, you will be charged for the full cost of the regalia. Tables for cap, gown, and hood return will be set up following the ceremony.

PHOTOGRAPHIC OPPORTUNITIES

The University has engaged a commercial photography studio to take an individual color portrait of each graduate receiving their diploma. The studio will provide the portrait to you within the weeks that follow May 16.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE DEAN!

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 2024 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,

Michael J. Hussey, Dean and Associate Professor of Law