

# Widener University Commonwealth Law School

## 2026 Commencement Ceremony

Celebrating the achievements of the graduates of December 2025, May 2026, and August 2026

**May 17, 2026 at 11 am**

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 11 am on Sunday, May 17 at The Forum Auditorium, located on the PA State Capitol Complex at 500 Walnut St., Harrisburg, PA 17101. Graduates must arrive by 10 am for final instructions, robing, and lineup. The ceremony takes approximately 60 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 Friday, May 15. 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 17.

#### CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE DEAN!

On behalf of the staff, faculty, and administration at Widener University Commonwealth Law School, I am delighted to congratulate each of you on reaching this incredible milestone in your professional lives — law school graduation and commencement. I fondly remember walking across the stage on the day of my law school graduation and looking into the audience to see my parents and siblings basking in that moment of joy with me. This is a day you will always remember. Commencement celebrates the completion of your legal studies and as such, is one of the most significant events on our academic calendar. On May 17, we will commemorate your achievements and diligent work, together with the support that your families, friends, and loved ones provided to you throughout your law school journey. We will also recognize the faculty's role in preparing you for the bar examination, upon which you will surely succeed, and your future career and life as a practicing attorney. I am very much looking forward to participating with you in the commencement ceremony and events which surround it. We hope your family and friends will join us to make graduation a remarkable event.

With respect,

Dean André Douglas Pond Cummings