



# COMMENCEMENT GUIDE

*for graduates & guests*

WIDENER UNIVERSITY  
DELAWARE LAW SCHOOL  
May 20, 2017  
3:00 p.m.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Graduates:

Law School Commencement is just around the corner—it will be here before we know it. I write to express my congratulations on your graduation from the Delaware Law School, and to offer you some thoughts as the commencement ceremony, your preparation for the bar exam, and your entry into our great profession all approach.

I am looking forward to being with you at our commencement ceremony on May 20, 2017. Commencement is a time for you to reflect with pride on your accomplishments on completing your legal studies. For those of you who will be soon taking a bar exam, there is good news and bad news. The good news is that your education at Delaware Law has prepared you well to begin your intense next few months of buckling down to study the bar exam materials in depth. The bad news is that you cannot quite relax and take a break yet—studying for the bar is hard work, and the time to celebrate in earnest will be *after* that exam!

Let me end by saying that above all, the Delaware Law commencement is a time to share your feelings of joy and pride with family members and friends who have offered their support and encouragement to you along the way. I still remember, to this day, the teary expression of pride on my father's face the day I walked across the stage to receive my law degree. I recall as well the pride and the tears I have felt at the graduation ceremonies of my own children. My hopes for you are that Commencement day will be a special one for you, which you will always remember, and that your studies here will propel you to accomplish great things.

Warm regards,  
Rodney Smolla  
Dean and Professor of Law



## PRE-COMMENCEMENT EVENTS

### **BARRISTERS' BALL**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 7:00P.M. AT THE CHASE CENTER**

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 Chase Center in Wilmington, DE on Saturday, April 8. Tickets can be purchased by contacting John Buchanan, SBA Vice President of Student Affairs and Alumni Relations, at [jd Buchanan@mail.widener.edu](mailto:jd Buchanan@mail.widener.edu).

### **AWARDS CEREMONY**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 5:00P.M. IN THE RUBY R. VALE COURTROOM IN THE MAIN LAW BUILDING**

Recipients of various scholarship and commencement awards, donors, families and friends are invited to attend this special presentation at 5:00p.m. on Wednesday, April 19, in the Ruby R. Vale Courtroom. Invitations will be sent following the final determination of the awards.

## CEREMONY INFORMATION

**SATURDAY, MAY 20, 3:00P.M.**

### **DELAWARE CAMPUS LAWN**

In celebration of the achievements of the graduates of December 2016, May 2017, and August 2017, the commencement ceremony will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 20, on the lawn in front of Geesey House and Polishook Hall. **Graduates should report to the Law Building by 1:30 p.m.** Guest seating does not require a ticket; all seating is first-come, first-served. Saving seats prior to the ceremony by marking chairs is not allowed; signs on chairs will be removed. The ceremony will also be broadcast into Polishook Hall.

### **LIVE WEBCAST**

The commencement ceremonies will be broadcast live over the internet. The webcast will begin streaming at least five minutes before the event begins. A link will be available on the Delaware Law homepage.

### **FLOWER SALE**

Delaware Law's SBA has arranged for Commencement Flowers to sell at the ceremony. There will also be an option to pre-order these items online. The commencement webpage will have a link to pre-order once it is available.

### **SECURITY POLICY: NO BACKPACKS, LARGE BAGS, ETC.**

The safety of our students, staff, faculty, and guests is important. We ask that all graduates and their guests refrain from bringing bags, backpacks, large purses, or containers to the commencement ceremony. Please leave these items at home or in your vehicle. For the safety and security of our community, Campus Safety officers may search bags and containers that are brought to graduation events. Please do not leave your belongings unattended at any time. Report any unattended bags or suspicious packages to a Campus Safety officer. These security precautions are for your protection.

### **LEGACY**

Degree candidates who are the children or grandchildren of Delaware Law School (DLS) alumni are referred to as "Legacy Students." As a way of recognizing those who have carried on the proud DLS tradition within their families, Legacy Students are invited to include their DLS forebears in the commencement ceremony.

Legacy Students must submit their family information to the Office of Development and Alumni Engagement by Friday, May 5, 2017. For questions or additional information, please contact Megan Cantalupo, Director of Development, at 610-499-4118

### **COMMEMORATIVE PAVERS**

Commemorate your achievement with an engraved brick paver outside Barristers' Club! For information and pricing, contact Megan Cantalupo at 610-499-4118.

### **HANDSHAKE PHOTOGRAPH**

A commercial photography studio will take photos of each graduate receiving his or her diploma. The studio will mail a proof of the portrait to your home within two weeks of the ceremony.

### **JD COMPOSITE PHOTOGRAPH**

Composite photos of the JD graduating class will be available for \$20. Order forms are available [online](#) and in the Registrar's Office and will be due by Friday, April 21.

### **CEREMONY DVD**

DVDs of the commencement ceremony will be available for \$15. Order forms are available [online](#) and in the Registrar's Office and will be due by Friday, May 5.

## INFO FOR GRADUATES

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Each graduate will receive a complimentary packet of 8 announcements and envelopes which can be picked up the week of April 10 along with regalia.

### ACADEMIC REGALIA

JD and LLM candidates will process in doctoral gowns and tams. MJ candidates will process in masters gowns and mortarboards. All candidates will wear Widener University Delaware Law School hoods. The Career Development Office will distribute academic regalia the week of April 10 in the Graduate Programs area (the previous location of the Career Development Office). Signs will be posted in the atrium of the law building to direct you.

Gowns and announcements can be picked up at the following times:

Monday, April 10	9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 11	9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 12	9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 13	9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

You are encouraged to pick up your gown early in order to check for the correct size. All pieces (you may keep the tassel) **must be returned immediately** following the conclusion of the ceremony. If you leave campus with the regalia, you will be charged a rental fee; after three days, you will be charged \$450.00 for the cost of the regalia. Tables for gown return will be set up in the main hall of the Law Building.

### DEGREE CLEARANCE

Pass/Fail information for all graduates is due by Thursday, May 18, 2017. Actual grades will not be available until three weeks after the last examination. Decisions regarding honors and awards are made based on fall grades. Graduates must have financial clearance from the Bursar. Any graduate who does not have final clearance may “walk through”

graduation but will receive an empty tube.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Registrar’s Office	(302) 477-2170
Bursar	(302) 477-2181

## CAMPUS INFORMATION

### PARKING

Parking is available on campus on a first-come basis. When the lots on campus are filled, the entrances will be closed. Additional parking is available next door in the Catch 202 parking lot and behind the DoubleTree Hotel, both within walking distance of the campus. A shuttle bus is available to transport guests to a location near the commencement lawn. Guests are encouraged to plan their arrival early enough to allow adequate time to reach their seats.

### SPECIAL NEEDS PARKING AND SEATING

Forms to obtain tickets to the special needs seating area are available at the Registrar’s Office or [online](#). Completed forms must be returned by Friday, May 5, 2017. Upon receipt of the completed form, the graduate will receive a pass for their guest and one additional family member to access the designated seating area as well as one parking pass. Requests received late will be honored on a space-available basis. A live video feed of the entire ceremony will be viewable from all rooms in Polishook Hall. Guests with special needs and families with very young children are particularly encouraged to make themselves comfortable in Polishook Hall, if outdoor conditions are not favorable.

### TOBACCO-FREE CAMPUS

Widener University has adopted a Tobacco-Free Policy on all campuses. Use of any tobacco product is prohibited on campus.

### DIRECTIONS TO THE DELAWARE CAMPUS

ADDRESS FOR GPS: **4601 CONCORD PIKE, WILMINGTON, DE 19803**

**FROM WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA AND OHIO**

Pennsylvania Turnpike east to Exit 23 Downingtown. Take Route 100 south to Route 202 south. Follow Route 202 south to Pennsylvania-Delaware border. The Delaware Law Campus is on the left, two miles past the state line.

**FROM PHILADELPHIA**

I-95 south to Exit 8/Route 202-Concord Pike. Take Route 202 north, following signs for West Chester. The Delaware Law Campus is on the right, five miles north.

**FROM EASTERN MARYLAND AND WASHINGTON, D.C.**

I-95 north to Exit 8/Route 202-Concord Pike. Take Route 202 north, following signs for West Chester. The Delaware Law Campus is on the right, five miles north.

**LOCAL LODGING ACCOMMODATIONS**

**Best Western Brandywine Valley Inn**

1807 Concord Pike (302) 656-9436 or (800) 537-7772

**Courtyard by Marriott Wilmington-Brandywine**

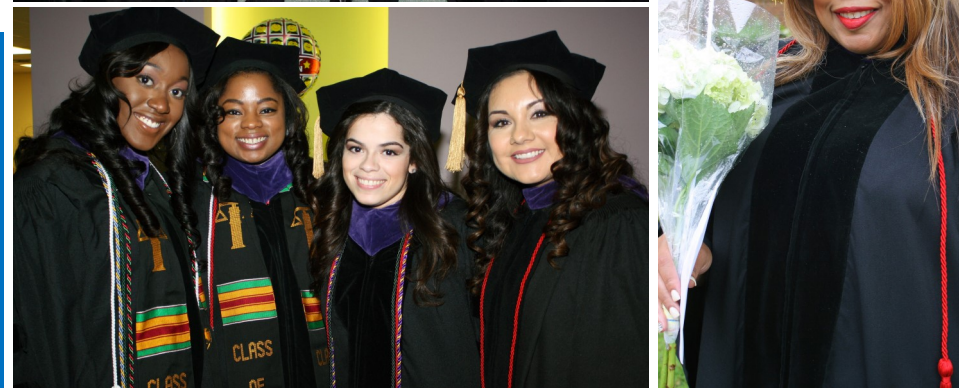
320 Rocky Run Parkway (302) 477-9500

**DoubleTree Hotel**

4727 Concord Pike (302) 478-6000 or (800) 222-TREE

**Inn at Wilmington**

300 Rocky Run Parkway (302) 479-7900



## CONGRATULATIONS!

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