

12-20-2009

2009 Winter Commencement

Nova Southeastern University

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WINTER COMMENCEMENT
December 20, 2009





THE PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, ADMINISTRATION,
AND STAFF CONGRATULATE YOU ON THIS VERY
SPECIAL DAY. ■ TODAY'S COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE
IS THE CULMINATION OF YOUR HARD WORK AND
INTELLECTUAL EFFORT, WHICH SHOULD BE DULY NOTED
AND PUBLICLY RECOGNIZED. ■ MAY ALL OF YOUR
DREAMS AND WISHES BRING FORTH A PROSPEROUS
FUTURE. ■ CONGRATULATIONS!

WELCOME

Nova Southeastern University extends a cordial welcome to each person attending this Graduation and Hooding Ceremony for the December 2009 Juris Doctor and Master of Science degrees in Health Law, Employment Law, and Education Law graduates. We are here to celebrate the accomplishments of these students and extend to them the congratulations of their friends and relatives, as well as those of the university faculty, staff, and administration.

ROSE AND ALFRED MINIACI PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Nova Southeastern University

3301 College Avenue

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Sunday, December 20, 2009

ORDER OF EXERCISES

Processional *Pomp and Circumstance* March No. 1

Presiding Officer.....Ray Ferrero, Jr.
President, Nova Southeastern University

Dean's RemarksAthornia Steele
Dean, Shepard Broad Law Center

Introduction of Student Speaker.....Athornia Steele

Student SpeakerGloria Blasucci

Introduction of Faculty Speaker.....Athornia Steele

Faculty Speaker Ronald Benton Brown
Professor of Law

Presentation of Candidates for Degree.....Athornia Steele

Introduction of Degree Candidates.....Janet Mosseri
Associate Dean, Student Affairs, Shepard Broad Law Center

Conferring of Degrees.....Ray Ferrero, Jr.

Closing RemarksAthornia Steele

Recessional

We request that the audience stand during the Processional and Recessional.

JURIS DOCTOR CANDIDATES

DALIA FOUAD ANISE
Boca Raton, Florida

GLORIA BLASUCCI
Cooper City, Florida
*Cum Laude**

MARIA SOLEDAD BODERO
Miami, Florida
*Cum Laude**

LUDEK CHVOSTA
Praha, Czech Republic

ANNA KARINA DE WINDT
Aventura, Florida

ANDREW FUXA
Davie, Florida

JACK LAZARE HARARI
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
*Summa Cum Laude**

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Boca Raton, Florida

ADRIENNE KALTMAN
Davie, Florida

SHELLEY MERONCHUK
Boca Raton, Florida

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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

CHALLAE PORTER
Montego Bay, Jamaica

ADELIA RODRIGUES SCHUINA
Vitoria, Brazil

YANA V. SHAH
Boca Raton, Florida

MISTY SHEETS
West Palm Beach, Florida

STACEY L. SILVA
Weston, Florida
*Summa Cum Laude**

CHERYL-DENE SPRING
Dania, Florida

MATTHEW G. STRUBLE
West Palm Beach, Florida

MELISSA JADWIGA SZWANKE
North Miami Beach, Florida

JEREMY FENTON TYLER
Sunrise, Florida
*Summa Cum Laude**

VENESSA VALDES
Miami Springs, Florida

*Potential honors based upon cumulative grade point average after winter 2009 term

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Nova Law Review

Nova Law Review members are distinguished by a blue/white tassel on the mortarboard.

Maria Bodero	Notes and Comments Editor
Adelia Rodriguez Schuina	Notes and Comments Editor
Stacey Silva	Junior Staff, Notes and Comments Editor (2006–2008)
Matthew Struble	Junior Staff
Venessa Valdes	Senior Staff

NSU International Citator and Research Guide

The NSU International Citator staff is publishing the first international legal citation manual in the world. Members are distinguished by a green/white tassel on the mortarboard.

Melissa Swanke	Executive Editor
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ADVOCACY HONORS

Moot Court Society

Students are chosen to become members based upon their skills in appellate advocacy. Moot Court Society members are distinguished by a purple/silver tassel on the mortarboard.

Matthew Struble

PUBLIC SERVICE AND BAR FELLOWSHIPS

The Rebecca Knox Public Interest Law Summer Fellowship

Students are selected based on service to the public interest law community.

Challae Porter
Venessa Valdes

Florida Bar Foundation Mediation Public Service Fellowship

This student has provided mediation and related services to benefit families, communities, and the court system. She has completed a mediation course and provided a minimum of 100 hours of technical legal assistance and mediation services to the Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center and court mediation programs.

Melissa Swanke

Florida Bar Foundation Public Service Fellowship

These students have provided at least 100 hours of technical legal assistance to local nonprofit agencies. They have also completed a required public-interest related course or have participated in the law school's Pro Bono Honor Program.

Challae Porter
Cheryl-Dene Spring

Pro Bono Honor Program

Students are honored for working pro bono at public service agencies while enrolled at the Law Center. Pro Bono Honor Program students are distinguished by a gold cord on the academic robe.

Bronze (50–124 hours)

Venessa Valdes

Silver (125–299 hours)

Cheryl-Dene Spring

Gold (300+ hours)

Challae Porter

ACADEMIC CONCENTRATIONS

Concentration in Health Law

This student has completed a series of courses, lectures, clinical programs, and community service projects focusing on health law. Recipient is distinguished by a red cord on the academic robe.

Jack Lazare Harari

Concentration in International Legal Practice

This student has completed a series of courses, lectures, clinical programs, and community service projects focusing on international law. Recipient is distinguished by a light blue cord on the academic robe.

Melissa Swanke

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Robert Gregg, J.D.

Alicia Jackson, M.P.A., J.D.

Shahabudeen Khan, J.D.

Heddy Muransky, M.Ed., J.D.

Patricia Murphy Propheter, M.A., Ed., J.D.

Rodney P. Rawls, J.D., LL.M.

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BIANCA ALEXANDER
Baltimore, Maryland

TOSHA BENTON
Rockledge, Florida

ABBY BRODIE
Coral Springs, Florida
Summa Cum Laude

MEOCHIA CLAYTON
Capitol Heights, Maryland

CHRISTINA M. GRUENDEL
Davie, Florida
Cum Laude

ELIZABETH HARMAN
Hollywood, Florida
Magna Cum Laude

TANEISHA MCKENZIE
Miami, Florida

COREY PENDLETON
Jacksonville, Florida

TERRI S. SCHMIDT
Dania Beach, Florida
Cum Laude

KATHERINE STONER
Coconut Grove, Florida
Summa Cum Laude

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VILMA APONTE

Plantation, Florida

Magna Cum Laude

RHAEA BAITY

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Bruce Zimet, B.A., J.D.

*Teaches in the Juris Doctor and online Master of Science degree programs

ACADEMIC NOTES

The caps and gowns of the academic procession date back to the Middle Ages, when they were common dress for scholars. Monks and students wore them to keep warm in the damp and drafty 12th-century castles and halls of learning.

The bachelor's gown has a pleated front and long, pointed sleeves. The master's gown, which may be worn open, is distinguished by its long, square sleeves, which are closed at the end and slit near the elbow to permit the forearms to come through. The doctor's gown, which also may be worn open, is trimmed with velvet panels down the front, with three velvet bars on its bell-shaped sleeves. The hood is the key to the costume. With a tassel of the same material as the gown, it is lined in silk with the color(s) of the institution conferring the degree. The length of the hood indicates the degree: four feet for the doctor; three-and-a-half feet for the master; and three feet for the bachelor. The hood is sometimes omitted on the bachelor's gown. The width of the velvet border also indicates the degree. The widest border belongs to the doctor's gown.

The color of the hood's border indicates the field of learning to which the degree pertains. The doctor's hood may bear a single chevron on the lining. Two narrow chevrons indicate a bachelor, while the master's hood may have a single chevron or be divided equally in two colors.

The various fields of learning are indicated by color as follows: arts, letters, and humanities are white; commerce and accountancy are drab; economics is copper; education and pedagogy are light blue; engineering is orange; fine arts, including architecture, is brown; law is purple; library science is lemon; medicine is green; philosophy is dark blue; and science is golden yellow.

During the processional, candidates for the bachelor's degree wear the tassels of their mortarboard on their right. Upon receiving the diplomas, they move the tassels to the left. Candidates for all other degrees wear the tassels on the left.

SHEPARD BROAD LAW CENTER

Our Mission

To ensure that students develop the knowledge, skills, and values that are at the heart of becoming trusted, highly adept, professional lawyers who are respected for serving their clients, their communities, and justice

Our Values

We believe in and model

- respect for the law and the importance of lawyers in a free society
- equitable access to education
- diversity of background and viewpoint
- excellence in teaching that serves the students and their learning needs
- high standards of ethics and professionalism
- evolution of the competencies lawyers need in an ever-changing world
- support of successful entry and advancement in the bar and other professions
- assumption of leadership roles and service to the community

UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

Nova Southeastern University, a private, not-for-profit institution, offers a diverse array of innovative academic programs at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional levels, complementing on-campus educational opportunities and resources with accessible distance learning programs, and fostering intellectual inquiry, leadership, and commitment to community through engagement of students and faculty in a dynamic, life-long learning environment.

NOTE

The appearance of a name in this program should not be interpreted as evidence of graduation. The student's permanent record, on file in the Office of the University Registrar, remains the official testimony of the possession of a Nova Southeastern University degree.

MACE

During the Middle Ages, the mace was an effective weapon in battle and also was displayed as a symbol to command order during royal gatherings, religious ceremonies, and university classes. The early wooden staff of such royal messengers or lead ushers of ceremonial processions was transformed in the 14th century into an elaborate sterling silver mace. As newer and more powerful military arms were created, however, the mace progressed into a symbol of authority. In the 15th century, it evolved into a symbol of academic excellence and dignity, and today, is frequently used to lead religious and academic processions.

THE NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY MACE

Before its merger in 1994 with Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, Nova University's mace bore a sterling silver "nova star" symbolizing the university's name and mission. Symbolically, this "nova star" burned brightly, providing educational enlightenment to the world. Today, a new sterling silver mace highlights the past, present, and future through the inclusion of the original "nova star," representing the university's past, surrounding the NSU seal. When not in official use, the mace is displayed in the rotunda of the William and Norma Horvitz Administration Building.

In Latin, *nova* means "new or innovative." Nova Southeastern University was created to be an innovative educational institution, to take the best of traditional education from the past and mold it to fit the needs of students for today and tomorrow.



NOVA SOUTHEASTERN
UNIVERSITY

Shepard Broad Law Center
3305 College Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314-7721