



Chicago-Kent College of Law

2023 COMMENCEMENT

Sunday, May 14, 2023
Chicago, Illinois





Order of Exercises

Processional

Chicago-Kent Faculty and Administration
Class of 2023
“Pomp and Circumstance”
Performed by Chicago Classic Brass

National Anthem

Cameo Humes

Welcoming Remarks

Anita K. Krug
Dean, Chicago-Kent College of Law
Professor of Law

Class of 2023 Remarks

Evan Savage Turcotte
Valedictorian
Ivana Dimitrovska Rajchevska
LL.M. Class Speaker

Commencement Address

Jeff Weiner '74

Conferral of Degrees

Introduction of
Class of 2023

Stephen D. Sowle
Associate Dean for Academic
Affairs and Senior Lecturer

Closing Remarks

Anita K. Krug
Dean, Chicago-Kent College of Law
Professor of Law

Recessional

“Triumphal March”



Commencement Speaker

Jeffrey S. Weiner, Esquire

Jeff Weiner grew up in Miami, Florida. After losing his dad at age 12, he enrolled at Riverside Military Academy in Gainesville, Georgia, where he lived, studied, and competed in athletics with students from all over the United States and many foreign countries. Jeff's years at Riverside taught him invaluable lessons about interacting with people from vastly different backgrounds and cultures. He returned to Miami and attended the University of Miami before attending Chicago-Kent. In law school, Jeff was president of the Student Bar Association, a Moot Court winner, and editor of *The Commentator*. He graduated from Chicago-Kent in January 1974. Jeff interned with the Cook County Public Defender's Office and the Illinois Defender Project.

In 1993 Jeff received the Chicago-Kent Distinguished Alumni Award, and in 2013 he was honored to be among the "125 Alumni of Distinction" in celebration of Chicago-Kent's 125th anniversary.

For almost 50 years, Jeff has been a staunch advocate for the preservation of our constitutional rights. He has argued trials and appeals all over the country, including before the U.S. Supreme Court, the Florida Supreme Court, and numerous Florida and Federal appellate courts. Jeff has represented people in all 50 states and in various countries across the globe, often in high profile cases.

In 1991 Jeff argued *Florida v. Jimeno*, a Fourth Amendment case, before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Jeff's distinguished legal career includes terms as president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL), president of the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (FACDL), and chair of the Miami-Dade County Bar Criminal Courts Committee. Jeff is a fellow of the American Board of Criminal Lawyers, and a former regent of the National Defense Criminal College. The National Board of Trial Advocates has named him a board-certified criminal trial lawyer.

In 1985 Jeff received NACDL's highest honor, awarded annually to "the one criminal defense attorney who best exemplifies the goals and values of the association, and the legal profession." In 2021 he received the highest recognition from the FACDL for "a career dedicated to preserving constitutional rights and manifesting an open devotion to justice, civility, discretion, courage, respect for human dignity and mercy for all citizens."

Jeff has been voted by his fellow attorneys as one of the as one of the Best Lawyers in America for 2023 and was named a "Super Lawyer" and one of *Florida Trend's* "Legal Elite," which singles out less than two percent of the nearly 108,000 Florida Bar members.

He has authored numerous legal articles and is a co-author of *O'Connor's Federal Rules & Codes Plus*, published by Thompson Reuters® and is now in its 14th edition.

Jeff actively supports efforts to combat bigotry and prejudice in the U.S. and abroad. He is a decades-long supporter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the Southern Poverty Law Center, and the Innocence Project, among others. As NACDL president, Jeff traveled to Puerto Rico to help public defenders secure sufficient funds to represent their clients, and he was an expert witness in a lawsuit to declare the Louisiana's public defender system unconstitutional.

To a great extent, Jeff credits his legal education at Chicago Kent to the success he has enjoyed in his legal career. He considers it a great honor to be this year's Commencement speaker at his beloved alma mater, particularly because his son, Fernando, is among this year's graduates.



2023 Valedictorian and LL.M. Class Speaker

Valedictorian

Evan Savage Turcotte

Evan Savage Turcotte graduated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 2013 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. During his time at Chicago-Kent, he served as a research assistant for Professor William Birdthistle and as a teaching assistant for three courses: Torts, Property, and Business Organizations.

He was active in extracurricular activities, working in the Chicago-Kent Tax Clinic and serving as an executive articles editor for *Chicago-Kent Law Review*. In recognition of his academic achievements, Evan was named as a Chicago-Kent Legal Scholar and later received the 2021 Harold J. and Nancy F. Krent Excellence Award for outstanding first year academic achievement. Last summer Evan served as a summer associate in Sidley Austin LLP's Chicago office. He will be joining the firm's real estate transaction team full-time upon graduating.

LL.M. Class Speaker

Ivana Dimitrovska Rajchevska

Ivana Dimitrovska Rajchevska graduated from the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia with a Bachelor of Laws degree (LL.B.) in 2014 and a Master of Laws degree (LL.M.) in Financial Law in 2016. After earning her first LL.M. degree, Ivana was admitted to the Macedonian Bar in 2018.

In 2021 she enrolled in the overseas training program sponsored by Chicago-Kent and the School of American Law. Based on her outstanding academic achievement in that program, Chicago-Kent awarded Ivana a full scholarship to enroll in one of the school's LL.M. programs. During her time at Chicago-Kent, she completed the LL.M. program in Trial Advocacy for International Students, receiving CALI awards for Trial Advocacy I and U.S. Contract Law.



2023 Commencement Participants

Legacy Hooders

Legacy hooders are Chicago-Kent or Illinois Tech alumni and who are immediate family members of students in the graduating class. Thank you to our alumni who are continuing this Chicago-Kent tradition!

Hannah Saed hooded by her first cousin Michael Delrahim '02

Patricia Layden hooded by her father Michael Layden '95

Rachel Grudzinski hooded by her father James Grudzinski '12

Naomi Lazar hooded by her mother Lydia Lazar '00

Razaul Haque hooded by his siblings Saman Haque '20 and Sameeul Haque '19

Fernando Weiner hooded by his father Jeff Weiner '74

Nick Gargano hooded by his mother Athanasia Lagousakos '91 and father Jeffrey Gargano '92

Faculty Hooders and Faculty Distributing Diplomas

Katharine K. Baker

Victoria Carmona

Raff Donelson

Judge David A. Erickson

Steven J. Heyman

Harold J. Krent

Mary T. Nagel

Gregory Reilly

Carolyn Shapiro

Adam J. C. Weber

Jean M. Wenger

2023 Recipients of the Master of Laws (LL.M.)

Master of Laws (LL.M.) in U.S., International & Transnational Law

Abay Abdirov
Askar Abdurakhimov
Orjanda Arizi***
Vitiona Basha***
Elene Basilaia***
Lali Beridze
Anastasiia Bilousko
Maia Boutros
Lorena Bregaj***
Gvantsa Chkheidze***
Kamil Damirli***
Radostin Dimitrov
Elise Dysli
Ana Gardapkhadze
Grid Gjojdeshi
Mikheil Goguadze***
Iaroslava Gudzenko***
Wanqiu Hu
Kevser Karali
Utkir Khidirov***
Mariam Khomeriki
Anna Kukhaleishvili***
Charlotte Lain
Natia Lephsvridze
Vakhtang Lobzhanidz***
Aliya Mammadhasanzade***

Gulnar Mehdiyeva
Yagub Najafli
Alger Osmani***
Ahmet Selim Ozturk
Karen Poghosyan
Yijian Ran
Sandro Sakhvadze
Almas Samalbayev
Zhuoying Shao
Satenik Shahbazyan
Giorgi Sharashidze
Kostiantyn Sheiko
Dinara Shuzhibayeva
Ludovic Sol
Kristine Topadze***
Cuneyt Torlak
Sopio Tsiskarishvili
Dilnoza Turaeva***
Aruzhan Tuzelbay
Serra Ulusoy***
Mariana Vasyliv
Shiqi Wan
Bogdan Yankiv
Gevorg Yeghiazaryan
Qingyu Zhang

Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Global Business & Financial Law

Askar Abdykalykov
Manuela Armic
Elena Boryuk
Dardan Bunjaku
Natali Gogiashvili

Gvantsa Khachidze
Mikheil Kupatadze
Giorgi Managadze
Boban Popevski
Zaal Varsimashvili

* Top 10% of class based on Fall 2022 grades ** Completed studies in Summer 2022 *** Completed studies in Fall 2022

2023 Recipients of the Master of Laws (LL.M.) *Continued*

Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Intellectual Property

Zeynep Seca Aktay
Sarah Cicek
Dimitar Dimoski***
Camille Monchalin
Kenza Tari
Zeta Terpollari

Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Legal Innovation + Technology

Prerna Kothari
Abdulsamed Burak Turak

Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Trial Advocacy for International Students

Elen Avetisyan
Viktorii Chernova
Ivana Dimitrovska Rajchevska
Nargiz Habibova
Ervin Hasani
Thelma Maloisel
Tamta Modebadze
Hovhannes Odabashyan
Adil Ossipov
Sughra Shah
Arjeta Spahiu
Vladimir Teletanski***
Tsofne Tsertsvadze
Sopiko Tsikluari

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2023 Recipients of the Juris Doctor (J.D.) and the Doctor of Juridical Science (J.S.D.)

Doctor of Juridical Science (J.S.D.)

Samiyah Barnawi
Irakli Kakubava

Juris Doctor (J.D.)

Isabelle Sophia Abbott
Hind Abdelaziz
Jumana Atef Abdelrahman
Daniel Abraham
Thaher James Aiyash
Kali Sophia Alexakos
Annora Alfonso
Zoe A. Allen
Jerry Altemar
Aimee Alvarez
Nicholas B. Anderson*
Kevin Andounian**
Tatum Andres**
Siri Arends Graham***
Catherine Arnpriester
Romteen Bahramirad
Emily Barraza
Michael Bay*
Alex Beck
Connor Bernard
Kimberly Bernhard
Lamiaa Bitar***
Michael Boldt
Owen Bradley
Alexander Bradt*
Jonah Brandhandler
Karina Briones
Matthew Burns
Jacob Cadiz

Elizabeth Cannon***
Lindsay Cardosi
Mackenzie Castle
Francesca Centracchio
Rebecca Ellen Chmielewski
David Eric Chrest
Samuel H. Coffey
Danielle J. Craan
Stephen Cruz
Elizabeth Dal Santo
Amber J. Damerow
David Dargel
Allison Daze
Isabella de Barros e Vasconcellos Calves
Evan Deichstetter
Mairead DeWitt
Ruben Diaz
Anna Charles Domer
Nicole M. Dosamantes***
Madilyn Sue Kathleen Dotson
Brenden Dunleavy
Matthew Estenssoro
Jordan Farber
Evan Fear
Rodrigo Ferrando
Louis-Roger Fils-Aimé
Callie Folke
Brandon Furdock
Joshua Gablin

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2023 Recipients of the Juris Doctor (J.D.) *Continued*

Mary Gadbut
Jaqueline Galindo
Audrey T. Gallagher
Giovanni Garcia
Julisa Garcia
Nicholas Gargano
Joseph Garza
Benjamin Ginsky
Daniel Henry Gomez
Erin Granger
Rachel Grudzinski
Kaitlyn Grueter
David Guerra
Cole Gunter
Razaul Haque
Xavier Harris
Michael Healy*
Tyler Hendrix
Henry Hernandez
Mitchell Higgins
Lauren Hipple
Alana Hirsch
Maeghann Hoal
Elizabeth Horwitz*
Liyun Huang***
Catherine Humphrey
Taylor Iaculla
David K. Israel
Benjamin Jacob
Nicole Jansma
Glenn Johnston
Chelsea Alexandria Jones
Jacob Kaplan*
Jessica Kibbe
Joshua Kibert
Hyun Jung Kim
Yeonjoo Lee-Kim
Travis King
Kaitlyn Kloss*
Hannah Koepke

Nicholas Kohler*
Elvira Kovachevich
Emily Kubaitis
Renee Kumon*
Bradley Kupiec
Larisa Kupinszky Gamberg*
Eric J. Landis
Alyssa Lanier
Connor Larson
Marissa Latouche
Patricia Layden
Naomi Lazar*
Benjamin Levine*
Suzanna Lewis*
Cara Lewis
Sofia Lischewski
Callie Lisee
Valeria Lopez-Fernandez
Hayley Loufek
Vasiliki Makris
Ilana Malman
Alicia Mancio
Kristin Mariani***
Cody Marshall***
Ryan Martin*
Stephanie Martinez
Gabriela Martinez
Ryan Mayer
Jonathan McGehee
Edward Messmer
Kelly Meyer
Ryan Mill
Afreen Mohiuddin
Madeline Ann Moore*
Niko Moses
Ian Murray
Katherine Nemeth
Sean Nevin
Kelsea Neal Nolot
Memed Nurceski

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2023 Recipients of the Juris Doctor (J.D.) *Continued*

Dakotah Olah
Patrick Owens*
Jonathan Paddock
Gabriela Padilla-Abarca
David Palla***
Nicholas Panuncialman
Mitchell Parker
Noah Parrill
Priya Patel
Karls Paul-Noel
Patrycia Piaskowski
Gabrielle Pilgrim
Natalia Plichta
Adalberto Ponce-Cruz
Olivia Povedano
Beatrice Radakovich*
Stephanie Raga
Anastasia Redmond
Jacob Regan
Ashley Nicole Rice
Aylissa Ritterhoff
Carly Rogers
Christopher Romero
Aurora Rosado Rodriguez
Devin Ross
Catherine Marie Rovegno
Robert Rucker*
Margaret Maloney Ruddy
Allison Rymek
Alicja Sacha
Hannah Saed***
Hani Salameh
Rana Salem
Sally Salman
Cole Sampson
Brooke Saunders
John Schroeder
Kevin Scott*/***
David Seitaj***
Emily Shapiro

Steven Shonder
Lauren Siedlecki
Maya Simkin
Marianna Sitnikova**
Keaton Smith
Peter Soukenik
Gabriel Moscicki Spellberg
Quin Stack
Dongying Su
Ashley Marie Sutherland
Alison Szumsky
Evan Savage Turcotte*
Marcus Terrell Turner Jr.
Esteban Valtierra
Julia Kathryn Veese
Jorge M. Velazquez
Alden Voelker
Erika Wagner
Alexander Wakefield
John Wallace
Jon H. Walz III
Vera Shenzhi Wang
Saynyenoh Warner
Megan Warshawsky*
Fernando Weiner
Alexander Whang
Monica Whitten
Aleathea Williams
Marrell Williams
Sylvia Wolak***
Jie Yang*
Shannon Yap
Alyssa Yoshino
Yue You
Taylor E. Young
Nicholas Zito
Haley Zobel

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The Bar and Gavel Society

The Student Bar Association (SBA) recognizes graduates who have provided outstanding service to the College, the community, and the legal profession by inducting them into The Bar and Gavel Society, an honorary organization. The Society places emphasis on rewarding unrecognized service.

The 2023 inductees are:

Jumana Atef Abdelrahman

Siri Arends Graham

Joseph Garza

Kaitlyn Kloss

Renee Kumon

Marissa Latouche

Benjamin Levine

Suzanna Lewis

Hayley Loufek

Ryan Martin

Madeline Ann Moore

Rana Salem

Janie Sanford

Evan Savage Turcotte

Aleathea Williams

Academic Regalia

Much of American academic costume is derived from that worn at British universities, particularly Oxford. When Oxford University was granted a charter in 1241, its members wore clerical garb because of the close connection between the university and the church. Academic apparel for colleges and universities in the United States was first introduced at Williams College in 1887. The Intercollegiate Commission drafted the first uniform code in 1895.

GOWN

The bachelor's gown is untrimmed, with long pointed sleeves, and is worn closed. The master's gown has long crescent-shaped sleeves and may be worn open or closed. The doctor's gown has velvet facing down the front and three velvet bars on the bell-shaped sleeves. The velvet is either black or the color of the major field of study. For years most gowns were black, but in the past two decades some American institutions have followed the British usage of red or college colors.

HOOD

The hood is the most important and distinctive feature of the American system. It was originally intended as a head cover and shoulder cape. The color of the trim (edging) is indicated the degree field; for example, law is purple, engineering is orange, architecture is brown. The length of the hood and the width of the trim indicate the degree earned, the doctor's hood being the longest with the widest trim. The color or colors of the hood lining indicate the degree-granting institution. The Illinois Institute of Technology hood lining has the school colors, a single grey chevron on a scarlet field.

CAP AND TASSEL

The academic cap was a later development, first worn as a symbol of the master's degree. The mortar board style cap is an Oxford development. Other European universities have variations—some caps soft, others square, and some round with a tuft in the center. Soft velvet tams with four, six, or eight corners have become popular, superseding the mortar board as the headgear of choice for juris doctors. The tassel of today is an elaboration of the tuft. The Intercollegiate Code permits the color of the graduate's tassel to correspond to the authorized color indicating the degree field; the purple tassel signifies law.

CORDS AND STOLES

Chicago-Kent recognizes the tradition of accessories such as cords, medallions, and stoles in symbolizing academic achievement, graduates' involvement in law school organizations, and completion of the evening program. Graduates recognized as Conviser Scholars or affiliated with a college-approved student organization and evening program graduates are wearing a cord or stole, as set forth below:

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Chicago-Kent Chapter—Wedgewood Cord

American Constitution Society—Navy/Red/White Cord

Black Law Students Association—Kente Stole

Chicago-Kent Journal of Environmental and Energy Law—Dark Green/Gray Cord

Criminal Law Society—Navy Cord

Evening Program—Lavender Cord

Environmental Law Society—Dark Green/Gray Cord

First Generation Law Student Association—Red/Gold/Black Cord

Labor and Employment Law Society—Black/Green/White Cord

LAMBDAΣ—Lilac Cord

Law Review—Maroon Stole

Moot Court Honor Society—Black/Light Blue/White Cord

Muslim Law Students Association—Dark Green Cord

National Lawyers Guild—Kelly Green/Natural Cord

Richard J. Conviser Scholars—Red/Gold Cord

Slavic Law Student Association—Red/White Cord

Sports and Entertainment Law Society—Black/Maize Cord

Student Animal Legal Defense Fund—Black/Orange/White Cord

Teaching Assistants—Black/Gray/White Cord

Women in Law—Purple/Maize/White Cord

Chicago-Kent College of Law Full-Time Faculty

Emily Aleisa

Associate Professor of Legal Research and Writing; Assistant Director for Martin H. Malin Institute for Law and the Workplace

Lori B. Andrews

University Distinguished Professor Emerita; Professor of Law Emerita; Director of the Institute for Science, Law and Technology

Kimberly D. Bailey

Associate Professor of Law; Norman and Edna Freehling Scholar

Katharine K. Baker

University Distinguished Professor; Professor of Law

Felice Batlan

Professor of Law; Director of the Institute for Compliance; Co-Director of the Institute for Law and the Humanities

William A. Birdthistle

Professor of Law

Evelyn Brody

Professor of Law Emerita

Bartram S. Brown

Professor of Law Emeritus

Victoria Carmona

Assistant Clinical Professor of Law

Howard S. Chapman

Professor of Law Emeritus

Sungjoon Cho

Professor of Law

Lew Collens

Professor of Law Emeritus; President Emeritus, Illinois Institute of Technology

Lurene Contento

Professor of Legal Writing

Richard Conviser

Professor of Law

Elizabeth De Armond

Professor of Legal Research and Writing; Director of the Legal Research and Writing Program

Rhonda de Freitas

Clinical Professor of Law

Anna Debush

Visiting Assistant Professor

Jonathan P. Decatorsmith

Clinical Professor of Law; Director of Clinical Education

Graeme Dinwoodie

Global Professor of Intellectual Property Law; Co-Director of the Program in Intellectual Property Law

Raff Donelson

Associate Professor of Law

Howard C. Eglit

Professor of Law Emeritus

David A. Erickson

Director of the Trial Advocacy Program; Co-Director of the Program in Criminal Litigation; Senior Instructor

Jamie Franklin

Assistant Clinical Professor of Law

David Gerber

University Distinguished Professor Emeritus; Professor of Law Emeritus

Ronald Gieseke

Visiting Assistant Professor

Douglas Wm. Godfrey

Professor of Legal Research and Writing

Richard J. Gonzalez

Clinical Professor of Law

Vivien Gross

Clinical Professor of Law

Philip Hablutzel

Professor of Law Emeritus; Director of the Institute of Business Law

Sarah K. Harding

Associate Professor of Law Emerita

Edward C. Harris

Associate Professor of Legal Research and Writing

Steven J. Heyman

Professor of Law

Kari Johnson

Professor of Legal Research and Writing

Daniel Katz

Professor of Law; Director of the Law Lab

Cherish M. Keller

Director of the Ilana Diamond Rovner Program in Appellate Advocacy; Professor of Legal Research and Writing

Pam Kentra

Clinical Professor of Law

Nancy Kim

Professor of Law; Michael Paul Galvin Chair in Entrepreneurship and Applied Legal Technology

Richard S. Kling

Clinical Professor of Law

Harold J. Krent

Professor of Law

Chicago-Kent College of Law Full-Time Faculty *Continued*

Anita K. Krug

Dean; Professor of Law

Gary Laser

Associate Professor of Law Emeritus

Edward Lee

Professor of Law; Co-Director of the Program in Intellectual Property Law

Martin H. Malin

Professor of Law Emeritus

Nancy S. Marder

Professor of Law; Director of The Justice John Paul Stevens Jury Center; Co-Director of the Institute for Law and the Humanities

John Mulligan

Visiting Assistant Professor

Mary Nagel

Visiting Assistant Professor

Sheldon H. Nahmod

University Distinguished Professor Emeritus and Professor of Law Emeritus

Henry Perritt

Professor of Law Emeritus

Mickie A. Voges Piatt

Associate Professor of Law Emerita

Nicole Porter

Professor of Law and Director of the Martin H. Malin Institute for Law and the Workplace

Gregory Reilly

Associate Professor of Law; Co-Director of the Program in Intellectual Property Law

William Reynolds

Assistant Clinical Professor of Law

Eve Rips

Visiting Assistant Professor

Jenifer M. Robbins

Director of the Financial Markets Compliance Online Program; Director of Experiential Learning; Senior Lecturer

Mark D. Rosen

University Distinguished Professor; Professor of Law

Marsha Ross-Jackson

University Ombudsman; Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Student Professional Development; Executive Director of the Martin H. Malin Institute for Law and the Workplace; Senior Lecturer

David Rudstein

Professor of Law Emeritus

Christopher W. Schmidt

Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Institute on the Supreme Court of the United States

Carolyn Shapiro

Professor of Law; Associate Dean for Academic Administration and Strategic Initiatives

Noah Smith-Drelich

Assistant Professor of Law

Stephen D. Sowle

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Senior Lecturer

Michael Spak

Professor of Law Emeritus

Ronald W. Staudt

Professor of Law Emeritus

Joan E. Steinman

University Distinguished Professor Emerita; Professor of Law Emerita

Deadra Woods Stokes

Assistant Clinical Professor of Law

A. Dan Tarlock

University Distinguished Professor Emeritus; Professor of Law Emeritus

Adrian J. Walters

Professor of Law; Director of the Program in Business Law

Richard Warner

Professor of Law

Adam Weber

Associate Dean for International Programs; Assistant Teaching Professor

Jean M. Wenger

Director of the Law Library; Senior Lecturer

Richard Wright

University Distinguished Professor Emeritus; Professor of Law Emeritus

Chicago-Kent Senior Administration

Jenna K. Abhijeet

Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

Alexander A. Boni-Saenz

Associate Dean for Scholarship and Faculty Development

Christina Brown

Assistant Dean for Advancement

Anita K. Krug

Dean; Professor of Law

Marsha Ross-Jackson

University Ombudsperson; Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Student Professional Development; Executive Director of the Martin H. Malin Institute for Law and the Workplace; Senior Lecturer

Dawn E. Rupcich

Assistant Dean for Administration, Finance, Facilities, Financial Aid, and Information Technology Services

Roger Rozanski

Assistant Dean for Career Services

Carolyn Shapiro

Associate Dean for Administration and Strategic Initiatives

Stephen D. Sowle

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Senior Lecturer

Nicole Vilches

Assistant Dean for Admissions

Adam Weber

Associate Dean of International Programs; Assistant Teaching Professor

Jean Wenger

Director of the Chicago-Kent College of Law Library; Senior Lecturer

About Chicago-Kent College of Law

Founded in 1888 by two judges who believed that legal education should be available to working men and women, Chicago-Kent College of Law is the second oldest law school in Illinois. It was accredited by the American Bar Association in 1936, became a member of the Association of American Law Schools in 1951, and was elected unanimously to the Order of the Coif law school honor society in 1988. Soon after its founding, the law school graduated its first female and minority students, becoming a leader in legal education early on in its history.

As part of the Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago-Kent College of Law has grown into a leader in legal education, recognized for scholarly excellence and for a commitment to being the “law school ahead of the times.” Its faculty, one of the most productive groups of legal scholars in the country through publication of leading texts and articles across a wide array of subjects, bring their scholarship to the classroom where students explore topical issues that enliven discussions and enrich learning.

Chicago-Kent is also renowned for curricular innovation. Its acclaimed legal research and writing program is the most comprehensive legal writing curriculum in the country. The law school is committed to providing interdisciplinary opportunities for legal education through specialized certificate programs in business law, criminal litigation, environmental and energy law, intellectual property law, international and comparative law, labor and employment law, legal innovation + technology, litigation and alternative dispute resolution, privacy law, the praxis program, public interest law, and workplace litigation & alternative dispute resolution. Chicago-Kent also offers a number of advanced degree programs reflecting the law school’s philosophy that tomorrow’s legal professionals will require the broadest possible range of interprofessional skills to achieve success. The school offers dual-degree programs in business administration, environmental management and sustainability, finance, and public policy and administration, as well as LL.M. degrees in global business and financial law; U.S., international and transnational law; international intellectual property law; legal innovation + technology; and trial advocacy for international students.

Another area of curricular innovation is found in the Chicago-Kent Law Offices. The Law Offices pioneered the development of a sequential clinical curriculum and was the first fee-generating law clinic operated by an American law school. Focusing on practical skills training is important at Chicago-Kent; students obtain experience through internships with the Law Offices and externships with law firms, corporate law departments, government agencies, public interest agencies, and federal judges. The law school’s practical skills programs successfully prepare Chicago-Kent graduates for the practice of law and often bring national attention to Chicago-Kent. Students in the trial advocacy and appellate advocacy programs regularly and consistently win local, regional, and national competitions.

Join us today in congratulating and saluting this year’s graduating class. They will enter the legal profession with the century-old legacy of excellence in both scholarship and service that has become synonymous with Chicago-Kent College of Law.