



UMASS LAW

CXXVII
117th Commencement

Monday, May 15, 2017

Bailey Auditorium
UMass Dartmouth
Dartmouth, Massachusetts

UMass Dartmouth Mission

UMass Dartmouth distinguishes itself as a vibrant, public research university dedicated to engaged learning and innovative research resulting in personal and lifelong student success. The University serves as an intellectual catalyst for economic, social, and cultural transformation on a global, national, and regional scale.

UMass Dartmouth Vision

UMass Dartmouth will be a globally recognized premier research university committed to inclusion, access, advancement of knowledge, student success, and community enrichment.

UMass School of Law Mission

UMass Law is the Commonwealth's public law school. We are committed to providing an excellent, affordable, and accessible legal education. Our collegial community respects and promotes diversity in identity and ideas. Our program balances legal theory, doctrine, skills, experience, and professionalism. We strive to graduate competent, ethical, and creative professionals who exercise sound judgment. Our involvement in the legal community enables our students to thrive in a changing profession and to serve the needs of their future clients. We advance justice within and beyond the Commonwealth through our research, writing, teaching, learning, practice, and engagement with the profession.

The permanent record kept in the Office of the University Registrar for each student will certify the award of degree and carry his or her grades, averages, and honors (if any). At commencement, students graduating with distinction are noted only if that distinction has been earned at the end of the previous semester.

The names appearing in the Commencement Program represent an unofficial listing of candidates.

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Honorees

Morris Dees / Doctor of Laws, *Honoris Causa* / Commencement Address

Founder and Chief Legal Counsel, Southern Poverty Law Center

Morris Dees co-founded the Southern Poverty Law Center in 1971 following a successful business and law career. Attorney Dees started a direct mail sales company specializing in book publishing while still a student at the University of Alabama, where he also obtained a law degree.

After launching a law practice in Montgomery in 1960, he won a series of groundbreaking civil rights cases that helped integrate government and public institutions. He also served as finance director for former President Jimmy Carter's campaign in 1976 and for Democratic presidential nominee George McGovern in 1972.

Known for his innovative lawsuits that crippled some of America's most notorious white supremacist hate groups, he has received more than 20 honorary degrees and numerous awards. Those include Trial Lawyer of the Year from Trial Lawyers for Public Justice, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Award from the National Education Association and The Salem Award for Human Rights and Social Justice.

Attorney Dees was named one of the 100 most influential lawyers in America by the National Law Journal in 2006. In addition, the University of Alabama Law School and the New York law firm Skadden Arps jointly created the annual Morris Dees Justice Award to honor a lawyer devoted to public service work.

He has written three books: *A Season for Justice*, his autobiography; *Hate on Trial: The Case Against America's Most Dangerous Neo-Nazi*; and *Gathering Storm: America's Militia Threat*.



Sheyla Lors '17 / Student Address

School of Law

Sheyla Lors is a Brooklyn, New York native who earned her bachelor's degree in criminology from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Ms. Lors dedicated her high school and college years to serving her local community as a youth leader and liaison within the Haitian-American communities of five states and as an HIV Prevention Peer Educator.

Born to two Haitian immigrants who instilled in her the importance of education, Sheyla worked as a Business Control Assistant at Nordea Bank Finland Plc, and was encouraged to attend law school by her supervisor. In August 2014, Ms. Lors made the decision to leave New York to attend UMass Law as a full-time student. Her studies led her to develop an interest in International and Human Rights Law, and strengthened her commitment to serving disenfranchised communities locally and overseas. After sitting for the bar examination this summer, Ms. Lors will be providing pro bono legal services to marginalized groups in Cape Town, South Africa.



Order of Exercises

Academic Procession

The audience is requested to remain seated until after the processional has been completed.

National Anthem Rebecca Lacoste '17

Invocation

Reverend Dr. Robert P. Lawrence

Welcome

Peyton R. Helm
Interim Chancellor

Greetings from the Board of Trustees

Edward W. Collins Jr.
Vice Chair

Greetings from the President

Martin T. Meehan

Greetings from the Dean

Eric J. Mitnick

Student Address

Sheyla Lors '17

Conferring of the Honorary Degree

Morris Dees
Presenter
Interim Dean Eric J. Mitnick

Commencement Address

Morris Dees,
Founder and Chief Legal Counsel,
Southern Poverty Law Center

Announcement of Awards

Eric J. Mitnick
Interim Dean

Hooding of the Candidates and Conferring of Juris Doctor Degrees

Martin T. Meehan
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Interim Chancellor
Eric J. Mitnick
Interim Dean

2017 School of Law

Eric J. Mitnick
Interim Dean

Reader

Shaun B. Spencer

Juris Doctor Recipients

Kristina Elizabeth Arruda **

Donald C. Arthur, M.D. ***

Lisa M. Azar *

Scott M. Baron **

Susan Elizabeth Bielan **

Seneca E. Boyer

Nicholas C. Butland *

Felicia Lee Carboni *

Jasmine S. Carnegie

Olivia C. Cataldo

Mary W. Chaffee **

Steven Connor Chamberland

Casey J. Christo

Teri Evelyn Chung

Randall J. Collette

Patrick J. Cramer

Jessica L. Cruzatti-Flavius

Ethan Aaron Dazelle ***

Diana Holly DeQuattro **

Melissa E. Dumoulin

Ashley Elizabeth Gustafson **

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Emmett Kaidon Hardiman

Rhiannon Lee James

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Rebecca Lacoste *

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Sheyla Lors

Bryce Lukens

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Erin McAndrews

Ryan Manuel Medeiros

Valentine M. Mello

George Louis Mesmar

Shayla J. Mombeleur

Kathleen Anne Monaghan

Julian Alexander Cabral Pinto

Kendal M. Poirier *

Erin G. Rousseau

Michael J. Silva *

Nicholas A. Spath

Justin James Sullivan

Erica Gloria Sylvia **

Lauren E. Sylvia

Peter Gregory Thomas

Angela Marie McDonough Tieng

Thaddeus C. Tirrell *

Honors designations, pending final grades

*** *Summa Cum Laude*

** *Magna Cum Laude*

* *Cum Laude*

Recognition

Academic Fellows

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Susan Elizabeth Bielan
Nicholas C. Butland
Felicia Lee Carboni
Mary W. Chaffee
Steven Connor Chamberland
Teri Evelyn Chung
Ethan Aaron Dazelle
Ashley Elizabeth Gustafson
Dawn M. Kelliher
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