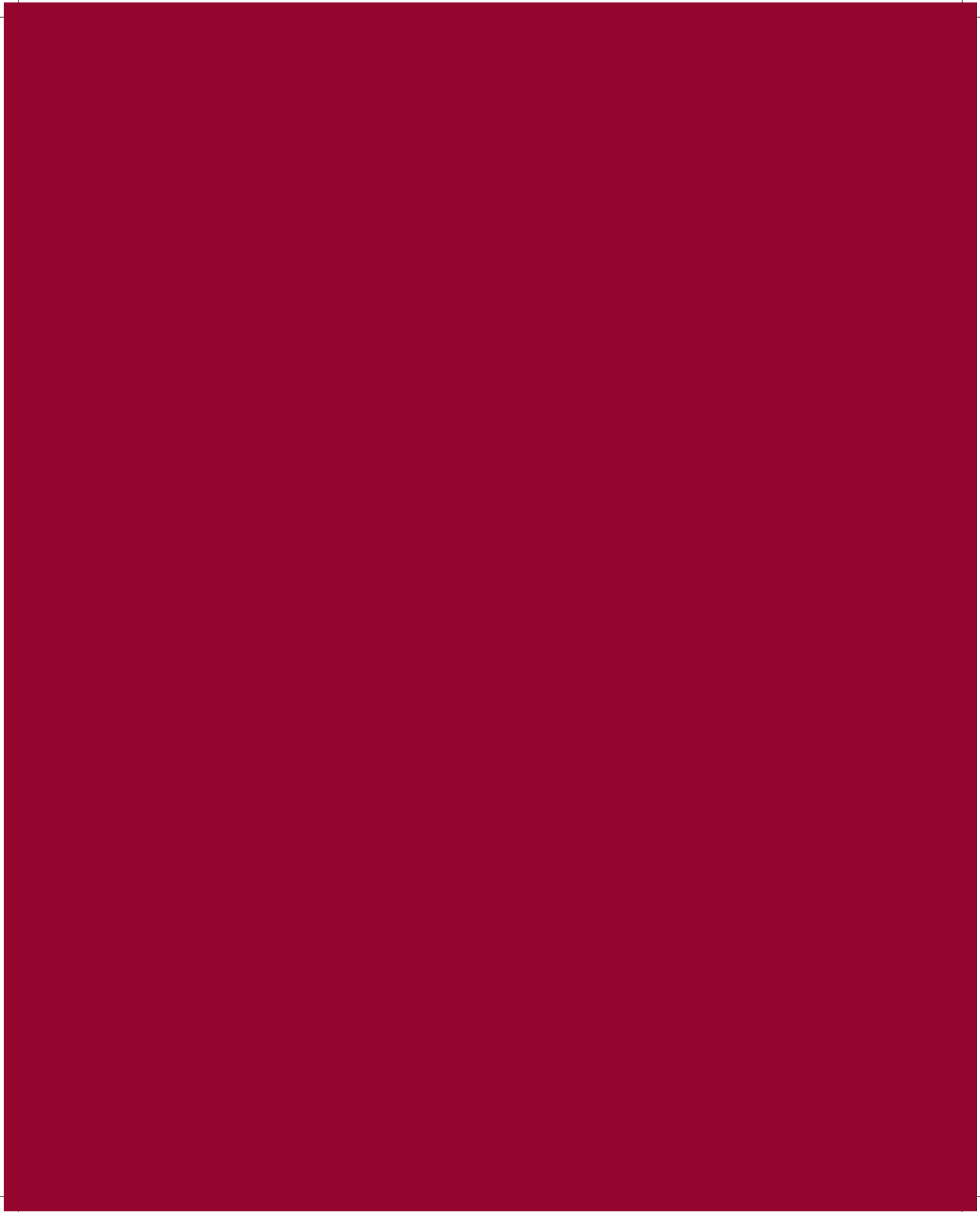




University of South Carolina



Alma Mater

“WE HAIL THEE, CAROLINA”

(Tune: Flow Gently, Sweet Afton)

We hail thee, Carolina, and sing thy high praise;
With loyal devotion, rememb'ring the days,
When proudly we sought thee, thy children to be;
Here's a health, Carolina, forever to thee!

G.A. Wauchope



University of South Carolina

Commencement Exercises

Joseph F. Rice School of Law

May 10, 2025

The Horseshoe

Today's Ceremony

Welcome to the University of South Carolina on this day of special recognition of our candidates for graduation. We hope you will find these ceremonies — a culmination of the efforts of the faculty, administration, our students, and their families — both meaningful and impressive.

While awaiting the start of the ceremonies, you may wish to read the historical note on South Carolina's oldest university on the following pages. There follows a brief description of the Carolina Mace, symbol of the university's immortal dignity and of the combined endeavors of the university community, as well as a detailed description of the academic costumes worn by members of the processions and our candidates for graduation.

The exercises will begin with a series of academic processions. They are led by the president of the Student Bar Association and the university mace party, followed by the faculty marshal, members of the Joseph F. Rice School of Law faculty, candidates for degrees, the registrar, the provost, members of the university Board of Trustees and distinguished guests, the dean of the Joseph F. Rice School of Law, and the university president.

When the dean of the Joseph F. Rice School of Law closes the ceremonies following the awarding of all degrees, the audience is asked to rise for the singing of the Alma Mater after which the platform party will recess. The words of the song were penned by Professor George Wauchope of the English Department in 1911 and were adopted in 1912. The tune is that of "Flow Gently, Sweet Afton." "Here's a health, Carolina!" is a phrase which is repeated in Carolina's Alma Mater. Over the years, the custom has arisen of raising the right hand, with the fingers cupped, when the phrase, "Here's a health, Carolina!" occurs, as if offering a toast. The Alma Mater is always sung with heads uncovered.

Thank you for joining us for the commencement ceremony. Congratulations to the Class of 2025 — the newest alumni of the University of South Carolina Joseph F. Rice School of Law.

Order of Exercises

PRESIDING

Dr. Michael D. Amiridis
President

PRELUDE

Mr. William P. DuBose III
Principal Piper and Visiting Artist, South Carolina Philharmonic

PROCESSIONS

The University Mace
The Candidates for Degrees
The Provost
The Faculty Marshal
The School of Law Faculty
The Board of Trustees and Distinguished Guest
The Dean
The President

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Ms. Rebecca René Kelley
Juris Doctor Degree Candidate, Joseph F. Rice School of Law

INVOCATION

Mr. Ben Burchardi
Carolina Navigators

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. William C. Hubbard
Dean, Joseph F. Rice School of Law

REMARKS

The President

CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREE

The President
Dr. Donna K. Arnett
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Dr. Luther Cameron Howell IV
Secretary of the Board of Trustees

**HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT
WITH SPECIAL REMARKS**

The Honorable Sherri Allen Lydon
Esteemed Jurist and Advocate for Advancing the Cause of Justice

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

The Provost

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

The President

HOODING AND RECOGNITION OF RECIPIENTS

The Provost

The Dean

Ms. Susan Kuo

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Mr. Ned Snow

Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Scholarship

CLOSING REMARKS

The Dean

ALMA MATER

Ms. Briana Amanda Melton

Juris Doctor Degree Graduate, Joseph F. Rice School of Law

RECESSIONAL

University of South Carolina Faculty Brass Quintet

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The university is governed on behalf of the people of South Carolina by a Board of Trustees. Sixteen trustees are elected by the General Assembly, one from each judicial circuit. There are three ex officio members, including the governor of South Carolina or a designee, the state superintendent of education

and the president of the University of South Carolina Alumni Association. There is also one at-large gubernatorial appointee. The president of the Student Government and the chair of the Faculty Senate serve as nonvoting members of the board.

The current composition of the board is as follows:

Henry D. McMaster Governor of South Carolina <i>ex officio Chair</i>	C. Dan Adams <i>Gubernatorial Designee</i>	Richard A. Jones Jr. <i>Gubernatorial Appointee</i>	Ellen Weaver <i>Superintendent of Education</i>
Thad H. Westbrook 11th Judicial Circuit <i>Chair</i>	W. Michael Bond <i>USC Alumni Association</i>	Hubert F. Mobley <i>6th Judicial Circuit</i>	Charles H. Williams II <i>1st Judicial Circuit</i>
Rose Buyck Newton 14th Judicial Circuit <i>Vice Chair</i>	Coleman Floyd Buckhouse, M.D. <i>12th Judicial Circuit</i>	Leah B. Moody <i>16th Judicial Circuit</i>	Luther Cameron Howell IV <i>Secretary</i>
C. Dorn Smith III, M.D. 3rd Judicial Circuit <i>Chair Emeritus</i>	Alex English <i>5th Judicial Circuit</i>	Emma W. Morris <i>10th Judicial Circuit</i>	F. Wayne Outten <i>Faculty Senate Chair</i>
	Brian C. Harlan <i>8th Judicial Circuit</i>	Reid T. Sherard <i>13th Judicial Circuit</i>	
	Henry L. Jolly Jr., D.M.D. <i>7th Judicial Circuit</i>	John C. von Lehe Jr. <i>9th Judicial Circuit</i>	Courtney Tkacs <i>Student Body President</i>

COMMITTEE ON COMMENCEMENT

Anna Edwards and Caroline Hulett, *Co-Chairs*

Kendall Barnes	Laveta G. Gibson	Aaron Marterer	Alec Shettle
Whitney Bedard	Eric Grabski Sr.	Kimberley Massey	Marie Spell
Ellen Elaine Belesky	Cary Graham	Nainaa Oberoi	Nikita Stanley
Pamela Bowman	Doug Helms	F. Wayne Outten	Elizabeth Suddeth
Marissa Buck	Chris M. Horn	Diane Parham	CJ Tamasco
Courtney Buzan	L. Cameron Howell IV	Garrick Queen	Nate Terracio
Curt Derrick	Sidney Kenyon	Kirk Randazzo	Courtney Tkacs
Barrington Duvall	Karen Magradey	Joe Sasso	J. Rex Tolliver
Susan Elkins	Cherrie Markey	Megan Seiner	Eric Williams
Valerie Gerfin			Dana Woodward

ANNOUNCER AND MUSICIANS

Karen Reagan Britton
Vice Dean for Admissions and Career & Professional Development

Charles Polk - Trumpet
Emily Schweickert - Horn

Dick Goodwin - Trumpet

Michael Wilkinson - Trombone
Ron Davis - Tuba

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA UNIVERSITY OFFICERS

Michael D. Amiridis, Ph.D., *President*
Caroline Agardy, M.P.A., *Vice President for Human Resources*
Donna K. Arnett, Ph.D., *Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost*
John Bible Jr., M.B.A., *Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer*
Stephen J. Cutler, Ph.D., *Vice President for Economic Development*
Dan Dillon, M.B.A., *Vice President for Marketing*
Michelle Dodenhoff, M.A., *Vice President for Development*
Jeremiah Donati, J.D., *Director of Athletics*
Anna Edwards, Ph.D., *Chief of Staff*
Susan A. Elkins, Ed.D., *Chancellor, Palmetto College*
Julius Fridriksson, Ph.D., *Vice President for Research*
Bennie L. Harris, Ph.D., *Chancellor, USC Upstate*
Daniel J. Heimmermann, Ph.D., *Chancellor, USC Aiken*
Al M. Panu, Ph.D., *Chancellor, USC Beaufort*
Walter H. Parham, J.D., *General Counsel and Executive Director of Compliance Programs*
J. Rex Tolliver, J.D., *Vice President for Student Affairs and Academic Support*
Scott Verzyl, Ph.D., *Vice President for Enrollment Management and Dean of Undergraduate Admissions*
Edward L. Walton, B.A., *Executive Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer*
Julian R. Williams, J.D., *Interim Vice President for System Affairs and Vice President for Access, Civil Rights and Community Engagement*

UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC OFFICIALS

Lara Lomicka Anderson, Ph.D., *Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs and Dean of Undergraduate Studies*
Jeannette O. Andrews, Ph.D., *Dean, College of Nursing*
David Banush, M.L.I.S., *Dean, University Libraries*
Teri Browne, Ph.D., *Dean, College of Social Work*
Courtney Catledge, D.N.P., *Interim Palmetto College Campus Dean, USC Lancaster*
April R. Cone, D.N.P., *Palmetto College Campus Dean, USC Salkehatchie*
M. Ron Cox Jr., Ph.D., *Palmetto College Campus Dean, USC Columbia*
Stephen J. Cutler, Ph.D., *Dean, College of Pharmacy*
Mary Anne Fitzpatrick, Ph.D., *Interim Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Dean of the Faculty*
Hossein Haj-Hariri, Ph.D., *Dean, Molinaroli College of Engineering and Computing*
C. Tayloe Harding Jr., D.Mus., *Dean, School of Music*
Gerald Harmon, M.D., *Interim Dean, School of Medicine Columbia*
Thomas E. Hodges, Ph.D., *Dean, College of Education*
William C. Hubbard, J.D., *Dean, Joseph F. Rice School of Law*
Randy Lowell, Ph.D., *Palmetto College Campus Dean, USC Union*
Steven Lynn, Ph.D., *Dean, South Carolina Honors College*
Phyllis MacGilvray, M.D., *Dean, School of Medicine Greenville*
Shannon Means, M.P.A., *Vice Provost for Strategy and Innovation*
Tom Reichert, Ph.D., *Dean, College of Information and Communications*
Eric Reisenauer, Ph.D., *Interim Palmetto College Campus Dean, USC Sumter*
Tara Sabo-Attwood, Ph.D., *Dean, Arnold School of Public Health*
Michael Sagas, Ed.D., *Dean, College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management*
Joel H. Samuels, J.D., *Dean, McCausland College of Arts and Sciences*
Samuel Y. Todd, Ph.D., *Vice Provost and Associate Vice President for Global Affairs*
Ann Vail, Ph.D., *Dean, The Graduate School*
Rohit Verma, Ph.D., *Dean, Darla Moore School of Business*

CAROLINA — A HISTORICAL NOTE

“FAITHFUL INDEX TO THE AMBITIONS AND FORTUNES OF THE STATE”

The Palmetto State established South Carolina College on December 19, 1801, as part of an effort to unite South Carolinians in the wake of the American Revolution, promoting “the good order and harmony” of the state. The founding of South Carolina’s state college was also part of the Southern public college movement spurred by Thomas Jefferson. Within 20 years of one another, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia established state-supported colleges.

In the antebellum era, the Palmetto State generously supported South Carolina College. Its faculty included noted European scholars, such as Francis Lieber and Thomas Cooper, as well as renowned American scholars John and Joseph LeConte. Offering a classical curriculum, South Carolina College became one of the South’s most influential colleges, earning a reputation as the training ground for South Carolina’s antebellum elite.

South Carolina’s secession from the Union unleashed the devastation of the American Civil War, and the state and South Carolina College paid dearly. The institution closed for want of students, and in the ensuing decades, it struggled to regain its former status.

As Reconstruction from the Civil War proceeded, the state’s General Assembly chose the first African Americans to serve on the university’s Board of Trustees in 1868, and in 1873 the first Black students enrolled. While politically controversial, this development was an extraordinary opportunity at a time when opportunities for higher education were rare. The University of South Carolina became the only Southern state university to admit and grant degrees to African American students during the Reconstruction era.

Following the end of Reconstruction in 1877, South Carolina’s conservative leaders closed the university. They reopened it in 1880 as an all-white agricultural college, and during the next 25 years, the institution became enmeshed in the state’s political upheaval. South Carolina went through several reorganizations in which the curriculum changed and its status shifted from college to university and back again. The university also struggled to adjust to the arrival of intercollegiate athletics in 1892 and the admission of white women in 1894.

In 1906, the institution was rechartered for the final time as the University of South Carolina. In 1917, it became South Carolina’s first state-supported college or university to earn regional accreditation, and the 1920s brought the introduction of new colleges and degree programs, including the doctorate.

The Great Depression temporarily stalled progress, but the outbreak of World War II launched an era that transformed the university. South Carolina hosted

naval training programs during the war, and enrollment more than doubled in the postwar era as veterans took advantage of the G.I. Bill. In the 1950s, the university began recruiting national-caliber faculty members and expanded its footprint with the establishment of campuses across South Carolina.

In 1963, the University of South Carolina became desegregated. As the result of a federal court order, Henrie D. Monteith, Robert Anderson and James Solomon became the first Black students to enroll at the university in the 20th century. Minority enrollment would continue to grow in their wake and was complemented by a substantial international student population in subsequent decades.

At the same time, the university was undergoing explosive growth as the baby-boom generation entered college. Enrollment stood at 5,660 in 1960 but nearly quadrupled 20 years later. That increase in the student body was accompanied by the introduction of many new programs, including three that would prove to be momentous.

University 101 became a national model for cultivating freshman-year success; the accompanying National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition is based at the university. The international Master of Business Administration program, also launched in the 1970s, has consistently ranked among the country’s top three such programs. The honors program blossomed into the South Carolina Honors College and is hailed among the nation’s finest.

As the result of concerted efforts to expand its research capabilities, the university in 2006 was designated by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a research institution of “very high research activity,” the foundation’s highest classification. The university is one of a select number of public universities to receive both the Carnegie Foundation’s top-tier research designation and community engagement designation.

South Carolina’s Bicentennial Campaign helped usher in the 21st century as the university celebrated a 200-year legacy of educating leaders for the state, the nation and the world. In recent years, the University of South Carolina system has launched an online degree-completion program through Palmetto College. Together with the college’s four campuses across the state, the online program offers students greater flexibility to complete coursework and speeds bachelor’s degree completion. These comprehensive programs have helped the university secure its place as a first-choice destination for students seeking the lifelong value of a quality higher education experience.

HISTORY OF THE JOSEPH F. RICE SCHOOL OF LAW

First authorized in 1820, the University of South Carolina School of Law did not open until 1867 when the first professorship in law was filled by A.C. Haskell. The school awarded its first two degrees the next year. In the decade following, the school produced nearly 40 new lawyers, including some of the first African-American lawyers in the United States. The law school closed for seven years, then reopened in 1884 when Joseph Daniel Pope was named professor of law. Under his influence, the faculty expanded, and the law school became a separate academic department.

From 1884 to 1900, Pope taught the entire law curriculum at South Carolina College. In 1900 another professor was added to the faculty, and Pope became dean of the School of Law. When Pope died in 1908, he was succeeded by Professor M. Herndon Moore. At that time, the faculty was further expanded to add John P. Thomas Jr. and J. Nelson Frierson, both of whom would later become deans. Deans Moore and Thomas modernized the law school and strengthened admissions requirements, and the law program became a full two-year course of study.

Frierson served as dean from 1920 to 1946. Under his leadership, the school earned membership in the Association of American Law Schools in 1924, and the following year the school was accredited by the American Bar Association. Dean Frierson also oversaw expansion of the curriculum to a three-year course and further growth in the faculty.

Samuel L. Prince, a practicing attorney from Anderson, South Carolina, succeeded Frierson as dean in 1946. Four years later, the school moved to a new and larger building, Petigru College, at the corner of Greene and Pickens streets. The building is named for James Louis Petigru, under whom the first dean, Joseph Daniel Pope, had read law.

Robert McCormick Figg Jr., one of South Carolina's preeminent practitioners, followed Prince as dean in 1959. During Figg's ten-year term as dean, the school

expanded considerably, eventually exceeding the capacity of Petigru College. Figg's initiative produced a commitment to construct a new building, which was completed during the term of his successor, Robert W. Foster. Following Foster as dean during the 1970s and early 1980s were Harry J. Haynsworth, Richard E. Day, Harry M. Lightsey Jr., and Charles H. Randall Jr. In 1987, John E. Montgomery, a long-time faculty member and associate dean, became dean; he served for sixteen years before returning to the faculty in 2003. Francis P. Mood, a Columbia attorney, served briefly as interim dean prior to the appointment of Burnele Venable Powell as dean in January 2004. Dean Powell returned to the faculty in January 2006. Philip T. Lacy was interim dean until the appointment of Walter F. Pratt Jr., who began his service on July 1, 2006. Dean Pratt returned to the faculty in June 2011. Robert M. Wilcox was appointed dean in July 2011. Prior to his appointment, Dean Wilcox was Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and a faculty member of the law school and returned to the faculty in August 2020. William C. Hubbard began his appointment as dean in August 2020.

On November 10, 2023, the school of law officially became the University of South Carolina Joseph F. Rice School of Law in recognition of the transformational gift donated by Joseph F. Rice, his wife, Lisa, and their daughter, Ann E. Rice Ervin. The purpose of the donation is to support scholarships, professorships, and a multitude of programs, including the children's law concentration program, public interest awards, and civil litigation training.

The University of South Carolina Joseph F. Rice School of Law draws on its rich and lengthy tradition to play a vital role in the institutions of law and government of the Palmetto State. A faculty of some fifty members enjoys a growing national reputation. The school's students continue to be sought by public and private employers and to make significant contributions to the state, the nation, and the world.

ACADEMIC COSTUMES

The academic costumes worn in today's procession and at other formal university occasions trace their origins to those worn by faculty members and students at medieval European universities. With only minor modifications, these costumes have remained largely unchanged since the 16th century. Standards for colleges and universities in the United States were established in 1895 with the adoption of an intercollegiate code that specifies design and color appropriate for various degrees. As in medieval times, the costumes worn on formal academic occasions denote the wearer's academic heritage.

Modern academic costume consists of three parts: the gown or robe, a headpiece, and a hood. The gown denotes the wearer's level of education.

The doctoral gown is full flowing and has large bell shaped sleeves. It is trimmed with velvet panels down the front and has velvet bars on the sleeves. While black is still the predominant color for doctoral gowns, the trim may be in a color which denotes the wearer's discipline or the color of the gown may denote the wearer's university.

The University of South Carolina's doctoral gown is garnet with black velvet panels and bars. The university seal is embroidered on the panels. In today's procession, this gown is worn by the members of the Board of Trustees.

The mortar board is the headpiece most often worn at American universities for formal occasions. It is appropriately worn with the board flat on the top of the head and with the tassel falling from the left quarter of the board. Tassel colors denote the field or discipline in which the wearer's degree was earned. Doctoral tassels are often gold. The soft velvet Tudor cap is also worn by many who hold the doctorate.

While the gown and headpiece denote the wearer's level of education, it is the hood which adds meaning and dimension to the academic costume. Changed little since medieval times, the hood is worn falling from the shoulders down the back of the gown in a display of vivid color. It is edged in velvet, which by its color denotes the field or discipline in which the wearer's degree was earned, and it is lined in two colors of silk which represent the college or university from which the degree was earned. Hence, the University of South Carolina Joseph E Rice School of Law hood is lined in garnet and black and edged with purple denoting the discipline of law.

Honors may be designated by the wearing of a cord or a stole. The gold braided honor cord, worn draped from the neck on the front of the gown, designates the wearer as an honor graduate. This cord may be worn by baccalaureate degree candidates and doctoral degree candidates in law and medicine.

THE UNIVERSITY MACE AND PRESIDENT'S MEDALLION

The University Mace was designed and fashioned by Leslie Durbin, distinguished silversmith of London, England. Academic maces are historically regarded as manifestations of the "immortal dignity" of universities and thus represent the past, present and future. Officially adopted in 1967, the mace was presented to the university as a memorial to Susan Richardson Guignard by an alumnus, Dr. George Curry.

The brilliantly gleaming silver-and-gilt mace is nearly four feet long. Mounted on the head are the seal of the university, the seal of the State of South Carolina and the Great Seal of the United States. From the middle of these arises a stylistic representation of the State Tree, the palmetto, the fronds of which are formed by a group of 13 stars representing the founding colonies, which include South Carolina. The shaft is decorated with eight stars, reminding us that South Carolina was the eighth state to enter the Union.

The University Mace is carried in procession on occasions of outstanding importance, such as commencements, convocations and formal dedications. The placement of the mace on its stand signals that the proceedings are about to come to order; its retirement indicates the conclusion of the exercises. The mace is carried in procession by the president of Student Government and escorted by the university chaplain and representatives of the faculty, emeriti, alumni, the Board of Trustees and the university community at large.

The significance of the mace is mirrored in the Presidential Medallion and Chain of Office, which designate the wearer as the temporary embodiment of the institution's power and authority. The gift of the medallion accompanied the gift of the mace, and the linked silver Chain of Office was commissioned in 1991 by the Presidential Candidate Search Committee.

CITATION FOR THE HONORARY DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LAWS

SHERRI ALLEN LYDON

The Honorable Sherri Allen Lydon, a U.S. District Court Judge in South Carolina, was born in South Carolina while her father was stationed at Myrtle Beach Air Force Base. She earned a bachelor's degree in political science in 1983 from Clemson University and earned her law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1987.

She began her legal career with the Nexsen Pruet firm, now Maynard Nexsen, in Columbia and later was an assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of South Carolina, where she prosecuted cases involving public corruption, racketeering, drugs and fraud. In that role, she served as prosecutor in the FBI's undercover Operation Lost Trust investigation into corruption, narcotics and racketeering activities within the state legislature.

She returned to private practice in 1993 and was later named chief of the State Grand Jury in the S.C. Attorney General's office. While overseeing the prosecution of a variety of cases in that role, including drugs and public corruption, she led the prosecution team in the complex Home Gold/Carolina Investors securities fraud cases.

Judge Lydon again returned to private practice in 2005, practicing in white-collar criminal defense. She also served three years as vice chair of the South Carolina Ethics Commission. Beginning in 2007 and continuing for several years thereafter, she collaborated with the American Bar Association's World Justice Project to host a series of multidisciplinary conferences focused on the rule of law. These conferences brought

together experts from diverse fields to promote education, foster dialogue and encourage respect for the principles that form the foundation of just societies. In 2018, she became the first woman appointed as U.S. Attorney for the District of South Carolina, serving in that role until her appointment as a judge for the U.S. District Court in South Carolina in 2019.

Judge Lydon engages with USC's Joseph F. Rice School of Law, teaching courses, mentoring students and introducing students to the ideals of legal professionalism. She is the past president of the John Belton O'Neill Inn of Court, a group of attorneys and judges in the South Carolina Midlands.

In 2013, she received the USC Rice School of Law's Gold Compleat Lawyer award, which recognizes alumni for outstanding civic and professional accomplishments.

While in private practice, she did pro bono work for indigent clients and assisted a team of lawyers who sought to correct an alleged wrongful conviction that was argued before the state Supreme Court.

She is married to Thomas Lydon, an attorney in Columbia and a fellow graduate of the USC Rice School of Law.

For her commitment to the ideals of American jurisprudence; for her diligent work in state and federal public service; and for her continuing service on the federal judiciary; the University of South Carolina, with the approval of its Board of Trustees, now presents Sherri Allen Lydon for the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

















PRESIDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Jonathan Maxcy <i>President, 1804-1820</i>	William Spenser Currell <i>President, 1914-1922</i>
Thomas Cooper <i>President pro tem, 1820</i> <i>President, 1821-1834</i>	William D. Melton <i>President, 1922-1926</i>
Robert Henry <i>President pro tem, 1834</i> <i>President, 1841-1845</i>	Leonard T. Baker <i>Acting President, 1926</i> <i>President, 1931-1936</i> <i>Acting President, 1944-1945</i>
Henry Junius Nott <i>Chairman of the Faculty, 1834-1835</i>	Davison M. Douglas <i>President, 1927-1931</i>
Robert W. Barnwell <i>President, 1835-1841</i> <i>Chairman of the Faculty, 1865-1873</i>	J. Rion McKissick <i>President, 1936-1944</i>
William C. Preston <i>President, 1845-1851</i>	Admiral Norman M. Smith <i>President, 1945-1952</i>
Francis Lieber <i>President pro tem, 1851</i>	Francis W. Bradley <i>Acting President, 1952</i>
James H. Thornwell <i>President, 1851-1855</i>	Donald S. Russell <i>President, 1952-1957</i>
Charles F. McCay <i>President, 1855-1857</i>	Robert L. Sumwalt <i>Acting President, 1957-1959</i> <i>President, 1959-1962</i>
Augustus B. Longstreet <i>President, 1857-1861</i>	Thomas F. Jones <i>President, 1962-1974</i>
Maximilian LaBorde <i>Chairman of the Faculty, 1861-1865</i>	William H. Patterson <i>President, 1974-1977</i>
Benjamin B. Babbitt <i>Chairman of the Faculty, 1873-1875</i>	James B. Holderman <i>President, 1977-1990</i>
Anson W. Cummings <i>Chairman of the Faculty, 1875-1877</i>	Arthur K. Smith <i>Interim President, 1990-1991</i>
William Porcher Miles <i>President, 1880-1882</i>	John M. Palms <i>President, 1991-2002</i>
John M. McBryde <i>Chairman of the Faculty, 1883-1891</i> <i>President, 1883-1891</i>	Andrew A. Sorensen <i>President, 2002-2008</i>
James Woodrow <i>President, 1891-1897</i>	Harris Pastides <i>President, 2008-2019</i> <i>Interim President, 2021-2022</i>
Frank C. Woodward <i>President, 1897-1902</i>	Robert L. Caslen Jr. <i>President, 2019-2021</i>
Benjamin Sloan <i>Acting President, 1902-1903</i> <i>President, 1903-1908</i>	Michael D. Amiridis <i>President, 2022-present</i>
Andrew C. Moore <i>Acting President, 1908-1909</i> <i>Acting President, 1913-1914</i>	
Samuel Chiles Mitchell <i>President, 1909-1913</i>	

Degrees in Course

The following list of candidates for graduation was prepared before final grades were reported and inclusion herein does not constitute evidence of graduation. The listing of a name in this program should not be construed as an indication that the person will in fact receive a degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law at this commencement. Conversely, the absence of a student's name from this list does not necessarily mean that the person will not be awarded a degree. Honors for degree candidates are based on the cumulative

grade point average on file at this time. Honors to be printed on the diploma will be based on the final cumulative grade point average on all law school work.

An asterisk (*) after a graduate's name indicates the student has completed the Children's Law Concentration. A caret (^) following a candidate's name indicates the student is serving in or is a veteran of the United States Armed Forces. Candidates graduating with honors will be recognized during the ceremony.

Michael Adair
University of Guelph, B.A., 2012
University of South Carolina, M.S., 2019

Patrick Davis Aitchison
University of South Carolina, B.S., 2021

Blake Mitchell Alderson
Villanova University, B.A., 2022

Sarah Jane Ammons
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2021

Cameron Kealy Argoe
Clemson University, B.S., 2022

Kaitlyn Marie Ayala
Clemson University, B.S., 2021

Joshua Spencer Thomas Ayers^
Clemson University, B.S., 2005
Seton Hall University, M.A., 2009

John Garren Bailey^
Clemson University, B.S., 2018

Henry Carter Balderson
University of Miami, B.B.A., 2020

Seth Perkins Banister
Presbyterian College, B.A., 2022

Shelby Lynn Barbee
Hollins University, B.A., 2021

Brianna Nicole Basinger*
Wofford College, B.S., 2022

Jackson Duke Batten
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2022

Daniel Hicks Beach
Clemson University, B.A., 2022

Joseph Michael Becker
State University of New York Geneseo, B.S., 2019

Rivers Ross Benton
The Citadel, B.S., 2022

Joseph Michael McClendon Birch
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2021

Skylar Kate Blackstock
Clemson University, B.S., 2022

Adam K. Blankenship
University of South Carolina, B.S., 2021

John Robert Bolchoz III^
United States Naval Academy, B.S., 2013
University of South Carolina, I.M.B.A., 2025

Benjamin S. E. Bosmans-Verdonk
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, B.S., 2022

Daniel Patrick Boucher
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University,
B.A., 2020

Andrea Elizabeth Bowles*
Columbia College, B.A., 2019
Columbia College, M.A., 2021

Samuel Robert Boyd
University of South Carolina, B.S. & B.A., 2022

Katherine Elizabeth Boyette
Davidson College, B.A., 2020

Robert Cleveland Brook
Wofford College, B.A., 2022

William Michael Brown^
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2011
University of South Carolina, M.I.B., 2020

Samuel Layton Bryant^
University of Georgia, B.A., 2021

Joseph Anthony Bucciarelli
Georgia College and State University, B.B.A., 2022

Heather R. Burton
Limestone University, B.A., 2022

Jane Marie Cajka
Clemson University, B.S., 2022

Michael James Canino
University of Central Florida, B.S.B.A., 2022

Virginia Elizabeth Carroll
University of Georgia, B.S. & B.A., 2020

Hannah Marie Cella
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2022

Maan F. Cheang
Georgia College and State University, B.S., 2021

Brittany Elizabeth Clark*
Liberty University, B.S., 2018

Victoria Brantley Collins*
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2022

Sarah Elizabeth Combs
Morehead State University, B.A., 2022

William Christopher Comey
Union College, B.A., 2018

Gabriella Pearl Conforte*
The Ohio State University, B.S., 2022

Jeffrey Michael Congialdi Jr.
West Chester University of Pennsylvania, B.A. & B.A.,
2018

Lily Elizabeth Corso
Florida State University, B.S., 2022

Cameron Reagan Cox
University of Virginia, B.A., 2021

Michael Dominic D'Agostino
University of South Carolina, B.S., 2021

John C. Daniels^
The Citadel, B.A., 2015

Claudia Ruth Desimone
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University,
B.S., 2019

Parker Alexander Dixon
Clemson University, B.S., 2021

Luke Wade Dorrough^
Tulane University, B.S., 2012

Michael Miley Doyle
Clemson University, B.A., 2022

Hollie Christine Duchnowski
University of North Florida, B.A., 2010

Alexander Blair Eaton
University of North Carolina Charlotte, B.S., 2022

Andre Raymond Eaton
University of South Carolina, B.S., 2022

Elizabeth Lee Edmunds
Clemson University, B.A., 2019

Ethan L. Eggleston
East Tennessee State University, B.B.A., 2022

Ken Hiroshi Ejiri
Clemson University, B.S., 2021

Tiffany Monique Eubanks
Augusta University, B.A., 2020

Andrea Carolina Ewing
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2020

Paige Elizabeth Fallon
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2021

Simpson Zimmerman Fant Jr.
Clemson University, B.S., 2020

Matthew Edward Faulkner
Appalachian State University, B.S., 2022

Ethan Hollis Felkel
University of South Carolina, B.S., 2022

Summey Beth Ferrell*
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2021

Devyn Mackenzie Fischer
Bowling Green State University, B.S., 2022

Brendan Mitchell Fisher
Brigham Young University, B.A., 2020

Jitwan Kentavius Floyd
Lander University, B.S., 2021

Kathryn Elizabeth Frank
Davidson College, B.A., 2022

Eliza Grace Galler
University of Mississippi, B.S., 2022

Kaitlin Jean Gasner
Rhodes College, B.A., 2022

Macy Elizabeth Gault
Lander University, B.S., 2022

John Christian Gaylor IV
Georgia College and State University, B.A., 2022

Catherine Elizabeth Gibson
Brandeis University, B.A., 2021

Gonzalo Andres Giler
North Carolina State University, B.A., 2021

Riley Goff
Kennesaw State University, B.S., 2022

Hugh Gordon Gooding
Washington and Lee University, B.A., 2016

Ann Louise Granger
University of Mississippi, B.A., 2017

Joshua Thomas Griffin
North Carolina State University, B.A., 2016

Claire Nicole Griffiths
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2021
University of South Carolina, M.S.W., 2024

Ashley Jones Hall
Clemson University, B.A. & B.A., 2022

Tyler Graham Hand
University of South Carolina, B.S., 2017
University of South Carolina, M.B.A., 2021

Thomas Nolan Hansen
Winthrop University, B.A., 2021

Latia Douzette Harvin
Francis Marion University, B.S., 2020

Catherine Rose Hays*
University of Tennessee, B.A., 2021

Adelaide Elizabeth Heigel
Clemson University, B.S., 2022

Jake Lee Helfenbein^
University of Alabama, B.A., 2022

Harliann Neal Hendrix
Clemson University, B.A., 2022

Savana Lee Herrera
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2020

Damonja Nancy Hilton
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2021

Savannah Leigh Hobbie*
Furman University, B.A., 2022

Megan Nicole Holderness
Wofford College, B.A., 2022

Lila Leigh Holland
Agnes Scott College, B.A., 2021

Simons Lucas Howard
Clemson University, B.S., 2022

Sean P. Jackson
Clemson University, B.S., 2021

Gilbert Jean-Louis Jr.
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, B.A., 2018

Abigail Marie Johanson*
Clemson University, B.S., 2020

John Michael Jolley Jr.
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2021

Antonio Jones Jr.
College of Charleston, B.A., 2022

Rebecca Elizabeth Kahn
Clemson University, B.S., 2022

Jacob Martin Kaufman
University of South Carolina, B.S., 2021

Rebecca René Kelley
Anderson University, B.F.A., 2017
Western Governors University, M.B.A., 2018

Sarah Elizabeth Kennedy
Clemson University, B.A., 2022

Alexandra Jane Kerrison
Georgia Institute of Technology, B.S., 2019

Jordan Brett Killough
University of North Alabama, B.A., 2015
University of North Alabama, M.A., 2019

Graham Griffith Lancaster
Purdue University West Lafayette, B.S., 2022

Nicole Victoria Lane
College of Charleston, B.S., 2019
Lingnan University, M.S., 2020

Eliza Hudson Lay
University of South Carolina, B.S., 2021

Ann Ragin Lee
Wofford College, B.A., 2022

Paul Sanders Linker Jr.
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2022

Skye Lynn Lowry
Southern Virginia University, B.A., 2020

Ryan Michelle MacEachern
University of Maryland College Park, B.S., 2022

John Dixon Manos
Wake Forest University, B.A., 2022

Elizabeth Maine Martin
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2022

Alexandria Mya Rosa Mays
Coastal Carolina University, B.S., 2021

Julia Ann McDonald
Auburn University, B.A., 2022

Michelle Elizabeth McGee
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2016

Grant Rhodes McGinnity
University of North Texas, B.S., 2022

Heddy Marie McGrey Broce
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2022

Patrick David McLean Jr.
Wofford College, B.A., 2019

Carson Cox McMillan
University of Georgia, B.B.A., 2021

Joseph Michael McNeila
Clemson University, B.A., 2020

Briana Amanda Melton
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2021

Abigail Ruth Minihan
West Virginia University, B.S., 2021

Dorothy Jane Pittman Modla
University of South Carolina, B.S., 2020

LeAnne Burnett Morse
Western Kentucky University, B.A., 1994

Caroline Aline Murphy
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, B.A., 2020

Stephen Baxter Murray III
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2021

Samuel Albert Nalbone III
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2023

Grace Elizabeth Naumowich
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2022

Carson Garrison Neeves
Tulane University, B.A., 2020
Tulane University, M.A., 2021

Margaret Joye O'Berry
Washington and Lee University, B.A., 2021

Casey Anne O'Neill
University of Georgia, B.A., 2020

Briana Marie Padilla
Gettysburg College, B.A., 2021

William Joseph Patton
Centre College, B.S., 2022

Brianna Ellen Peil
Hamline University, B.A., 2016

Jonathon Bryce Pigeon
College of Charleston, B.A. & B.S., 2012
College of Charleston, M.A., 2018

Austin Charles Pistor
Baylor University, B.A., 2021

Shinelle Marlies Polite
Williams College, B.A., 2013
University of South Carolina, M.L.I.S., 2016

Elizabeth Jordan Portie
Baylor University, B.B.A., 2019

Peyton Ruth Pratt
Wofford College, B.A., 2021

Sarah Jo Raffauf
University of Georgia, B.A., 2021

Eleanor J. Rager
University of Georgia, B.S.A., 2021

Reynolds Caroline Rawls
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2022

William K. Rees
Wofford College, B.A., 2022

Madison Kay Register
University of South Carolina, B.S.N., 2020

Jordan Kay Reynolds
University of Oklahoma, B.B.A., 2022

Carter Lee Rhodes
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2020

Max Kyler Rieumont
University of Tampa, B.S., 2020
University of Tampa, M.S., 2021

Nicole Renee Rodrigues dos Santos^
South Dakota State University, B.S., 2018

Laura Kathryn Roland
Western Governors University, B.S., 2020
Western Governors University, M.S., 2021
Western Governors University, M.B.A., 2022

Emily Elizabeth Rule
University of Dublin, Trinity College, B.A., 2019

Shelby Lee Russell^
American Military University, B.A., 2015
Saint Leo University, M.S., 2020

Ethan T. Sammons
University of Louisville, B.S., 2020

Anna Elizabeth Saulter*
East Carolina University, B.S., 2022

Brooke E. Schmitt
Fairmont State University, B.A. & B.A., 2022

Daniel Nicholas Schorr
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2020

Domenic J. Sciortino
Purdue University, B.S., 2021
University of South Carolina, I.M.B.A., 2025

Sarah Madison Seale
Appalachian State University, B.S., 2018

Hannah Grace Simmons
Clemson University, B.A., 2022

Kelly Elizabeth Simmons
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2019

Leon Samuel Simpson III^
Colorado State University, B.A., 2020

Jamarius Dequon Slappy
University of South Carolina, B.S., 2022

LaBarron Tyron Sledge*
Claflin University, B.A., 2021

Dennard Jon Small^
Clemson University, B.A., 2014

Luke Pesmen Smith
Coastal Carolina University, B.A., 2022

Rebecca Lara Sternberg
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2022

Nathaniel Britt Tackett
Florida State University, B.S., 2021

Alexandria Elizabeth Tetreault^*
Colorado State University Pueblo, B.S., 2021

Rebecca Jo Tewell
Winthrop University, B.S.W., 2021

Mary Grace Tumbleston
University of Mississippi, B.B.A., 2022

Sean James Patrick Turnpaugh
University of South Carolina, B.S., 2021

Amanda A. Van Ert
University of Wisconsin-Stout, B.S., 2019

Jackson D. Vause
Brevard College, B.A., 2016

Kara Nicole Wagstaff
Rollins College, B.A., 2020

Emma Beth Wallace
University of Louisiana Monroe, B.A., 2019

Elizabeth Grace Ward
Wofford College, B.A., 2021

Julia Meadows Welch
Clemson University, B.A., 2022

Madison Nicole Whiting
West Virginia University, B.A., 2022

Trevor Mays Willets
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2022

Brooklynn Sue Withers
Kansas State University, B.S., 2021
Kansas State University, M.A.C.C., 2022

Desirée Talia Witherspoon*
College of Charleston, B.A., 2022

Anslee Elizabeth Wood
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2022

Lauren Ashlee Woods
Clemson University, B.S., 2022

Elizabeth Pinckney Worthy
Sewanee: The University of The South, B.A., 2021

Abigail Bruce Wright
Xavier University, Honors B.A., 2021

Levi William Wright
University of South Carolina, B.A., 2019

Stephanie Nicole Yassa
Colorado State University, B.S., 2019

Jada Simone Young
College of Charleston, B.A., 2022

Honors and Awards

The University of South Carolina Joseph F. Rice School of Law salutes its graduating class of 2025, and relying on the support and loyalty of these new alumni, views the future with hope and confidence.

Carolina also cherishes those whose past devotion to its interests has stood the test of time and whose

service has helped create an institution in which today's graduates, their parents and sponsors, and the State of South Carolina can take pride.

Accordingly, the following members of the Class of 2025 are recognized for their achievement and service as follows:

THE COMPLEAT LAWYER AWARD

In 1992, the University of South Carolina School of Law Alumni Association created The Compleat Lawyer Award to recognize outstanding attorneys and exceptional graduating students for their accomplishments. Each year, the Platinum Award is given to up to three attorneys who have been in practice over 30 years, the Gold Award is given to up to three attorneys who have been in practice for 15-30 years, and the Silver Award is given to up to three attorneys who have been in practice

for fewer than 15 years.

The Bronze Award is presented at Commencement to three graduating law students who, through their performance in law school and their relationships with students and professors, have demonstrated their potential to be outstanding attorneys. These Award recipients possess the highest standards of ethics, integrity, and professionalism.

Class of 2025 Bronze Medal Recipients

Benjamin S.E. Bosmans-Verdonk
Cameron Reagan Cox
Caroline Aline Murphy

A. Kim Technology Award
Samuel Robert Boyd
Savannah Leigh Hobbie

Albert C. Todd III Estate Planning Award
John Michael Jolley Jr.

Arthur B. Custy Memorial Scholarship
Brooklynn Sue Withers

Barney O. Smith National Trial Competition
McCall Claire Phillips
Christa Elizabeth Rentz-Neely

Beattie Inglis Butler Endowed Scholarship
Carson Garrison Neeves
Sarah Jo Raffauf

Capers Bouton Memorial Scholarship Award
Bjoré Shawn Samard

Children's Law Concentration Distinguished Student Award
LaBarron Tyron Sledge

Claud N. Sapp Award & Scholarship
Jitwan Kentavius Floyd

Coleman Karesh Scholarship
Grant Emerson Majors
Grace Smith Phillips
Joshua Hogan Strickland

Cy Young Scholarship
Samuel Robert Boyd
Cameron Reagan Cox
Brooke E. Schmitt

D. Reece Williams III Trial Advocacy Award
Christa Elizabeth Rentz-Neely
Rebecca René Kelley
John Wesley Lewis IV

G.G. Dowling Student Scholarship
Abigail Bruce Wright
Hollie Christine Duchnowski
Kaitlin Jean Gasner

Hugh L. Willcox Pro Bono Award
Rebecca Jo Tewell
Joseph Michael McNeila

I.M. Goldberg South Carolina Bar Foundation Award
LaBarron Tyron Sledge

Irving Steinberg Memorial Scholarship
Elizabeth Jordan Portie

**Jackson Lewis Employment
and Labor Law Endowed
Award**

Latia Douzette Harvin

**John O. MacDougall Family Law
Award**

Peyton Ruth Pratt

John R. Holland Scholarship

Henry Carter Balderson
Sarah Elizabeth Kennedy
Shelby Lee Russell

**Joseph O. Rogers Bicentennial
Fellowship**

Di'Avian K. Foster
William Rudolph Raffone

**Joseph P. McNulty Memorial
Scholarship**

Harper Scott Puckett
Lauren Alexandra Stanley

**Judge Robert W. Hemphill Law
Scholarship**

Kathryn Elizabeth Frank

**Karen M. Lee Memorial
Scholarship**

Stevon S. Porchà

**Knox L. Haynsworth Jr. Labor
Law Award**

Paige Elizabeth Fallon

Luther M. Lee Scholarship

Heather R. Burton
Rebecca René Kelley

Mark Blickle Scholarship

Nathan Lorne Jones

**Motley Rice Excellence in Civil
Litigation Fund**

Heather R. Burton
Levi Cromer

**Nelson Mullins Riley and
Scarborough Center on
Professionalism Award**

Maan F. Cheang
Paige Elizabeth Fallon

**Nicholas J. Luft Endowed
Scholarship**

Duncan Lide Winburn

Outstanding Pro Bono Award

Bates Nelson Felder Jr.
Savannah Leigh Hobbie
Willam Zachary Kibler
Morgan Mercer
Eleanor Catherine Slugg
Rebecca Jo Tewell
Grace McCoy Tippet

Richard J. Foster Scholarship

Kathleen Smoak McDade
Eleanor Catherine Slugg

**Robert McCormick Figg, Jr. Trial
Advocacy Award**

Rebecca René Kelley

Robert T. Bockman Award

Luke Pesmen Smith

**Robert W. Foster Sr. Alternative
Dispute Resolution Award**

Joshua Spencer Thomas Ayers

**Roberts Senior Class
Writing Award**

Hugh Gordon Gooding

Sherod H. Eadon Award

Madison E. Hood
Christa Elizabeth Rentz-Neely
Mary Grace Tumbleston

**South Carolina Chapter of
the Association of Corporate
Counsel Award**

Virginia Elizabeth Carroll
Latia Douzette Harvin

**Stanley H. Kohn Memorial
Scholarship**

Jonathon Bryce Pigeon
Emily Elizabeth Rule

**Steve and DeAndrea Benjamin
Endowed Scholarship**

Siri Emmanuela Cortez
Kaleb Jamal Phelps

**Student Bar Association
Committed Student
Award**

Devyn Mackenzie Fischer

**Student Bar Association Service
Award**

Heddy Marie McGrey Broce

Susan McCrary Scholarship

Javis Antonio Benford

**Susan McCrary Volunteer of
the Year Award**

Emily Maureen Culbreath

**Tanya A. Gee Warriors for
Justice Award**

Michelle Elizabeth McGee
Rebecca Jo Tewell

Victor Michalewitz Award

Grant Emerson Majors

**William C. Hubbard Public
Citizen Award**

William Michael Brown

