

123RD COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

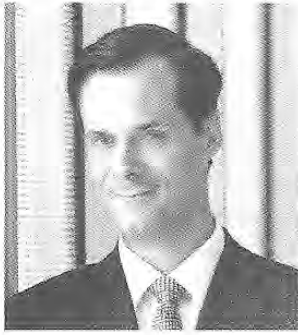
May 19, 2015

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The audience is requested to remain seated during the processional, to stand for the singing of the National Anthem, and to remain in place at the conclusion of the Commencement exercises until the recessional is concluded. Please refrain from using cell phones during the Commencement exercises.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Dear Members of the Class of 2015:

On behalf of the New York Law School Board of Trustees and Faculty, congratulations on reaching this extraordinary moment in your lives and in the life of the Law School. I'm extremely proud to have served as your dean over the past three years, of the friendships we've made, and of the new paths we've paved for our community. And I look forward to our continued partnership as we further build the Law School and the legal profession now that you are joining the ranks of our distinguished alumni.

This year, New York Law School celebrates its 125th anniversary. I'm pleased that our community is here together to mark this milestone at Carnegie Hall, which, like New York Law School, first opened its doors in 1891. In fact, the Law School's first commencement exercises were held here on June 7, 1892. Indeed, both institutions are "quintessentially New York." They share an indomitable spirit and a deep drive for excellence, and they have since their foundings played vital and demonstrable roles in shaping the City and the world.

The Law School's own history is as rich as it is proud, and we always have been committed to the highest ideals of the legal profession—a profession that today is rapidly changing and opening new and exciting opportunities for lawyers to advance justice and build the economy in every sector globally.

You will recall that many of us started our time at New York Law School together: my first year as dean coincided with the first year of those of you in the Day Division, and with the second year of those of you in our Evening Division. It was a challenging time for the Law School, the City, and the nation as we navigated several storms—one centered on the recovery from the great recession, the other centered on the recovery from Superstorm Sandy, which deeply affected so many members of our community. From our earliest days, it was clear to me that our community was special—and that we possessed remarkable grit and resilience, superior and grounded intelligence and perspective, and a commitment to leadership and engagement that would prove invaluable to overcoming any obstacle before us. And we did!

As you've heard me say, an engaged Law School community is a happy, strong, and successful one. And our level of engagement, accountability, and care for one another as a community—Students, Faculty, Administration, Staff, Trustees, and Alumni alike—is unparalleled. Our focus has been on creating the most supportive and inclusive learning environment, and the best possible outcomes, for every student and graduate. And just as we are here for you today, we will be here for you tomorrow.

As you transition to your roles as lawyers, please never forget your role as a member of a diverse profession whose work is essential to every aspect of a free, democratic, and just society. The study of law is not easy, nor is it supposed to be. It is not a luxury, but a privilege. You have earned the right to call yourselves graduates of this Law School, and as you step forward today, we will be by your side.

Because of New York Law School, because of your drive, because of the support of our community, and your friends and family, you are ready for your new journey, and to undertake it proudly and successfully. The benefits of your labor will be realized over a rewarding lifelong career. No matter where you go, continue to draw on this great City as a source of inspiration that both shares and shapes our values: independence, diversity, opportunity, professionalism, integrity, empathy, service to others, leadership, innovation, and, of course, the drive and ambition to be the very best. That's what makes us *New York's law school*.

Reflecting on why you earned a law degree, and the positive impact that experience has had on your life, will allow you to make a difference in the lives of those you touch, inform, and counsel. Your great accomplishments and immense promise fuel my confidence that the best days for us all, and for New York Law School, lie before us.

Congratulations!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony W. Crowell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anthony W. Crowell
Dean and President, Professor of Law

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HONORARY DEGREE, DOCTOR OF LAWS

CYRUS R. VANCE JR.

New York Law School honors Cyrus R. Vance Jr. in recognition of his dedication to the rule of law, his embrace of innovation within the criminal justice system, and his many achievements, including reorganizing the resources of the Manhattan District Attorney's office and creating new specialized bureaus and units.



Cyrus R. Vance Jr. was first sworn in as the District Attorney of New York County on January 1, 2010. Over the following four years, Mr. Vance enhanced the District Attorney's Office as a national leader in criminal justice by expanding its expertise on an array of 21st century crimes.

Mr. Vance's many achievements as District Attorney include the takedown of violent street gangs, dismantling domestic and international cybercrime and identity theft operations, the first local terrorism convictions in New York State courts, and the recovery of billions of dollars from international financial institutions that had been engaged in violating international sanctions.

District Attorney Vance was reelected in 2013. He is the co-founder and co-chair of Prosecutors Against Gun Violence, an independent, nonpartisan coalition of prosecutors from major jurisdictions across the country that will identify and promote prosecutorial and policy solutions to this national public health and safety crisis.

In recent months, District Attorney Vance has taken a national leadership role in addressing the issue of race in the criminal justice system, including commissioning a study by the nonpartisan Vera Institute of Justice to evaluate the office's practices in charging, plea-bargaining, and bail.

Mr. Vance, using funds obtained through the sanctions cases against international financial institutions, has also made significant investments in a series of transformative criminal justice initiatives in New York City and nationally. These programs include equipping every New York City Police Department officer and patrol car with handheld mobile devices and tablets, eliminating the national rape kit backlog, reducing the number of individuals with behavioral health issues in the criminal justice system, and enhancing security in New York City Housing Authority developments throughout the city.

DR. VINCENT A. CARBONELL '00

New York Law School honors Dr. Vincent A. Carbonell '00 for his innovative leadership role in the reprographic industry, his distinguished and dedicated service to New York Law School, and his generous support of social justice initiatives.



Dr. Vincent A. Carbonell '00 is Founder and President of United Reprographic Services, a leader in the New York reprographic industry. Founded in 1988, United Reprographic Services serves architects, engineers, construction firms, and government agencies. Dr. Carbonell manages all aspects of marketing, financial reporting, and contract negotiations and develops facility management in-plants for major service firms. Moreover, he provides the Nova Ancora program of the New York City Department of Probation with employment opportunities and job skills training for young first-time offenders. He also created a new division within the company that addresses the legal market through the production of court exhibits, graphic representations, and replications of legal documents. Starting in 2013, he has been a partner in a real estate firm that provides 10,000 units of affordable housing throughout the Southeast and Midwest.

Previously, Dr. Carbonell served as President of the DWI Prevention Institute. The purpose of this Institute is to foster the responsibility of establishments that serve alcoholic beverages through the development of seminars, literature, and equipment. He also founded Portfolio Restaurant in 1987 and owned the restaurant until it closed in 2010. Prior to DWI Prevention, Dr. Carbonell served as Sales Representative at Keuffel & Esser; General Product Manager at GAF; and then Director of Marketing at IPC Inc. He is a member of the New York Law School Board of Trustees, is the creator of the Carbonell Fellowship, and was the first donor to purchase a large classroom in the new New York Law School building as part of the "Breaking New Ground. Again." campaign.

Dr. Carbonell created the Carbonell Fellowship in Law and Policy in 2003. The Carbonell Fellowship program honors Dr. Carbonell's father, Ricardo Carbonell, a long-time trade-union activist, and local and national leader of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, UFCW, AFL-CIO. The Carbonell Fellowships reward outstanding students for their commitment to social justice and give them an opportunity to contribute to their field of interest. Carbonell Fellows play a central role in managing and shaping the Impact Center for Public Interest Law at New York Law School, help manage the Center's relationship with alumni and other leaders in social justice law, organize events, and work closely with the Center's faculty and staff.

Dr. Carbonell received his B.B.A. and M.B.A. in Industrial Marketing at Baruch College, his Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, from New York Law School, and his Ph.D. from Touro College. He and his wife, Susan, have one daughter, Audrey.

HON. FAVIOLA A. SOTO '78

New York Law School honors Judge Faviola A. Soto with the inaugural Kathleen Grimm Medal in recognition of her distinguished career in public service, both as a practitioner and on the bench, and for her professionalism and leadership.



Judge Faviola A. Soto was born in New York City and has lived here most of her life. Her parents, Ana Ureña and Rafael Felix, were born in the Dominican Republic and immigrated to New York City in the late 1940s. Her mother came to escape the dictator Trujillo, and her father, at age 14, was brought by his mother escaping domestic violence. Ana and Rafael met in New York as workers in the garment district and married after he returned from his service in the Army during the Korean War. As a child, and the oldest of four daughters, Judge Soto resided in the Hamilton Heights section of Harlem and attended the New York City public school system. She attended George Washington High School, graduating in 1970. She received her B.A. degree from the City College of New York in 1975, with a major in Economics and

a minor in Mathematics. Judge Soto received a full scholarship and obtained her law degree from New York Law School in 1978 and was admitted to the Bar of the State of New York in March 1979.

Judge Soto began working at Bronx Legal Services in 1978, providing free legal services to indigents. She entered into private practice in 1980 and continued as a solo practitioner in 1982, running a general civil and criminal practice in Manhattan and the Bronx. During that time, she also presided over child support cases as a Hearing Examiner in Family Court. For almost 10 years she specialized in the areas of Family Court working as an 18B attorney. In 1993, she was selected to run for a judgeship in the 7th Municipal District, which is composed of Hamilton Heights, Washington Heights, and Inwood, and she was elected to the Civil Court of the City of New York. In 2003, Judge Soto was re-elected to the Civil Court of the City of New York. Judge Soto is the first judge of Dominican descent to sit on any court in the State of New York.

In 2006, Judge Soto was nominated by Governor George Pataki as a Court of Claims Judge, and was confirmed by the New York State Senate on June 21, 2006. She was recently reappointed by Governor Andrew Cuomo in March 2015. She sits in New York City, and, as one of the select "A" Judges, hears cases where the State of New York is the defendant; she is the first Hispanic to ever to sit in the Court of Claims. She also sits as an Acting Supreme Court Judge in Bronx County, assigned as a Trial Judge. On April 23, 2014, she was honored as Bronx Bar Judge of the year by the Civil Court Committee of the Bronx Bar Association. Previously, from January 2002 through June of 2006, she was appointed an Acting Supreme Court Justice, New York County, initially assigned to a City Part, and then to a General Assignment Part, presiding over a wide variety of civil cases. Prior to 2002, Judge Soto was assigned to Criminal Court and to Civil Court in Bronx and New York Counties.

Justice Soto is the proud mother of six children; the youngest two (twins) attended colleges in New York City. She is also the grandmother of seven wonderful grandchildren: three darling little girls and four bubbly boys. She continues to reside in the Hamilton Heights section of Harlem.

The Trustees of New York Law School established the Kathleen Grimm Medal for Distinguished Public Service on February 11, 2015, to honor Kathleen Grimm '80 for her inspiring leadership, her distinguished and dedicated service to the Law School, and her outstanding accomplishments in the fields of law and education. Ms. Grimm, who passed away on February 17, 2015, had a long record of dedication to public service, most recently as Deputy Chancellor of Operations at the New York City Department of Education. She was one of New York City's most dedicated servants ever, having served five City Mayors, one State Comptroller, seven City Commissioners, and four City Schools Chancellors. She also served New York Law School as a member of the Board of Trustees and on NYLS's Alumni Association Board of Directors for over two decades, including as Past President.

JOE PLUMERI

New York Law School honors Joe Plumeri in recognition of his tremendously successful career in financial services and insurance, and his numerous charitable and philanthropic endeavors. The Law School is proud to bestow upon him, at long last, the law degree that he started almost fifty years ago.



Joe Plumeri, a widely renowned leader in the financial services industry, is Vice Chairman of the First Data Board of Directors and also leads the company's client delivery, innovation, and marketing organization. In addition to his role as senior advisor to the Chairman and CEO, the teams working under Plumeri's direction are responsible for all of First Data's global sales. Plumeri is also a senior advisor to Kolberg Kravis Roberts, the leading global investment firm, of which First Data is a portfolio company.

Plumeri previously served for 12 years as Chairman and CEO of Willis Group Holdings plc, the global insurance brokerage. Under Plumeri's leadership, Willis delivered sector-leading organic growth and operating margins, strategic expansion, and an enduring record of shareholder returns and client service. Appointed in October 2000, when Willis was privately owned by KKR, he successfully returned the company to public ownership in 2001.

While at Willis, Plumeri was a leader in the insurance industry during an era of unprecedented change, pressing for greater transparency, better client service, and accelerated innovation. Plumeri expanded Willis's footprint around the world, spearheading the company's \$2.1 billion acquisition of Hilb Rogal & Hobbs in 2008, at that time the largest insurance brokerage deal in the last decade. By 2013, Willis had 17,000 employees operating from more than 400 local offices in 120 countries. Those offices included the iconic Willis Building in London, which opened in 2008, and Willis Tower in Chicago, formerly known as Sears Tower, which was renamed during Plumeri's tenure in 2009.

In recognition of his many achievements in the insurance industry, St. John's University School of Risk Management named Plumeri 2006 Insurance Leader of the Year. In 2009 and 2010, he was named to *Treasury & Risk* magazine's list of "100 Most Influential People in Finance."

Prior to joining Willis, Plumeri had a 32-year career at Citigroup and its predecessor companies. As CEO of Citibank North America, he led the integration of the consumer businesses at Citicorp and Travelers Group. He also served as Chairman and CEO of Travelers Primerica Financial Services, Vice Chairman of the Travelers Group, and President and Managing Partner of Shearson Lehman Brothers.

An active and committed community leader, Plumeri has been honored by numerous civic and philanthropic organizations, including the Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation, the Jackie Robinson Foundation, the Sons of Italy Foundation, the Intrepid Foundation, the Boy Scouts of America, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation, among others. Plumeri provided a \$2 million gift for the construction of the Samuel & Josephine Plumeri Wishing Place, the headquarters of the New Jersey Chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. He also contributed more than \$1 million to the College of St. Rose in Albany, N.Y., for the development of the school's new sports complex, named in honor of his late son, Christian. Plumeri has served on the boards of the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, Carnegie Hall, and Mount Sinai Medical Center, among others. A sports fan and lifelong athlete, Plumeri was Commissioner of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority from 1997 to 2004. He also is co-owner of two New Jersey minor league baseball teams: the Trenton Thunder and the Lakewood BlueClaws.

Born in Trenton, N.J., Plumeri received his Bachelor of Arts degree in history and education from The College of William and Mary and also attended New York Law School.