INSTRUCTIONS FOR DEGREE CANDIDATES

In lieu of holding a graduation rehearsal, we are offering this brief set of instructions.

The Law School Diploma Ceremony occurs concurrently with the luncheon so that graduates and guests have sufficient time to attend the Afternoon Exercises for the entire University. Graduates process in the following order: S.J.D.s, LL.M.s, and J.D.s alphabetically by section.

The Law School Diploma Ceremony will begin immediately after the University Morning Ceremony concludes. S.J.D.s and LL.M.s should proceed directly to Hauser Hall to line up. S.J.D.s, LL.M.s, JD/MBA, Transfers and Sections 1 & 2 should plan to join guests and eat lunch after receiving your diploma. Graduates in Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7 should have time to eat lunch with your guests and line up to receive your diploma at the time indicated below.

ORDER OF CEREMONY

- Class of 2015 Reflections Video
- Brief Remarks by Dean Martha Minow
- Followed by the awarding of the degrees

Graduates should proceed to the first floor of Hauser Hall to line up as follows:

S.J.D.s & LL.M.s  Immediately following the conclusion of the University Ceremony

JD/MBA & Transfers Immediately following the LL.M degree candidates into Hauser Hall

Sections 1 & 2  when LL.M.s begin receiving their degrees

Sections 3 & 4  when Section 1 has finished receiving their degrees

Sections 5 & 6  when Section 3 has finished receiving their degrees

Section 7 & Joint Degrees when Section 5 has finished receiving their degrees

The ceremony progresses very quickly, so graduates should pay attention and proceed to the first floor of Hauser at the appropriate time. We will announce the sections that are currently assembling by posting a sign on the steps of Hauser Hall. We will also make announcements during the ceremony. However, you should be prepared to line up according to the schedule listed above. You will be assisted with lining up in alphabetical order by the Commencement staff stationed in Hauser Hall.

Because of the length of time necessary to line up candidates in alphabetical order, it is necessary to call sections to Hauser Hall in advance. In order to keep the ceremony moving at an appropriate pace, we will not be able to stop for graduates who arrive late. Graduates who miss the line-up in Hauser Hall will be allowed to march with the next section.
WHAT IF IT RAINS?

The Law School Diploma Ceremony will take place on the 2nd Floor of Wasserstein Hall in Milstein East in the event of severe weather on Commencement Day.

A determination to move to the Rain Plan will be made as early as possible on Commencement Day. Students will be notified via e-mail and signs will be placed on campus stating that the Rain Plan is in effect.

The 2 Rain Plan Tickets you received indicate the section to which you are assigned to process with. You should give these tickets to the two guests you wish to have at the Rain Plan Ceremony (in advance), and make them aware of your section and the instructions mentioned below.

Graduates should proceed to the following holding locations before heading to the 2nd floor of Wasserstein Hall to line up – in Milstein West. The ceremony will occur in the order presented below. Graduates will be guided from Milstein West to Milstein East by Commencement staff at the appropriate time.

Section Holding Location(s)
-S.J.D. & LL.M. → Directly to Milstein West (Ticketed guests should proceed directly to Milstein East)
-J.D./MBA, & Transfer → Directly to Milstein West (Ticketed guests should proceed directly to Milstein East)
-J.D. Section 1 → Directly to Milstein West
-J.D. Section 2 Wasserstein 2012 → Proceed to Milstein West at 12:45
-J.D. Section 3 Wasserstein 2009 → Proceed to Milstein West at 1:00
-J.D. Section 4 Wasserstein 2004 → Proceed to Milstein West at 1:15
-J.D. Section 5 Wasserstein 1010 → Proceed to Milstein West at 1:30
-J.D. Section 6 Wasserstein 1015 → Proceed to Milstein West at 1:45
-J.D. Section 7 Wasserstein 1019 → Proceed to Milstein West at 2:00
& Joint Degrees

We will do our very best in adhering to this timeline. We will need your patience and cooperation to move things along as quickly as possible, in order to finish timely for those who wish to attend the Afternoon Exercises. For instance, we ask that your guests refrain from trying to take personal photographs during the ceremony. We will have Grad Images in Milstein East taking photos, and you will be able to purchase your photographs post-graduation online.

Graduates will go to the Registrar’s Office on the 4th floor (4007) to pick up their diploma, directly after crossing the stage. Commencement staff will direct you to the appropriate stairwells and elevators.

Please Note: Due to space limitations, only your two ticketed guests will be admitted into Milstein East to view the live ceremony. Guests will need to present their Rain Plan ticket upon entry into Milstein East. Ticketed guests will not be able to gain entry to the second floor of Wasserstein Hall until the prior section has been awarded all of their degrees and have cleared the second floor with their guests. Prior to that time, ticketed guests should view the live webcast of the ceremony in a viewing room (see below). Guests without a ticket can view the entirety of the live webcast in the following viewing rooms: Pub and Harkness Commons South in the Caspersen Student Center, the first and second floor classrooms of Austin Hall, the Langdell Library classrooms (North & South), and the first and second floor classrooms of Wasserstein Hall (as prior sections of graduates exit each room for their ceremony in Milstein East).

If you choose to sit somewhere other than a location designated for your section, you may not hear the call for your section when it is time to proceed to the ceremony. Guests with Rain Plan tickets should plan to head to Milstein East once the prior section’s ceremony ends. Listen to your dedicated staff members at viewing locations for precise directions.

Graduates and guests will eat lunch after the ceremony for their degree or section. An email announcement will be made detailing where lunch will be made available for pick up, and dining locations.

Additional Rain Plan information/maps for your guests can be found in the HLS Information Booklet.