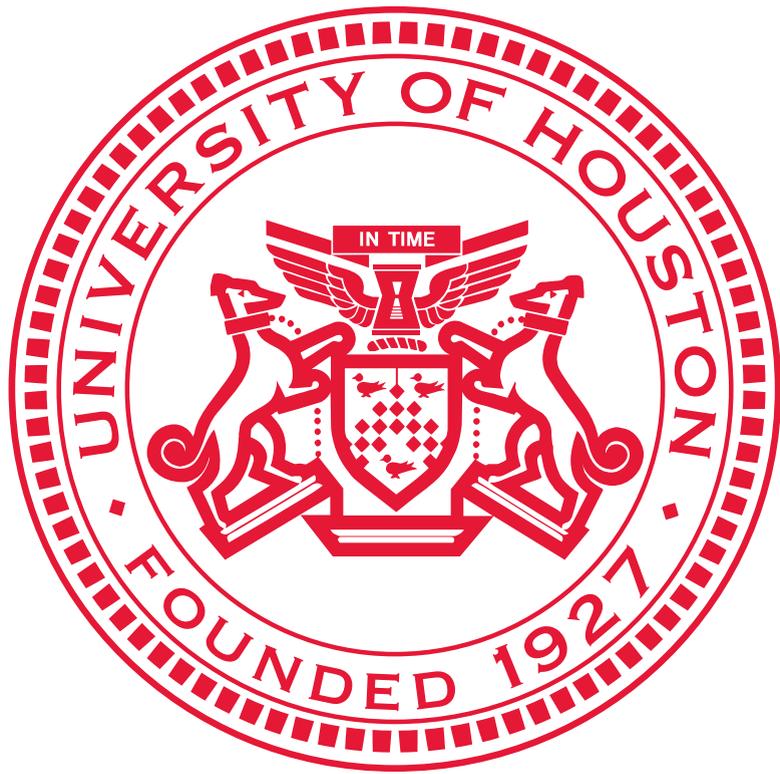


UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
Spring 2025 Commencement

UH LAW CENTER

Saturday, May 10, 2025
Fertitta Center





Commencement Ceremony
Saturday, May 10, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Fertitta Center

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Message from the President

Dear University of Houston Graduates,

Congratulations on achieving this remarkable achievement. Today's graduation marks the start of a bright new beginning. Your longtime dream becomes a reality, and I join your family and friends in celebrating this milestone with you.

As you reflect on this moment, take pride in knowing it was your hard work, intellect, perseverance and belief in yourself that got you here. Equally important was the unwavering support of those around you. These values and connections have shaped who you are today and will propel you forward in your professional journey.

As you move ahead, remember the power of paying it forward. Be a mentor to someone else who dreams of achieving what you have. Moreover, remember to express gratitude to your professors, advisors, family and friends who supported you along the way.

The Tier One education you've received at UH has provided you with the tools to thrive. This is the home of nationally top-ranked academic programs, world-renowned faculty, an NCAA Final Four basketball team, cutting-edge research and industry leaders. I have no doubt that you will join the ranks of the many successful alumni who have come before you.

Congratulations, Coogs! The world is yours.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Renu Khator'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

Renu Khator
President, University of Houston





Message from the Provost

Dear Spring Graduates,

You've traveled a long road to reach this moment, but here you are! Congratulations on earning a degree from the University of Houston.

Whether you're the first in your family to graduate from college or perhaps a second-generation Cougar, today's ceremony marks a significant moment in your lives. It's also special for the University of Houston as your success has been our priority since you first stepped foot on campus.

Now, you embark on new journeys. Some of you may be entering the workforce. Others may be headed to graduate school. No matter your destination, please remember those who helped you get to this point.

Stay in touch with peers, professors and staff members and remind them that their guidance supported your academic journeys. Also, thank your spouses, siblings, parents, grandparents and others in attendance today for their daily inspiration.

Of course, be sure to truly recognize the one person responsible for today's celebration—you! You balanced classes, work, family and other obligations. It wasn't easy, but you did it. Now, you are poised to reap the rewards of a degree from UH.

Although you are leaving this wonderful campus, you will remain a member of our University family. You now carry the proud tradition of past UH graduates and will represent our institution in your professional endeavors. Be proud of your time here, and let others know that you are now and forever a Cougar.

Once again, congratulations!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diane Z. Chase', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Diane Z. Chase
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, University of Houston

University of Houston

Commencement Ceremony

University of Houston System

BOARD OF REGENTS

John A. McCall Jr., *Vice Chairman*

Gregory C. King, *Secretary*

Durga D. Agrawal

Tomas Bryan

Alonzo Cantu

Beth Madison

Jack B. Moore

Tammy D. Murphy

Ricky Raven

University of Houston

PRESIDENT

Renu Khator

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Diane Z. Chase

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Raymond S. Bartlett

Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance

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University of Houston Deans

Heidi Appel
Dean
THE HONORS COLLEGE

Leonard M. Baynes
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Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen
Distinguished Chair, and Professor of Law
UH LAW CENTER

Andrew Davis
Founding Dean
Cullen Foundation Endowed Dean's Chair
KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Xianjun Geng
Dean
Cullen Distinguished Chair
C. T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Christina H. Gola
Interim Dean
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LIBRARIES

Jim Granato
Dean
HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Catherine Horn
Dean
Elizabeth D. Rockwell Chair
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Teri Elkins Longacre
Dean
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS

Jonathan McCullers
Dean
Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Medicine
TILMAN J. FERTITTA FAMILY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Daniel P. O'Connor
Dean
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Patricia Belton Oliver
Dean
ACSA Distinguished Professor
GERALD D. HINES COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

F. Lamar Pritchard
Dean
Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Pharmacy
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Dennis Reynolds
Dean
Barron Hilton Distinguished Chair
CONRAD N. HILTON COLLEGE OF
GLOBAL HOSPITALITY LEADERSHIP

Pradeep Sharma
Dean
Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen
Distinguished University Professor
CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Kathryn M. Tart
Founding Dean
Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Nursing
ANDY AND BARBARA GESSNER COLLEGE OF NURSING

Michael Twa
Dean
Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Optometry
COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Cynthia Warrick
Interim Dean
GRADUATE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

Dan E. Wells
Dean
Distinguished Professor of Science
COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

University of Houston History



The University of Houston was established as the Houston Junior College in 1927. As the college grew, it prospered and officially became the four-year University of Houston in 1934. Two years later, the college attained land for a permanent campus, and in 1939 it constructed its first building, the Roy G. Cullen Building. The University became a state institution in 1963.

The University includes 14 academic colleges, one school, and the multidisciplinary Honors College that teach a wide array of subjects – from math, arts and engineering to law, pharmacy and business. What started as a campus with a single building has grown into a world-class university, offering 285 undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 47,000 students annually.

UH is a Carnegie-designated Tier One public research university, and its public service and community activities, such as cultural offerings, clinical services, policy studies and small business initiatives, serve a diverse metropolitan population. Likewise, the resources of the Gulf Coast Region complement and enrich the University's academic programs, providing students with professional expertise, practical experience and career opportunities.

In keeping with the University's commitment to excellence, UH raised the benchmark of academic achievement when Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and most prestigious academic honor society, awarded UH the approval to start a chapter. This designation welcomed UH to an elite group of the nation's most esteemed colleges and universities.

Commencement Traditions

Academic costumes of today have a history of nearly eight centuries. In medieval Europe, all townspeople wore long flowing robes and gowns. The materials and colors were governed by royal decree. Gradually, distinctive gowns were developed for the various professions, trades and guilds. Scholars wore robes and hoods to protect their shaved heads. Later, skullcaps were worn on the head, and the hoods became a cape that could be pulled over the head during unpleasant weather.

As additional universities were founded, distinctive forms of the gown and hood were adapted by their faculties for bachelor's (apprentices of the arts), master's (teachers) and doctoral (teachers who had completed postgraduate studies). When caps and hats came into fashion in the 15th century, the hoods became ornamental, draped over the shoulders and down the back.

The academic hat was first worn as a symbol of the master's degree and existed in various forms. The mortarboard style comes to us from Oxford University. When academic costumes came to America in 1754, styles were quite varied. In Europe, they still are; however, in our country, usage has been standardized by the Intercollegiate Code of Academic Costume.

GERALD D. HINES COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

Bachelor's Degree	<i>Tassel:</i> Violet
Master's Degree	<i>Hood:</i> Violet <i>Tassel:</i> Black

KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Bachelor's Degree	<i>Tassel:</i> Brown
Master's Degree	<i>Hood:</i> Brown <i>Hood (Music):</i> Pink <i>Tassel:</i> Black
Doctoral Degree	<i>Hood:</i> Pink <i>Tassel:</i> Red

C. T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Bachelor's Degree	<i>Tassel:</i> Dark Blue
Master's Degree	<i>Hood:</i> Drab <i>Tassel:</i> Black
Doctoral Degree	<i>Hood:</i> Dark Blue <i>Tassel:</i> Red

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree	<i>Tassel:</i> Light Blue
Master's Degree	<i>Hood:</i> Light Blue <i>Tassel:</i> Black
Doctoral Degree	<i>Hood (Ed.D.):</i> Light Blue <i>Hood (Ph.D.):</i> Dark Blue <i>Tassel:</i> Red

CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Bachelor's Degree	<i>Tassel:</i> Orange
Master's Degree	<i>Hood:</i> Orange <i>Tassel:</i> Black
Doctoral Degree	<i>Hood:</i> Dark Blue <i>Tassel:</i> Red

CONRAD N. HILTON COLLEGE OF GLOBAL HOSPITALITY LEADERSHIP

Bachelor's Degree	<i>Tassel:</i> Navy
Master's Degree	<i>Hood:</i> Navy, Red and White <i>Tassel:</i> Black
Doctoral Degree	<i>Hood:</i> Dark Blue <i>Tassel:</i> Red

UH LAW CENTER

Master's Degree *Hood: Purple*
 Tassel: Black

Doctoral Degree *Hood: Purple*
 Tassel: Red

**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Bachelor's Degree *Tassel: Citron*

Master's Degree *Hood: Citron*
 Tassel: Black

Doctoral Degree *Hood: Dark Blue*
 Tassel: Red

**TILMAN J. FERTITTA FAMILY
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**

Doctor of Medicine Degree
 Hood: Kelly Green
 Tassel: Red

**COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES
AND MATHEMATICS**

Bachelor's Degree *Tassel: Golden Yellow*

Master's Degree *Hood: Golden Yellow*
 Tassel: Black

Doctoral Degree *Hood: Dark Blue*
 Tassel: Red

**ANDY AND BARBARA GESSNER
COLLEGE OF NURSING**

Bachelor's Degree *Tassel: Apricot*

Master's Degree *Hood: Apricot*
 Tassel: Black

Doctoral Degree *Hood: Apricot*
 Tassel: Red

COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Master's Degree *Hood: Gold*
 Tassel: Black

Doctor of Philosophy Degree
 Hood: Royal Blue
 Tassel: Red

Doctor of Optometry Degree
 Hood: Seafoam Green
 Tassel: Red

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Bachelor's Degree *Tassel: Olive*

Master's Degree *Hood: Olive*
 Tassel: Black

Doctor of Philosophy Degree
 Hood: Royal Blue
 Tassel: Red

Doctor of Pharmacy Degree
 Hood: Olive
 Tassel: Red

**GRADUATE COLLEGE
OF SOCIAL WORK**

Master's Degree *Hood: Citron*
 Tassel: Black

Doctoral Degree *Hood: Citron*
 Tassel: Red

HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Bachelor's Degree *Tassel: Peacock Blue*

Master's Degree *Hood: Peacock Blue*
 Tassel: Black

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS

Bachelor's Degree *Tassel: White*

Ceremonial Symbols



THE SEAL

Throughout history, seals have been used to authenticate official documents. The University of Houston and UH System seals both bear the Official Seal of Arms of General Sam Houston, as handed down to him from his noble ancestors. It includes the escutcheon in the center of the seal — consisting of checkered chevrons denoting nobility — and three martlets, gentle lowland birds that symbolize peace and deliverance. A winged hourglass is placed above the shield. Surmounting this is the motto “In Tempore,” meaning “In Time.” The greyhounds indicate speed of giving aid. The UH seal was first adopted in 1938 as the present campus was established. Although the look of the seal has evolved over the years, the first version was etched into the floor of the Roy G. Cullen Building.



UNIVERSITY MACE

The University Mace, which is carried in academic processions, is a staff symbolizing the University’s authority and unity. The tradition of the academic mace began in the late 14th century when two ancient instruments, the royal scepter and the battle mace, were combined to form a university president’s symbol of authority.

THE ALMA MATER

All hail to thee,
 Our Houston University.
 Our hearts fill with gladness
 When we think of thee.
 We’ll always adore thee
 Dear old varsity.
 And to thy memory cherished,
 True we’ll ever be.

Words and music by Harmony Class of 1942



Honorary Degree

NATHAN FOWLER, M.D.

Dr. Nathan Fowler, a distinguished alumnus, is considered one of the world's foremost experts in drug development for blood cancers. As chief medical officer for BostonGene, Fowler provides strategic direction to the biomedical software company, empowering it to advance precision medicine therapies for cancer patients. The award-winning company uses AI-powered solutions to provide clinicians with actionable insights, support personalized therapy decisions, expedite drug development and improve patient outcomes.

Prior to joining BostonGene, Fowler was a professor of medicine and director of the clinical investigational and translational research program in the Lymphoma and Myeloma department at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. At MD Anderson, Fowler focused on developing groundbreaking new therapies for cancer patients, which led to FDA approval of several novel therapeutic agents in lymphoma. In addition, he led the development of one of the first combination immunotherapy regimens for untreated lymphomas and is the primary investigator for the ongoing international phase III study with the combination.

A profound researcher, Fowler has published over 175 articles in peer-reviewed journals, numerous textbooks on innovative approaches to cancer therapy and is a sought-after speaker for high-profile conferences. He graduated cum laude from the University of Houston with a bachelor's degree in biology and a minor in Spanish in 1996, earned his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston in 2001, where he also completed his residency, and received fellowship training in hematology/oncology at both Georgetown University Hospital and MD Anderson.

Most impressive is Fowler's rich history of service and community engagement. As a student at UH, he volunteered to teach officers Spanish at the Houston Police Department. His fluency in Spanish — supported by his undergraduate minor — has become a vital asset in his medical practice, allowing him to communicate directly with Spanish-speaking patients, enabling more personal, effective care. Prior to his work in medicine, he served in the U.S. Army as a nuclear, biological and chemical defense specialist. Moreover, Fowler is the founder and president of the Halo House Foundation, a Houston-based nonprofit organization providing affordable housing to blood cancer patients receiving medical treatment. His nonprofit — which charges patients only \$20 per night for fully furnished apartments — has provided over 9,000 days of housing to hundreds of families.

The Doctor of Humane Letters degrees, honoris causa, given for exemplary service to the University of Houston or society at large, is the highest honor UH can bestow.



Photo by Louise Kugelberg

Honorary Degree

JULIAN SCHNABEL

A prolific and groundbreaking artist, Julian Schnabel is a world-renowned painter whose multidisciplinary work spans sculpture, architecture, furniture and film. Widely regarded as one of the most influential American artists of the last 40 years, Schnabel rose to prominence as a leading figure in the neo-Expressionist movement in the 1980s. He later became a celebrated filmmaker and continues to excel in both fields today.

An accomplished alumnus of the University of Houston, Schnabel earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1973. He later became the first UH graduate to be honored with a solo exhibition at the University’s Blaffer Art Museum.

His first major exhibition was a group of paintings at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston, in 1976. By the late 1970s, he was exhibiting at some of New York’s most prestigious galleries, including Mary Boone and the legendary Leo Castelli Gallery. The strength of Schnabel’s work lay in his use of preexisting materials not traditionally used in art making, varied painting surfaces and inventive modes of construction — breaking artistic norms of the time. His unorthodox approach helped revive painting in the United States and beyond during a period largely characterized by conceptual art and minimalism.

In the 1990s, Schnabel expanded into filmmaking, directing and writing “Basquiat” — a critically acclaimed film about the famed artist Jean-Michel Basquiat and New York’s 1980s art scene. To date, he has directed six major films, including the acclaimed “Before Night Falls”, which earned Javier Bardem an Academy Award nomination for his breakout role. His 2007 film “The Diving Bell and the Butterfly” was nominated for four Academy Awards, including Best Director, and earned Schnabel the Best Director Award at the Cannes Film Festival.

Schnabel’s paintings are housed in some of the most prestigious museums in the world, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Reina Sofia in Madrid; the Tate Modern in London; and the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris. A true visionary, Schnabel transformed the language of painting and paved the way for new generations of artists.

The Doctor of Humane Letters degrees, honoris causa, given for exemplary service to the University of Houston or society at large, is the highest honor UH can bestow.

CONRAD N.



FOUNDATION

President’s Medallion

CONRAD N. HILTON FOUNDATION

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, established in 1944 by hotel magnate and philanthropist Conrad N. Hilton, has long championed initiatives that alleviate human suffering and foster global goodwill. Hilton’s profound belief in the transformative power of hospitality led to a significant milestone in 1969 when he donated \$1.5 million to the University of Houston to establish the Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management — the first hospitality school in Texas. This foundational gift laid the groundwork for what has

evolved into the Conrad N. Hilton College of Global Hospitality Leadership, a premier institution in hospitality education.

Over the decades, the Hilton Foundation’s unwavering support has been instrumental in the college’s growth and success. The foundation has contributed substantially to the college by funding critical infrastructure, innovative programs, scholarships and strategic initiatives. Notably, in 2021, amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the foundation bestowed a \$10 million unrestricted endowment to aid the college in navigating the crisis and continuing its mission of cultivating future hospitality leaders.

The endowment has provided critical operational and student support, including student scholarships, research funding, professional development training, library materials, equipment acquisition, staff and clerical support, and other key areas that enrich and enhance the college.

The foundation’s commitment extends beyond financial contributions. It also provides strategic guidance to grow the world’s only hospitality program where students work and take classes in an internationally branded, full-service Hilton hotel, which is also operated by the college. In addition, the Hilton company has hired thousands of Hilton College graduates who work in Hilton hotels around the world. Their enduring support has helped students — many of whom are the first in their family to attend college — become leaders in the hospitality industry.

Today, the Conrad N. Hilton College of Global Hospitality Leadership is revered globally as one of the best in hospitality education and research thanks to the enduring support of the Hilton Foundation. Since its founding, the foundation has awarded more than \$3.6 billion in grants, bringing hope, healing and transformative change to thousands worldwide. A profoundly benevolent organization, each year the Hilton Foundation awards a multimillion-dollar prize to a nonprofit leading effort to alleviate human suffering — the world’s largest annual humanitarian award.

The President’s Medallion is awarded at the sole discretion of the President to individuals and organizations that have distinguished themselves by their support of the University of Houston and the community.



Hewlett Packard Enterprise

President's Medallion

HEWLETT PACKARD ENTERPRISE

Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) is a Fortune 100, global edge-to-cloud company advancing the way people live and work.

Headquartered in the Greater Houston region, HPE helps organizations connect, protect, analyze and act on data and applications, to turn insights into meaningful outcomes to thrive in today's complex world.

Named one of the World's Most Ethical Companies by Ethisphere, HPE is dedicated to offering IT solutions that help their customers and partners achieve their social impact commitments. In 2018, HPE made a transformative \$10 million gift to the University of Houston's Data Science Institute as part of a game-changing collaboration to increase innovation. The gift also funded a scholarship endowment and high-performing computing equipment to enhance data science research activities across all UH colleges. In addition, funding supports education programs for K-12 students, as well as UH students, faculty and staff.

In honor of their gift and extensive contributions, the institute was renamed the Hewlett Packard Enterprise Data Science Institute, which has become a central hub for data science education and interdisciplinary research at UH. The institute has expanded educational opportunities by offering micro-credentials and certificate programs in data analytics, artificial intelligence, high-performance computing and related fields, that are critical in today's industries. Students benefit from hands-on experiences, industry workshops and mentorship from HPE professionals who serve as lecturers and collaborators on real-world projects. This integration of academic and industry expertise ensures that graduates are well-prepared to meet the demands of a data-driven workforce.

Furthermore, the institute actively engages with the broader community by developing programs for middle and high school students, aiming to strengthen the STEM pipeline through project-based learning initiatives. These efforts help build a diverse and skilled workforce equipped to tackle future technological challenges.

Moreover, the partnership has enhanced UH's capacity to deploy data science tools to address major societal challenges in the health care, energy and smart materials sectors, among others. The enhanced computational power has enabled researchers to conduct advanced analyses and simulations that have transformed disaster response, advanced breast cancer detection and improved the diagnosis of lupus-related kidney disease.

By fostering education, research and community engagement, the partnership has positioned UH as a leader in data science and innovation, benefiting the University, Greater Houston, Texas and beyond.

The President's Medallion is awarded at the sole discretion of the President to individuals and organizations that have distinguished themselves by their support of the University of Houston and the community.





Message from the Dean

May 10, 2025

Dear Graduates,

Congratulations on earning your law degree from the University of Houston Law Center! As Dean, I am proud of your hard work, dedication, and commitment that has culminated in this significant milestone in your lives.

As graduates, you can now use your legal education to make a positive impact on society and to uphold the rule of law, which is essential for the maintenance of a just and democratic society. As you embark on the next phase of your professional and personal lives, remember the power of your legal education extends beyond the courtroom and boardroom.

Your degree has given you the ability to think critically, analyze complex issues, and develop persuasive arguments. With your J.D. or LL.M. degree, you also join the ranks of more than 18,000 alumni in Houston and around the globe. Our alumni network is here to serve you; they will be your biggest supporters and mentors. I encourage you to get involved with the UH Law Alumni Association and want to remind you of these resources available to you.

- Visit the Law Alumni page: Stay on top of all the latest happenings, events and classmate updates at <https://www.law.uh.edu/alumni/>.
- Follow us on social media: LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, X, Pinterest, and YouTube.
- Update your contact information: Submit your current email and mailing address to lawalumni@uh.edu.
- Stay in touch with UHLC: Subscribe to our newsletters to receive regular updates through the Dean's Notes, e-Briefcase and e-mail notices of upcoming events at UH Law Center. Sign up here: <https://law.uh.edu/email/>.
- Take advantage of free CLE courses: As graduates, you have access to our free Continuing Legal Education (CLE) courses. Visit the CLE webpage for more information: <https://www.law.uh.edu/cle/>.

On behalf of the entire UH Law Center community, best wishes for a successful career. I am honored that you are now part of our vast alumni network. I look forward to greeting you at future alumni events. Please feel free to call on me if I may ever be of assistance.

Warmest regards,

Leonard M. Baynes
*Dean, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished Chair
and Professor of Law*

University of Houston

UH Law Center

Commencement Ceremony

Saturday, May 10, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

Fertitta Center

PROCESSIONAL	Moore School of Music
PRESENTATION OF COLORS	Houston Battalion ROTC Color Guard
NATIONAL ANTHEM	Moore School of Music
WELCOME	Leonard M. Baynes <i>Dean, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished Chair, and Professor of Law</i>
GREETINGS FROM UH SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS	The Honorable Gregory C. King <i>Secretary</i>
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS	The Honorable Irma Carrillo Ramirez <i>U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals</i>
CONFERRAL OF DEGREES	Dean Baynes
HOODING	Meredith J. Duncan <i>Alumnae College Professor of Law Assistant Dean for Opportunities and Community Engagement</i> Peter N. Salib <i>Assistant Professor of Law</i>
CLOSING REMARKS	Dean Baynes
ALMA MATER	Moore School of Music
RECESSIONAL	Happy by Pharrell Williams



Scan the QR code to continue the celebration by visiting the University of Houston Law Center 2025 Commencement Video Wall.

<https://law.uh.edu/videowall2025/homepage.asp>



Commencement Speaker

IRMA CARRILLO RAMIREZ

Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

IRMA CARRILLO RAMIREZ was sworn in as Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit on December 11, 2023. She had previously served as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division, for 21 years. Prior to her judicial service, she was an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division, where she spent time in both the criminal and civil divisions, and an associate attorney in the general commercial litigation section of the law firm of Locke Purnell Rain Harrell L.L.P. She received her law degree from Southern Methodist University School of Law, Dallas, Texas, where she

was a Sarah T. Hughes Diversity Fellow, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from West Texas State University, Canyon, Texas.

Judge Ramirez received the State Bar of Texas Hispanic Issues Section Judge of the Year Award, the Dallas Women Lawyer’s Association’s Louise B. Raggio Award, the Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law’s Distinguished Alumni Award for Judicial Service, the Dallas Hispanic Bar Association’s La Luz Achievement Award, the SMU Women in Law Distinguished Alumna Award, a Federal Executive Board Public Service Award, the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers’ Outstanding Mentor Award, and the SMU Law School Board of Advocates Coach of the Year Award. She is a member of SMU Dedman School of Law’s Executive Board and the SMU Law Review Association Advisory Board, and she has previously served as an SMU Community Fellow. She has also served two terms on the Board of Trustees for the Texas Center for Legal Ethics, including as the Chair in 2019. She is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and the Dallas Hispanic Law Foundation; a Sustaining Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, the Dallas Bar Foundation, and the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers; a Master in the William “Mac” Taylor Inn of Court and the Sarah T. Hughes Inn of Court.

Master of Laws

SUMMER 2024 GRADUATE

Sareena Nawaz

FALL 2024 GRADUATES

Aramide Rafiat Akinyele
Frank Alfonso-Pineiro
Marco Alexandre Lopes Cardoso
Martha Cruz Guzman
Juan Jesus Delgado Fuentes
Katheryn Jasmin Espinal Arias
Alexandra Thalia Fuelling
Quilber Mixaida Gamez Veloz
Sofia Guzman Valle
Andrea Virginia Martinez Diaz
Kseniia Melnikova
Michelly Margarita
Monasterios Urdaneta
Vidushi Nandan
Felipe Ortiz Navarrete
Samuel Tonatihu Rodriguez Nunez

Valeria Joy Villanueva
Joseph Aaron Welsh

SPRING AND SUMMER 2025 CANDIDATES

Oladapo Olubunmi Adeya
Cahide Aktay
Gurlin Anand
Claudia Bahraini
Ikra Bajwa
Maria Eugenia Balbian Flores
Marie-Therese Battaglia Roth
Miranda V. Chavez
Julio Cesar Chica Santana
Jose Francisco Diaz Amador
Yesiree Fernandez Kassar
Carlos Roberto Garduno Rivera
Lina Mariana Gruber
Jyoti Gundecha
Madison Alexandra Nicole Hastings

Gaydaa Issa
Thi Sao Mai Le
Hector Guillermo Mantilla Rueda
Beatriz Martins
Manuel Medina Gonzalez
Carlos Mora Diaz
Monioluwa Oluwatoy Ogunleye
Jose Antonio Paez Jaimes
Anastasiia Polishchuk
Yrene Alejandra Posada
Chelsea Sawaya
Yael Sagiv Spak
Jessie Maribel Stutzman Castillo
Meghana Sunkara
Brenda Tapia Gonzalez
Fernando Tello Garcia
Burcu Toy
Danica Vlaovic
Susuya Ariyaratne Widana Gamage
Sule Yildiz

Doctor of Jurisprudence

FALL 2024 GRADUATES

Lucas J. Chollett
Ashley S. Easaw
Jason Esmaili
Mary J. Fowler
Venodhar R. Julapalli
Abigail Y. Liu
Shiva Moghadasian
Mercy Ayomide Obisesan
James Reckaway
Charles W. Reeves
Deevika Sharma
Christopher M. Simler
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1 Summa Cum Laude - 2 Magna Cum Laude - 3 Cum Laude

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Commencement Ceremony

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Hoa Buu Tang
Trinity Kobe Tang
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Kara D. Taylor
Nathanael G. Thomson
Brooke Ashley Tribble
Sebastian James Turet

Olivia G. Unzueta
Nabeegh Usman
Marissa D. Valdez³
Edward Anthony Vaudry
Jack Wang
Chessa G. White
Truitt Brandon Williams
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Savannah E. Witte²
Christopher Wong
Yun Xie
Giancarlo F. Yaquinto
Woongchan Yum
Umar Zaidi
Artur David Zigman

¹ Summa Cum Laude - ² Magna Cum Laude - ³ Cum Laude







Message from the UH Alumni Foundation Board President

Let me be the first to welcome you to the UH Alumni Association. You are joining a global network of over 305,000 Cougars. With your participation, we can only grow stronger. As you embark on this next chapter, know that your Alumni Association is here to help you stay connected with your beloved alma mater. From volunteering at an event, joining an Association or Network, signing on to UH Link, to becoming a

Life Member, the opportunities to engage are endless.

Please scan the QR code below to enjoy all the activities that soon await you. In the meantime, savor this moment and continue to soar.

True we'll ever be and Go Coogs!

Shazia Khan

Shazia Khan ('84)
UH Alumni Association Foundation Board President

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