

**Rummel, Erin**

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**From:** Dean Smith, Office of Student Services <e.smith@law.umaryland.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025 12:23 PM  
**To:** Rummel, Erin  
**Subject:** [TEST] Graduation & Bar Updates (March Edition)

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UNIVERSITY *of* MARYLAND  
FRANCIS KING CAREY  
SCHOOL OF LAW



March 2025

All July 2024 Graduates, December 2024 Graduates, and May 2025 Candidates are invited to participate in the May 2025 Graduation festivities!

Ceremonies to mark the conclusion of our graduates' time in law school will begin with a **Champagne Toast on Tuesday, May 20 at 5:30 pm** and will conclude with the conferral of degrees at the **Maryland Carey Law Hooding Ceremony on Friday, May 23 at 11:30 am**. Additional celebratory events will take place in between. Please visit the law school's [graduation page](#) to access the complete schedule.

Each month leading up to graduation, you will receive this Graduation and Admission to the Bar Updates Newsletter. In it, you will find tasks you must complete in anticipation of graduation, important information regarding celebratory events, bar admission updates, and more.



"A law degree is an opportunity to make a difference."

Dean Smith

Erica Smith, J.D., LL.M. (she/her/hers)  
Associate Dean for Student Services  
University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law



## GRADUATION TASKS YOU MUST COMPLETE

During the month of **March**, you should focus on completing the following tasks:

### Graduate Survey

Regardless of whether you plan to attend the Hooding Ceremony, you must fill out the relevant Graduate Survey below on or before **Friday, April 11**. The survey requests information about your post-graduation employment status and your plans regarding bar exams. CDO requests employment information to meet our reporting obligations to our accrediting agency (the ABA Section of Legal Education) and to prospective students. Please be assured that all individual data is kept confidential; only aggregate data is published.

Near the end of the Graduate Survey, there are several questions related to graduation events and Hooding Ceremony tickets. Please respond to those questions to let us know whether you and your guests will attend the listed events and to request the tickets you will need for the Hooding Ceremony.

- [JD Graduate Survey](#)
- [LLM Graduate Survey](#)
- [MSL Graduate Survey](#)

## Name Pronunciation for Hooding Ceremony

During the Hooding Ceremony, your name will be announced as it appears on your Application for Diploma when you walk onto the stage. Please [setup your name pronunciation in Blackboard](#). You should add text guidance **and** an audio recording of your name. You can find instructions on how to setup your name pronunciation [here](#).



## Order Your Regalia

All graduates participating in the Hooding Ceremony must wear approved academic regalia. Academic regalia consists of a gown, tassel, tam, and hood.

Academic regalia is available to be purchased [here](#). LLM's and MSL's should order the "Master Package - Ship to Your Residence" and JD's should order the "Doctor Package Ship to Home."

To guarantee the appropriate size and timely arrival, all regalia orders must be placed no later than **Wednesday, April 23 (NEW, Earlier Date)**. Regalia will be directly shipped to your shipping address. Please note that regalia cannot be rented, but it may be borrowed from previous graduates.

You can also bid on once used graduation gowns starting at only \$25 during [MPILP's Goods and Services Auction 2025](#). All proceeds go towards grants for public interest students.

[Purchase Regalia](#)



## Graduation Cords

If you would like the Office of Student Affairs to order Graduation Cords for your student organizations and/or co-curricular team, you must complete the survey [here](#) on or before **Friday, April 11**. Surveys received after this date may not be included in the cords order. Only one form should be submitted per organization/team. Please check your budget with SBA for cord purchase prior to filling out the survey. For questions, please email [osa@law.umaryland.edu](mailto:osa@law.umaryland.edu).

## Law School Diploma

The name on your diploma will be your official name as it appears on university records. You can view this detail in your SURFS account. If you would like to request a name on your diploma that is different from what appears on the University records, you can submit a [Request to Change Personal information](#). Deadline to request a change is **Friday, May 2**. You will incur additional fees for any diploma/certificate name change requests received by the UMB Office of the Registrar after **Thursday, May 22**.

It is recommended that the diploma name match your official legal name, however, preferred name changes can be made. You can request a preferred first name/middle name [here](#). Enter your preferred first and/or middle name (last name will not be changed). Preferred name request can be made until the close of business on **Friday, May 2**.

You should expect to receive your diploma approximately 4-8 weeks after graduation.

## Graduation Program

If you have marked your name, major, attendance, degree and/or institution as confidential in the Directory Options in SURFS, the law school will be unable to share your name, degree, and other information in any Graduation programs/publications. Furthermore, if you leave this information as confidential after you depart the university, we will not be able to verify your credentials, attendance or graduation date with any employers, educational programs and/or agencies unless you provide written consent.

If you wish to [change your directory settings](#), please do so by **12:00 pm on Friday, April 4**. Once you login to SURFS, click "Personal Information then click "Update Directory Options."

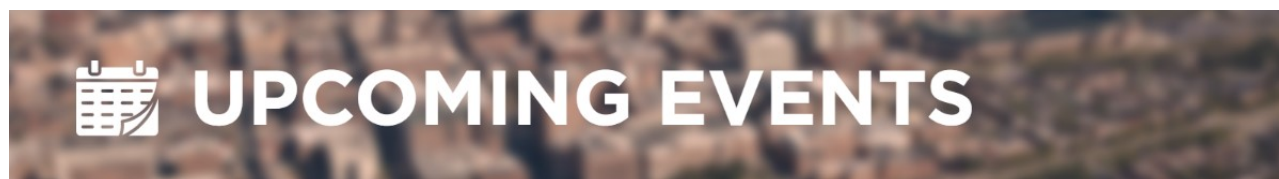
## Invitation Letter for US Visa

Are you in need of an invitation letter for a family member/friend coming from overseas to attend your graduation? If so, please request a letter or letters from [Ms. Amanda Barnes](#), Office Manager for Student Services, and provide the following information about your guests:

- The names of each guest and their relationship to you (parent, aunt, uncle, other family member, friend)
- The date guests are expected to arrive in the US and the date of their expected departure.
- The address where each guest will be residing while in the US.
- Name and address of the embassy to which the letter(s) should be addressed.


## Procedure for Disclosing Additional Character & Fitness Issues

If you need to supplement your law school application because you failed to disclose matters that should have been disclosed when you applied, OR if you need to disclose events that occurred after you submitted your application and/or after you enrolled, please follow the instructions [here](#).



## MD Board of Law Examiners' Office Hours (Evening Students)

 **Date:** Tuesday, March 25

 **Time:** 5:00 to 6:40 pm

 **Location:** [Zoom](#)

Mr. Jeffrey Shipley, Secretary & Director of the MD Board of Law Examiners, will be available to speak with **evening students** individually on Zoom regarding their specific questions on the Character & Fitness Questionnaire. Each individual session is limited to 20 minutes. **Pre-registration is required.**

[Pre-registration](#)

## All About the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE)

**Wednesday, March 26** from 12:00 to 1:00 pm on Zoom

The overwhelming majority of jurisdictions have adopted the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE). This session will cover each component of the UBE, including the Multistate Bar Exam (MBE), the Multistate Essay Exam (MEE), and the Multistate Performance Test (MPT).

Questions? Email [max@accesslex.org](mailto:max@accesslex.org).

**Register**

## MD Board of Law Examiners' On-Campus Visit (Day Students)

 **Date: Wednesday, March 26**

 **Time: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm**

 **Location: Room 465**

Mr. Jeffrey Shipley, Secretary & Director of the MD Board of Law Examiners, will be on campus to speak with students individually regarding their specific questions on the Character & Fitness Questionnaire. Each individual session is limited to 20 minutes. **Pre-registration is required.** Unfortunately, no drop-by or day of requests can be accommodated.

**Pre-registration**

## Character and Fitness Panel Discussion

 **Date: Thursday, April 3**

 **Time: 6:00 pm**

 **Location: Online**

Bar admission can be a challenging and stressful process, but the DC Bar is here to help you navigate it successfully. Join the D.C. Bar Lawyer Assistance Program and members of the D.C. Court of Appeals Committee on Admissions, Thomas Healy, Esq. and Dr. Belinda Tilley, Esq. for an informative Q&A discussion. For any questions please reach out to LAP Senior Counselor Sharon Greenbaum, LICSW ([sgreenbaum@dcbar.org](mailto:sgreenbaum@dcbar.org)) or 202-780-2783.



## BAR ADMISSION UPDATES

### BARBRI Partnership - Early Course Access

Students enrolled in the UMD-BARBRI Partnership summer 2025 post-grad bar exam review course may gain early access to the course. Please check your account for more information. If you have any questions, feel free to contact [Professor Yarbrough](#).

### Bar Admissions Reference Guide

Check out this [Quick Reference Guide](#) for popular UMB jurisdictions. If you have questions about this guide, please reach out to [Professor Yarbrough](#), Director of Bar Programs and Academic Achievement.

### DC Bar Announcement July 2025

There is a new seating capacity limit in place for the DC July 2025 bar exam administration. Only 2,200 seats will be available on a first come, first served basis (no law school limitations yet). Registration opens **Saturday, March 1** and closes on **Monday, March 31**. There is no late registration. More information on the DC bar exam admissions is available at <https://admissions.dcappeals.gov/home>.



## QUESTIONS AND CONTACTS



## Whom to Contact

Law School's [Office of Registration and Enrollment](#)

- Eligibility for Graduation

UMB's [Office of the Registrar](#)

- Graduation Application
- Name Changes/Updates

[Office of Student Affairs](#)

- General Graduation Inquiries

[Professor Micah Yarbrough](#)

- Bar Admission Inquiries

If there is something missing from the Weekly Student Services Newsletter that you would like to see added, [please let us know](#).



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