

School of Law Hooding Ceremony

Saturday, May 16, 5:30 p.m.

Jesse Auditorium, University of Missouri Campus



School of Law
University of Missouri

Program

Welcome & Introductions

Dean Paul Litton

Jeanne Cairns Sinquefield, University of Missouri Board of Curators

Mun Choi, President, University of Missouri

Keesha-Lu Abrahams, Mitra, '89

Ryan Vacca, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Erika Lietzan, Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development

Jennifer McGarr, Assistant Dean for Career Development & Student Services
Faculty of the School of Law

President's Remarks

Mun Choi, President, University of Missouri

Speaker

Keesha-Lu Abrahams-Mitra, '89

Hooding Ceremony

Reader

Associate Dean Ryan Vacca

LL.M. Hooders

Professor Paul Ladehoff

Professor Carli Conklin

J.D. Hooders

Professor Andrea Boyack

Professor Renee Henson

Professor Rachel Wechsler

Conferring of Degrees

Jeanne Cairns Sinquefield, University of Missouri Board of Curators

Closing Remarks

Dean Paul Litton

Graduates

LL.M. - Master of Laws in Dispute Resolution

Michael James Conklin^
Adanna Kemba Cudjoe
Chuma Fiona Fibi
Andrea Layne Keeling
Walker Lee*
Scott Andrew Mangum
Michele Annette Montour-Kumm
Lindsey Smith Olsen
Vincent Pair
Tetiana Plakhtyr^
David George Thomas^
Elizabeth Elena Villa Vásquez

J.D. - Juris Doctor

Jared Henry Aldrich
Jesse B. Alford
Daniel Altmann^
Tyler Michael Atkinson
Jason William Bagley
Isaiah Bailey
Elizabeth Ann Baker
Danielle N. Barnette
Andrew Allen Bohon
Matthew Robert Boston
Andrew Joseph Boyer
Hannah Grace Brown
Netanya R. Buban
Samuel Cade
Kara Anne Candler
Mary Catherine Capron
Claire Louise Carlson
Rachel Carlson

Karan Chhikara
Allison Clayton*
Jasmine G. De Los Rios
Elly Melynn DeVeney
Braden Victor Dilbaitis
Irmarié Dolz Maldonado
Emma Madeline Donaldson
Kiera Laine Doughty
Dylan Dunbar
Michael Lee Ellinger
Alberta Rose Engelman
William DeAndre Fayne
Isabel Marguerite Fenoglio
Steven P. Flanders
Brooks Wesley Fleischmann
Brianna Rhay Ford
Emma G. Goodlet
Amber K. Gray
Michael Patrick Hall
Myuah Christel Hamilton
Ollie Adair Hampton
Paige Katherine Harris
Brady Montgomery Hays
Grayson Joe Henry
Claire Hiegel
Christina Noel Hoffmann
Shannon J. Hoggatt
Jalyn Reed Huntzicker
Jackson Katanic
Claire A. Kelly
Mary Jae Kirby
William Allen Knowles
Irina Pappas Kratz**
Paige Marie Lewandowski
Maverick L. Lewis
David Andres Lopez
Sufei Lu
Garret Richard Macko
Stephanie Anne Maxwell
John A. Meadows

Landis Merrill
Anna Leigh Miller
Avery Roselyn Mollenkamp
James Michael Moore
Gregory C. Morgan
Ashley M. Moulis
Caleb Mundwiller
Maggie Noel Munsterman
Karlina V. Murnieks
Reagan Thomas Myers
Zoe Alexandra Nelson
Mary Margaret Nester
Luke Taylor Nutwell
Audrey Elizabeth O'Brien
Megan Foluke Oduyoye
Kaitlynn Nicole Olewnik
Robert William Orr
Michaela Mae Wier Paquette
Anna Claire Parker
Madison Perry
William T. Perryman
Marguerite Maxine Pfaff
Paige Alisa Pieper
Jacob A. Pocivasek
Rebecca L. Postula
Nicholas Jake Prindiville
Dane Joseph Puckett
Kaitlyn Nicole Puyear
Kendra Roshae Ragsdale
John. R. Rahoy
Bailey Michelle Rasmussen
Jordan Rayner
Lucas. A. Reed
Kayla A. Reese*
Jonathan Bryce Rone
Caleb Rossco Ross
Elli Lou Ross
David T. Rouse
Meghan G. Sanders
Camryn Lynn Schear

Travis Courtney Schoengarth
Luke Matthew Severt
Daniel Igor Sheremet
Eric Hamilton Siemens
Paige Elizabeth Slusser
Brynna E. Smith
Skylar Smith
Sarah R. Stich
William Alexander Sticklen
Jackson Stiens
Riley Patrick Sutherland
Kathryn Grace Taaffe
Austin Jacob Cecil Talir
Alexis L. Theoharidis
Adam Michael Thomas
Robert W. Towe
Trenton T. Van Horn
Chelsie Ann Verstraete
Jordan C. Vitiello
Andrew James West
Paul John Wuennenberg
Robert Daniel Wulff
M. Thomas Yang
Taylor B. Zempel

^ Fall 2025 Graduate

* Summer 2026 Graduate

** Fall 2026 Graduate

Speaker



Keesha-Lu Mitra is Senior Vice President and General Counsel for State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company. Her span of responsibility for the Law Department includes the Corporate Law division which handles litigation, legislative and regulatory affairs, and all legal counsel provided to the organization, and the Claim Litigation Counsel division which provides insurance defense representation to State Farm policyholders through 40 offices around the nation.

Keesha-Lu is a product of the Law Department's internship program, joining State Farm® in 1989 upon graduating from University of Missouri School of Law. She has served in a variety of roles and sections within the Department before moving into leadership in 2016. She was named General Counsel in 2023.

Keesha-Lu received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, magna cum laude, from Lincoln University, and a Juris Doctorate, dean's list, from the University of Missouri. She earned the Fellow, Life Management Institute (FLMI) designation in May 1997 and the Fellow, Financial Services Institute (FFSI) in 2007. Continuous development is a priority and in that vein she has completed the Legal Leadership Academy sponsored by the Corporate Executive Board, the University of Chicago Booth School of Business High Performance Leadership and Stanford Graduate School of Business Executive Leadership. She is also active in multiple industry organizations.

Keesha-Lu and her husband live in Bloomington, Illinois, and have three daughters and one granddaughter.

History of the Regalia

In 1932 the American Council on Education (ACE) authorized the appointment of a committee “to determine whether revision and completion of the academic code adopted by the conference of the colleges and universities in 1895 is desirable at this time, and, if so, to draft a revised code and present a plan for submitting the code to the consideration of the institutional members of the Council.” The committee reviewed the situation and approved a code for academic costumes that has been in effect since that year.

Doctoral robes are typically black. In general, doctoral gowns are similar to the gowns worn by bachelor’s graduates, with the addition of three velvet bands on the sleeves and velvet facing running down the front of the gown. The Code calls for the gown trim to be either black or the color designated for the field of study in which the doctorate was earned. The robes have full sleeves, instead of the bell sleeves of the bachelor’s gown.

The Code calls for the outside shell of the hood to remain black. The shell material of the hood matches the robe, and for the color to be black regardless of the color of the robe being worn. The interior lining - generally silk - displays the colors of the institution from which the wearer received the degree, in a pattern prescribed by it (usually, if more than one color is used, chevrons or equal divisions). The opening of the hood is trimmed in velvet or velveteen. In most American colleges and universities, the color of the velvet hood trimming is distinctive of the academic field for which law is purple.