

Hayley Christine Shepard JD

This past Friday, May 3rd, the Northern Kentucky University Chase School of Law held its commencement exercises, at which Juris Doctor degrees were presented to about 100 students in the Faculty. The ceremony was held on the University campus where students, faculty, honored guests and proud family members gathered in the Truist Arena. Half of the very large arena had been set up auditorium-style and great views of the students and the stage were available to all attendees.

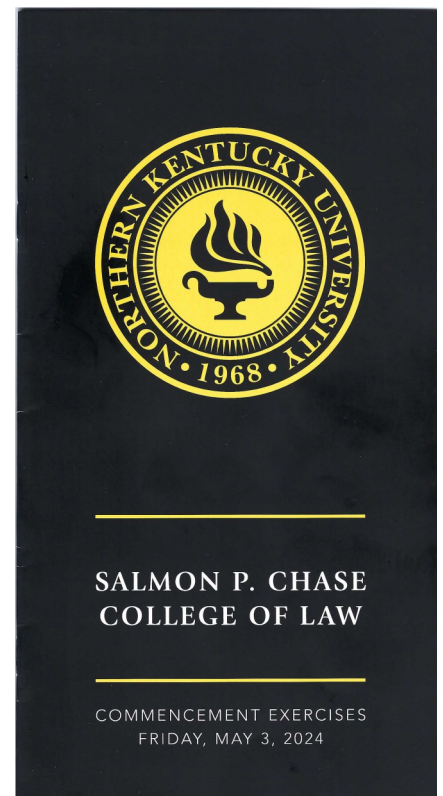
Molly and I had driven down to NKU to arrive at the arena in time for a reception (food, coffee, lemonade—the campus is dry!) where the students and their families mingled prior to the ceremony.



Right on time at 6pm, the students, Faculty and guests filed into the auditorium, the National Anthem was sung, and the proceedings got underway.



The Order of Exercises followed a rather traditional format with recognition of the faculty and staff preceding speeches by various guests, valedictory addresses and the Commencement Address. Then it was on to the Presentation of the Candidates for Degrees and the reading of the names of the JD and





2024 CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

Honors symbols legend on page 15.
The following degrees will be awarded provided all requirements have been met:

SALMON P. CHASE COLLEGE OF LAW JURIS DOCTOR

Angelina C. Addams †
 Sydney Auteri †††
 Megan Elisabeth Bailey
 Sierra D. Bailey
 Andrew Joseph Barger †
 James Barnett †
 Austin Z. Baurichter †††
 Brandon Scott Bellofatto
 Kallie Hellard Bentley
 Robert Andrew Bird ††
 Mary Beth Blair
 Rachel N. Blumberg ††
 Jessica Marie Boggs
 Megan Elizabeth Cady †
 Christian Tyler Carmical
 Lucielle Holliday Cervantes
 Christopher Evan Chase
 Bryce R. Clayton †
 Lauren Cleary †
 Emily N. Coffey †
 Benjamin L. Cosgrove †
 Dylan Christopher Cox
 Carissa R. Coy
 Missy J. Dieckman-Meyer
 Madison Jordan Dorris †
 Sydney Renee Draper †
 Ashley Lynn Duckworth †
 Lindsay Dunn †
 Taylor M. Edwards †
 Mary Lauren Erwin
 Megan Regina Ferguson ††
 Hayden S. Ford
 James E. Fox
 Laura Fox
 Logan J. Gabbard †

Ryan Geoghegan
 Abbey Jon Geurin
 Rachel D. Ginsburg
 Christopher John Grayson †††
 Jessie Greive
 Benjamin Bartlett Gruber
 Kiley R. Harris
 Houston T. Harvey
 Jonathan Randall Heath
 Jason Heitz ††
 Laura E. Higgins
 Colette M. Hue ††
 Mark R. Illingworth ††
 Joetta Marie Ingguls
 Drew English Jackson ††
 Jessica M. Jeffries ††
 Austin M. Johnson
 John Bernard Kaplan
 Alexander W. Kirk †
 Daniel Joseph Kissane III ††
 Michael A. Knopf
 Mark Christian Kouns
 Leah Nadine
 Maiya Janette Lane †
 Maura E. Lang †
 Kennedy S. Lawrence
 Ryan Elizabeth Long
 Kayla Spring Love
 Bryce A. Madden ††
 Ian Manahan ††
 Ronald L. McDermott III
 Kendyl Madison McKeough
 Christopher M. Meyer
 Sydney Grace Meyer †
 Jarred C. Millon

2024 CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

John S. Morenon IV
 Hannah Morrell †
 Jordan S. Mudd
 Sarah Patricia Mustian †
 Rachael Lee Myers †
 Daniel Joseph Nieman
 JaShay S. Nix
 Aaron M. Osborne
 Natalie Jean Patey †
 Kayla D. Porter †
 Hanna Rae Puthoff
 Derrick Lamar Reebus Jr.
 Michael Anthony Roberts ††
 Matisa Lanae Robinson †
 Thomas P. Rogers
 Parker J. Root
 Cody Ryan
 Kendra Jade Sauro
 Laura Schack ††
 Cayla R. Schulz
 Willy R. Schwerin †
 Sidney Schwetschenau
 James Addison Seaver
 Jalen J. Seihorst †
 Thomas W. Seibert
 Jessica Rodriguez Shaw
 Hayley C. Shepard

Jordan Sherrow †
 Hannah Rae Shotwell †
 Stephen Clay Sims †
 Jordyn M. Smith
 Jared T. Snow ††
 Jeffrey P. Spader
 Carrie Lynn Kirschner Stambaugh ††
 Natasha N. Steele
 Iaa Strang ††
 Martha Sofia Thomas
 Abigail M. Thompson
 Jayna Anne Thompson †
 Kaila Taylor Troxell
 Richard R. Vaglianti ††
 Westin W. Wagoner
 Cecilia H. Walton
 Rachel Wangler Dudko †
 Marcus T. Watson
 Emily Ann Weber
 Carley E. Weinberg †††
 Allison Danielle Wells †
 Triston Wheeler
 Ethan H. Wieland †
 Ian Williams
 Ross G. Wilson
 Lillian P. Young †
 Dana Elise Zoltshek

HONORS SYMBOLS

SUMMA CUM LAUDE
 ††† Students who attain a grade point average of 3.650 to 4.333 are graduated summa cum laude.
MAGNA CUM LAUDE
 †† Students who attain a grade point average of 3.400 to 3.649 are graduated magna cum laude.
CUM LAUDE
 † Students who attain a grade point average of 3.150 to 3.399 are graduated cum laude.

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Master of Legal Studies students. Each filed on to the dais, had their stoles put over their heads, shook hands with several officials and received their diploma (or, at least a black tube representing the certificate). Hayley’s name was called about three quarters of the way down the 100+ list, at which time seven family representatives (mom, dad, brother and girlfriend, aunt, grandparents) had their chance to applaud and feel proud.



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The ceremony lasted a little over ninety minutes (a far cry from the seemingly interminable high school and baccalaureate equivalents) and the new graduates left the auditorium. Family and friends followed for gatherings outside at which congratulations were extended, photographs taken, and hugs exchanged.



The Graduate with Proud Family

The weekend celebration wasn't over for the Shepard family, however, as a larger group of family and friends was treated to a brunch at Blinkers Tavern in Covington. Molly and I attended, along with mom, dad, brother, cousins, aunt and uncle and friends (including a fellow degree recipient from Hayley's class). Toasts to the graduate and a very pleasant meal concluded the formal celebrations of the weekend—but there is a suggestion that some continued



less formal toasts and congratulatory sessions.



Molly and I are immensely proud of our granddaughter and wish her well in the Bar Examination in July and all her future endeavors.