

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA
SCHOOL OF LAW

COMMENCEMENT



CLASS OF 2024

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024
GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA

THE ORDER OF EXERCISES

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF LAW COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Saturday, May 4, 2024
Chester Fritz Auditorium
10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

Pomp and Circumstance — Sir Edward Elgar
Please stand during the Processional.

WELCOME

Dean Brian Pappas

GREETINGS FROM THE STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Dr. Casey Ryan

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Professor Paul E. Traynor

CONFERRING OF ACADEMIC DEGREES

President Andrew P. Armacost

PROCTOR

Assistant Dean Brad Parrish

FACULTY HOODERS

Professor Julia L. Ernst
Professor Michael S. McGinniss

REMARKS

President Andrew P. Armacost

CLOSING REMARKS

Dean Brian Pappas

RECESSIONAL

Piano Concerto in F Major No. 19 — Mozart
*The audience is requested to remain in place
until the recessional is concluded.*



COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

PROFESSOR PAUL E. TRAYNOR

Professor Paul E. Traynor was born in Devils Lake and is a fifth generation North Dakotan. One of nine members of his family, across four generations, to have graduated from the University of North Dakota School of Law, he is a proud UND legacy.

He began his formal education at the University of North Dakota, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in History and Classical Languages. During his time at UND, he spent two summers studying abroad in Italy under Professor Emeritus, Dr. Louis Palanca. He graduated in December of 1988 from the UND School of Law with a Juris Doctor degree. While in law school, he was a member of the North Dakota Law Review as an editorial staff member.

Professor Traynor was admitted to the Minnesota and North Dakota Bar in 1989 as well as the Federal District Courts of Minnesota and North Dakota. After a decade of working as a corporate attorney, Professor Traynor furthered his education by graduating with a Master of Insurance Laws (LLM) degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 2002, the first distance graduate from the UConn School of Law.

While working for State Farm Insurance Cos. in Minneapolis during the early 1990s, Professor Traynor was both a clinical and on-call attorney for the Minnesota AIDS Project (MAP) providing pro bono legal work to a population suffering from the AIDS pandemic and which, at the time, was largely ignored by government and public health officials.

Throughout his professional career, Professor Traynor has worked for the Nodak Insurance Company (Fargo, ND); State Farm Insurance Cos. (Bloomington, IL); Horace Mann Cos. (Springfield, IL); Kemper Cos. (Chicago, IL) and Coverys (Boston, MA). During that time, he was admitted to the Illinois and Michigan State Bars. The companies he worked for were involved in the property & casualty, life, health, worker's compensation and provided comprehensive insurance programs for major medical centers and teaching hospitals on the East Coast and Midwest. He has served as an expert witness in insurance litigation in several states.

Professor Traynor has published articles on insurance matters in the Connecticut Insurance Law Journal and the DePaul University of Chicago Business and Commercial Law Journal. He has recently signed a publishing contract with West Publishing to update the Third Edition of an insurance law casebook, *Insurance Law and Practice, Cases, Material and Exercises*, and is working on another article on parametric insurance bonds.

After a 29-year career in the corporate world, Professor Traynor moved back to North Dakota to be closer to his family and joined the faculty at the UND School of Law in 2019 as a Special Appointments Faculty member. He was recently granted a tenure-track faculty position by the UND School of Law. He teaches Business Associations I and II (Agency, Partnerships and Corporations), Insurance Law, Health Law and Advanced Torts.

He has four siblings, three lawyers and one surgeon, all of whom are graduates of the University of North Dakota. In his spare time Professor Traynor serves on various law school and university committees, the Grand Forks Public Schools Foundation and is a classically trained cellist who plays with the Greater Grand Forks Symphony. He lives in Grand Forks with his Beagle, Barley.

UND SCHOOL OF LAW CLASS OF 2024



Yusuf Abas

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
University of Manitoba
December 2023



Robert Allan Agnes

Moorhead, Minnesota
Minnesota State University Moorhead



Vicki M. Alberts

New Town, North Dakota
Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College

Hassam Ali

Sialkot, Punjab, Pakistan
Georgia State University



Alyssa N. Allen

Barnesville, Minnesota
University of North Dakota

Caitlin Baker

Brooten, Minnesota
North Dakota State University
Master of Business Administration
December 2023



Thomas Bales

Cedar Rapids, Iowa
University of St. Thomas
Master of Business Administration
December 2023

Peter E. Bartlett

Rochester, Minnesota
Winona State University



UND SCHOOL OF LAW CLASS OF 2024



Mishaye Belgarde
Belcourt, North Dakota
North Dakota State University
Indian & Tribal Law Certificate



Sarah Belliston
Rapid City, South Dakota
Brigham Young University



Spencer Jay Bickel
Minot, North Dakota
University of North Dakota



Jack Bradley Blotsky
Fargo, North Dakota
North Dakota State University



Jaxen James Lyle Bratcher
Williston, North Dakota
North Dakota State University



Armando Isagani Philip Buque
Whitby, Ontario, Canada
Saint Leo University



Nicolas E. Carlson
Fergus Falls, Minnesota
Bemidji State University



Christianna Cathcart
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
University of Winnipeg
December 2023

UND SCHOOL OF LAW CLASS OF 2024



Christian Alberto Chavez

Brandon, Manitoba, Canada
Brandon University



Victoria Jean Marie Christian

Grand Forks, North Dakota
University of North Dakota



Jacob Clements

Osage, Minnesota
Concordia College, Moorhead
December 2023



Amelia Cope-Robinson

Virginia, Minnesota
University of Minnesota Duluth
December 2023



Casey Kappel Drege

Casselton, North Dakota
North Dakota State University



Lauren Katherine Dub

Manvel, North Dakota
University of North Dakota
Master of Business Administration



Dillon Alexander Dyer

Alexander, North Dakota
Minot State University
Aviation Law Certificate



Grant Timothy Ellenson

West Fargo, North Dakota
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

UND SCHOOL OF LAW CLASS OF 2024



Seth Flynn
Cartwright, North Dakota
University of North Dakota
December 2023



Matthew Thomas Freier
Kindred, North Dakota
North Dakota State University



Clay Arthur Froseth
Kenmare, North Dakota
University of North Dakota



Joanna Joy Geffre
Aberdeen, South Dakota
University of North Dakota



Riley Gilmore
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
University of Manitoba
December 2023



Savanah Faye Glover
Fargo, North Dakota
North Dakota State University



Ezra John Gray
Bismarck, North Dakota
North Dakota State University

Mathew Thomas Grivičić
Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada
University of Manitoba

UND SCHOOL OF LAW CLASS OF 2024



Amelia Hamman
Carman, Manitoba, Canada
Minot State University



Zachary C. Heier
Needham, Massachusetts
University of Vermont



Laura Helgeson
Walhalla, North Dakota
Minnesota State University Moorhead
December 2023

Bridger Jackson
Bozeman, Montana
Montana State University
December 2023



Nicholas Patrick Johnson
Jamestown, North Dakota
University of North Dakota



Anita Kaduru
Sugarland, Texas
University of the Incarnate Word



Alexander Duane Kiser
Moorhead, Minnesota
University of Minnesota



Roman A. Knudsvig
Berthold, North Dakota
Arizona State University

UND SCHOOL OF LAW CLASS OF 2024



Ashley E. Koehn
West Fargo, North Dakota
Minnesota State University Moorhead



Timothy J. Kolberg
Missoula, Montana
Montana State University - Northern



Taylor Mae Kuznia
Horace, North Dakota
North Dakota State University



William Levy
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Western University, London, Ontario
Master of Business Administration
December 2023



Sarah Jo Rose Malsom
Aberdeen, South Dakota
University of North Dakota



Colton Alex Martin
Anamoose, North Dakota
University of North Dakota
Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Certificate



Yivan A. Martinez
Arlington, Texas
University of Texas



Melissa M. McCabe
Dickinson, North Dakota
Dickinson State University

UND SCHOOL OF LAW CLASS OF 2024



Connor McCormick

Rapid City, South Dakota
University of South Dakota



Kelsey A. Medford

Pocatello, Idaho
Idaho State University



Danielle R. Middleton

St. George, Utah
Utah Tech University



Heather Elizabeth Misialek

Grand Forks, North Dakota
University of North Dakota



Cassandra Rae Molivigny

Larimore, North Dakota
University of North Dakota



Jake Austin Nessel

Novi, Michigan
Michigan State University



Wylie James Novak

Cut Bank, Montana
Montana State University - Northern



Mark E. Openshaw

Parker, Arizona
Northern Arizona University

UND SCHOOL OF LAW CLASS OF 2024



Lindsey Jo Pouliot
Beulah, North Dakota
North Dakota State University



Anna Rackley
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Saint Leo University



Theodore W. Ramage
Watford City, North Dakota
University of North Dakota



Henry L. Rubish
Grand Forks, North Dakota
University of North Dakota



Vaishna Alyssa Saunders
Toronto, Canada
University of Toronto



Drew S. Schmit
Phoenix, Arizona
University of Arizona Tucson
Master of Public Health



Katelyn Lisa-Marie Schulz
Bismarck, North Dakota
University of North Dakota



Elijah Schwindt
Bismarck, North Dakota
University of North Dakota
December 2023

UND SCHOOL OF LAW CLASS OF 2024



Sapir Sela
Boca Raton, Florida
Florida Atlantic University
University of North Dakota
Master of Business Administration
Aviation Law Certificate



Aryan Siadat
Indianapolis, Indiana
Ball State University



Logan Simons
Minot, North Dakota
Minot State University
December 2023



Erica Joy Solberg
Bismarck, North Dakota
North Dakota State University



Emerson Eve Solemsaas
Bismarck, North Dakota
North Dakota State University



Kanwarpreet S. Sra
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
University of Winnipeg



Autumn Stokes
Hibbing, Minnesota
University of North Dakota



AnneMarie Studer
Scandia, Minnesota
University of Northwestern - St. Paul



Kyra J. Sundleaf
 Scotland, South Dakota
 University of South Dakota

Adley Lynn Swanson
 Fruita, Colorado
 Mount Marty University



Nicholas Toay
 Grand Forks, North Dakota
 University of North Dakota

Stockton Vander Werff
 Orem, Utah
 Utah Valley University
December 2023



Jacoby Demond Vault Jr.
 Dallas, Texas
 West Virginia University
Master of Business Administration

McKenna Jane Weisenburger
 Wilton, North Dakota
 North Dakota State University
 Bismarck State College



Jacqueline Wetteland
 Buckley, Washington
 Minnesota State University Moorhead
December 2023

William P. Woolever
 Roseau, Minnesota
 University of Minnesota

Leah M. Younkens
 Osseo, Minnesota
 Bethel University



UNIVERSITY MARSHALS

The Marshals escort the degree candidates and platform personnel during the ceremony. They have been selected from the second- and first-year students on the basis of academic excellence.

GRAND MARSHAL

Taylor Prussia

CHARTER MARSHAL

Sarah Schauer

FLAG MARSHAL

Audrey Skaar

CANDIDATES MARSHAL

Seth Desrocher

FACULTY MARSHAL

Benjamin Lorentz

PLATFORM MARSHAL - REGISTRAR'S ASSISTANT

Bridget Grathwohl

PLATFORM MARSHALS - HOODERS' ASSISTANTS

Leon Walter
Alexander Rand

INSIDE HOSTS

Jediah Thomas
Elise Christy

LOBBY HOSTS

Victoria Stutsky
Olivia German

ENTRANCE MARSHALS

Heather Haarstick
Jacob Loing
Samantha Ledahl
Erin Peck

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Lisa Montplaisir, Faculty Adviser, North Dakota State University

SCHOOL OF LAW DEANS



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Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and
Administration &
Randy H. Lee Professor of Law



Brian Pappas

Dean & Professor of Law



Brad Parrish

Assistant Dean for Student Services

SCHOOL OF LAW FACULTY



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Assistant Professor of Law



Kimberly Dasse
Assistant Professor of Law



Nikola Datzov
Assistant Professor of Law



Kirsten Dauphinais
Law School Builders of the Profession
Professor of Law



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Professor of Law



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Heinrich**
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**Margaret Moore
Jackson**
Kenneth & Frances Swenson
Professor of Law



Blake Klinkner
Assistant Professor of Law



Dan Lewerenz
Assistant Professor of Law



Michael S. McGinniss
Professor of Law &
J. Philip Johnson Faculty Fellow



Ariana Meyers
Assistant Professor of Law



Steven R. Morrison
Professor of Law



Tammy R. P. Oltz
Assistant Professor of Law



Alexandra Sickler
Archie Unterscher
Professor of Law



Paul Traynor
Assistant Professor of Law



Carolyn Williams
Assistant Professor of Law

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BJ Jones
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Joseph J. Vacek
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Administrative Assistant



Dalton Erickson
Events & Marketing Coordinator



Sheri Evans
Admissions Application Specialist



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Career Development



**Patricia "Trish"
Hodny**
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Field Placements & Externships



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Lynnette Morin
Project Coordinator,
Tribal Judicial Institute



**Michelle Rivard
Parks**
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Tribal Judicial Institute



Megan Schiltz
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Melanie Schindler
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UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF LAW

Founded in 1899 and steeped in rich tradition, the School of Law is among the oldest degree-granting units of the University of North Dakota. It was the first of UND's professional schools to begin operations. Its first dean was Guy H. Corliss, who had served as the inaugural Chief Justice of the North Dakota Supreme Court.

Despite its meager resources, the law school grew quickly in popularity. The occupation had considerable prestige, and there was much demand for lawyers in the new state. In his history of UND, *University of the Northern Plains*, Louis Geiger observed, "perhaps no other college paid off so quickly in broadening the University's influences in North Dakota."



Since 1911, UND Law has been a member of the Association of American Law Schools. The School of Law was approved in 1923 by the American Bar Association's Section of Legal Education and Admission to the Bar and has been continuously reaccredited since.

The law school was located in downtown Grand Forks until it was moved to the UND campus during World War I. It shared a building constructed in 1922 on the corner of University Avenue and Centennial Drive with other campus departments for many years. The Law School continued to grow and ultimately took over the entire building, becoming what is known today as the School of Law. In 1973, the law school received its first major addition of a new law library, which was attached to the west side of the 1922 building.

More than 40 years later, in the 2015 fall semester, the UND School of Law took another historic step forward by completing and dedicating a \$14.4 million renovation and building addition. As a result of the project, the educational space improved significantly as additional classrooms were added, featuring a state-of-the-art teaching courtroom, deliberation room and a high-tech "case study" classroom. Additional student study, collaboration and gathering space can be found throughout the addition and the renovated law library. This project has had a dramatic effect on the delivery of the education, and it has enhanced the unique spirit of community among the students.

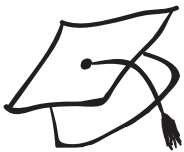
As the state's only law school, the UND School of Law produces well-rounded legal professionals with the necessary skill set to serve as effective, innovative, and ethical leaders in North Dakota, our region, and our nation. The UND School of Law has a proud tradition of success of its graduates. A sense of pride among our alumni creates a strong alumni network that spreads across the country and around the world.

The UND School of Law Class of 2024,

wish to recognize and thank our family members and friends for the support and encouragement they have given us throughout our law school careers. Without that support and understanding, this would not have been possible.



The Class of 2024 during orientation in August 2021.



Update now

Use your phone's camera to scan this code to update your info. It will take you less than two minutes.

WELCOME TO THE UND ALUMNI FAMILY!

Congratulations! You're joining more than 150,000 UND alumni living around the globe.

One of the great things about UND is that, while you may embark on future careers, further studies, and new adventures, UND never leaves you.

You are – and always will be – a Fighting Hawk. And as such, you have a place with the UND Alumni Association & Foundation.

Start your alumni journey with us by updating your profile to get exclusive access to programs and events in your area, the UND Alumni Magazine and more.

P.S. We're on social media! Follow us [@UNDalumni](#) for the latest updates.



Congratulations and Best Wishes

The University of North Dakota is proud to recognize the accomplishments of its graduates and to extend best wishes to them, their families, and loved ones.



Share your UND graduation experience by tagging
your social media posts with **#UNDproud.**

Your photo may appear on **UND.edu!**