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Commencement

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Commencement Program: May 24, 2008

Southern New England School of Law

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***Southern New England
School of Law***



Commencement

***Saturday,
May 24, 2008***

11:00 a.m.

North Dartmouth, Massachusetts



Processional

Pomp & Circumstance No. 1
Sir Edward Elgar
The New England Brass-Guild

Invocation

The Reverend Dr. Edward R. Dufresne

National Anthem

Welcoming Remarks

Margaret D. Xifaras, Esq.
Chair, Board of Trustees

Student Address

Keri A. Garcia, cum laude
Class of 2008
Valedictorian

Alumni Guest Speaker

Presenter
Robert V. Ward, Jr., Dean

Leon A. Blais, Esq. '01
Blais & Parent, LLP

Awarding of the Honorary Degrees and the Reading of the Citation

Presenter
Margaret D. Xifaras, Esq.
Chair, Board of Trustees

Honorable Martha P. Grace
Chief Justice, Massachusetts Juvenile Court

Commencement Address

Honorable Martha P. Grace
Chief Justice, Massachusetts Juvenile Court

Awards

Presenter
Dean Robert V. Ward, Jr.

Academic Achievement Award

Highest Cumulative Grade Point Average in the Course of Study

Keri A. Garcia, cum laude and Valedictorian
Amber R. Cohen, cum laude
Linnea R. Michel, cum laude

Dean's Service Award

Dedication and Service to Fellow Students and to the Law School

Melissa S. Wyckoff
Robin L. Munson
Christopher P. Morris

Student Bar Association Amicus Award

Hon. Francis J. Larkin Amicus Award
Presented to

Lisa M. Holland

Thurgood Marshall Social Justice Award

Fabian E. Powell

St. Thomas More Award

Kathryn J. Wickenheiser

Rikki J. Klieman, Esq. Advocacy in Scholarship Award

Linnea R. Michel, cum laude

Adam Pauley Memorial Prize

Gregory C. Sibilio

Immigration Clinic Award

Presenter
Professor Irene M. Scharf, Dean of Clinical Programs and Director of the
Immigration Law Clinic

Julie K. Rahbany
Christine M. Smith

Pro Bono Program for 2007-2008 Academic Year Award

Lisa M. Holland
Robin L. Munson
Melissa S. Wyckoff

Roundtable Symposium Law Review Awards 2007-2008

Amber R. Cohen, cum laude
Linnea R. Michel, cum laude
Amanda L. Cooper
Holly K. Coutinho
Varsha Mathur
Steven J. Wilcox
Melissa S. Wyckoff

Conferral of Earned Degrees

Robert V. Ward, Jr., Dean
Margaret D. Xifaras, Chair
Board of Trustees

Degree Candidates

Melissa	R.	Alden
John	Andrew	Anderson
David	P.	Broderick, Jr. *
Doris	O.	Brown
Sean		Casey
Philip	Lai Yin	Chan **
Cynthia	Nicole Ai'mee	Charlotin
Patricia	A.	Cipriano *
Walter	Stanley	Clark
Amber	Rose	Cohen, cum laude

Con't--Graduation List-- So. New England School of Law

Amanda	L.	Cooper
Troy	L.	Costa *
Holly	Kathleen	Coutinho
Jennifer	L.	Cromwell
Stephen	Charles	Curran
Idelta	M.	DaSilva *
Michele	D.	Dincecco-Tracey
Elizabeth	Claire	Donoghue
Ana	Maria	Fidalgo
Julie	A.	Forest
Christopher	James	Gaffney *
Keri	Ann	Garcia, <i>cum laude, Valedictorian</i>
Kristen	Thérèse	Greenwood
Lisa	Marie	Holland
Hope	Aleandria	Jackson *
Kuljeet	Singh	Kasuri
Kirsten	Ashley	Larner
Melissa	G.	Macleod *
Varsha		Mathur * ♦♦
Linnea	Ruth	Michel, <i>cum laude</i>
Leroy		Miles III
Christopher	P.	Morris
Robin	L.	Munson
Grace	Mary	Murphy *
Jessica		Mutchler
Thomas	F.	Natoli
Mark	Ellis	O'Brien *
Ajay	J.	Patel *
Chirag	Nagin	Patel **
Fabian	E.	Powell
Michael		Prak
Julie	Kay	Rahbany
Matthew	G.	Rubin
Andrew	Nevitt	Ruff
Lynn	M.	Ruggieri
Polina	A.	Ryabaya-Ioffe

Con't--Graduation List-- So. New England School of Law

Lindsay	M.	Savona
Alyssa	Ann	Schneider
Dipa	Pankaj	Sheth
Lisa	P.	Sheth *
Amy	Marie	Shibles
Gregory	C.	Sibilio
Christine	Marie	Smith
Kristen	L.	Spooner †
Jared	Evan	Tanz
Charles	Key	Thompson, III * ♦♦
Nicole	M.	Webb **
Kathryn	Jane	Wickenheiser
Steven	J.	Wilcox *
Melissa	S.	Wyckoff

Degree conferred May 23, 2008

* Degree conferred on January 4, 2008

♦Member of the Massachusetts Bar

♦♦Member of the Connecticut Bar

† Graduate of the 3+3 program.

** Subject to completion of requirements

This program contains the names of candidates for graduation at this Commencement.
Certification is subject to the completion of the requirements.

Benediction

The Reverend Dr. Edward R. Dufresne

Recessional

*A reception for the Graduates, Honorary Degree Recipients, Board of Trustees,
Faculty, Family and Friends will be held immediately following the
Commencement Exercises.*

Honorary Degree Recipients

Honorable Martha P. Grace Chief Justice of the Juvenile Court of Massachusetts

Martha P. Grace was appointed as Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Juvenile Court in February 1998. Prior to that, she had been Associate Justice of the Worcester Juvenile Court since 1990.

She was educated at New England School of Law, J.D.; Clark University, M.A. in History; Smith College, B.A. in Zoology. Her memberships include Massachusetts, Boston, Worcester County and Juvenile Bar Associations, Massachusetts and Worcester Bar Foundations, National Association of Women Judges, National Council Juvenile and Family Court Judges, American Judicature Society, Supreme Judicial Court Historical Society, Massachusetts Judges Conference. Judge Grace has been the recipient of awards from the YWCA- Katherine Erskine Award (1998), Juvenile Bar Association (1999), St. Thomas More Society Ecumenical Award (1999), Massachusetts Judges Conference (2000), Distinguished Jurist Award of Massachusetts Association of Women Lawyers (2002), completed a Fellowship for *Zero to Three* (2002), Becker College Distinguished Friend of Education (2004), Department of Mental Health Distinguished Service Award (2005), Massachusetts School for Professional Psychology, *Doctor of Humane Letters* (2005), Anna Maria College Everyday Heroes Award (2006).

Judge Grace is a member of the Massachusetts Commission to Study Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Courts of the Commonwealth.

She is a frequent panelist, speaker and guest lecturer.



Alumni Guest Speaker

Leon A. Blais, Esq. '01 Carey & Parent, LLC

Lee Blais is a graduate of Southern New England School of Law and Valedictorian of his class of 2001. Attorney Blais was educated at Trinity College in Hartford with a B.A. in Government and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Rhode Island. Among his many Honors are the Creative Public Administration Award from the Rhode Island Chapter, American Society for Public Administration, an Academic Achievement Award from Southern New England School of Law and the West Group Scholastic Achievement Award given by West Publishing.

Previously, Lee was President of the Financial Inquiry Consultants, LLC, former President of LCF Associates, Inc and a former Director of Investigations for the Rhode Island Department of the Attorney General in which he led investigations into financial crimes, organized crimes and public integrity investigations.

Other professional experience includes working as a former political consultant, President of Seth Broadcasting Corp and a former investigative reporter for WJAR TV-Radio, Newsnet, WBME and WMYD. He is also a former Board Member and Volunteer Attorney and Fraud Examiner for Operation Clean Government

Lee Blais has his own private practice in partnership with fellow graduate Carey Parent, Esq. The law offices of Attorneys Blais and Parent are located in Mansfield, MA.



In Memoriam

*Kirk N. O'Brien '00
Karen L. Gesmondi, Esq. '97
Dr. Ruth Griffin '89*

**Southern New England School of Law
Board of Trustees**

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Stephen J. Shechtman, Esq.
Bradford Selland, M.D.
Andrew K. Spongberg, M.D., Esq. '96
Joshua Teverow, Esq.
Sarah E. Worley, Esq.

Faculty

<i>Robert V. Ward, Jr.</i>	<i>Dean and Professor of Law</i>
<i>Debra R. Cohen</i>	<i>Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Law</i>
<i>Kendra Chencus</i>	<i>Assistant Professor of Law</i>
<i>Philip E. Cleary</i>	<i>Professor of Law</i>
<i>Ralph D. Clifford</i>	<i>Professor of Law</i>
<i>Spencer S. Clough</i>	<i>Associate Professor and Director of Law Library</i>
<i>Cynthia M. Conward</i>	<i>Associate Professor of Law</i>
<i>Dwight G. Duncan</i>	<i>Professor of Law</i>
<i>Justine A. Dunlap</i>	<i>Professor of Law</i>
<i>Michael G. Hillinger</i>	<i>Associate Dean & Professor of Law</i>
<i>Hon. George Jacobs</i>	<i>Scholar in Residence</i>
<i>Hon. Francis J. Larkin</i>	<i>Chancellor and Professor of Law</i>
<i>Frances Howell Rudko</i>	<i>Professor of Law</i>
<i>Irene M. Scharf</i>	<i>Dean for Clinical Programs and Professor of Law</i>

Adjunct Faculty

Henry M. Arruda, Esq.
Cory Arter, Esq.
Ronald A. Cavallaro, Esq.
Kevin Connelly, Esq.
Ronald Dunbar, Jr., Esq.
Stuart Farkas, Esq.
Robert H. Fennessy, Jr., Esq. '01
Anne Folino, Esq. '97
Patrick Francomano, Esq.
Ana Gomez-Blanchfield, Esq.
Hon. Jacqueline Grasso, Esq. '93
Mary Stuart Kilner
James J. Lopes, Esq.
William A. Manganiello, Esq. '94
Christopher M. Markey, Esq. '95
John Markey, Jr., Esq.
Kelly McElroy, Esq.
Walter H. McLaughlin, Esq.
Richard McMahon, Esq.
George Phelan, Esq.
James P. Rooney, Esq.
Walter Shea, Esq.
Terrence Tierney, Esq.
George M. Thompson, Esq.
John A. Walsh, Esq.
Dr. Abigail Williams, Esq.

Commencement Marshal

Dwight G. Duncan, Professor of Law

Commencement Herald

Michael G. Hillinger, Associate Dean & Professor of Law

Special Thanks to the Following:

Donna Desirey, Assistant to the Dean
David Fatula, Facilities Manager
Brenda Shepherd, Assistant to the Registrar
Elaine Thibault, Bursar

Graduation Arrangements and Program Design

Carol A. Vidal, Registrar