WHITTIER LAW SCHOOL
COMMENCEMENT HANDBOOK
2017

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2017
Introduction

The purpose of this Handbook is to answer questions regarding Commencement activities. Please read it carefully as it contains all the appropriate places, dates and times of activities.

The 48th Commencement for Whittier Law School will be held on Saturday, May 13, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the Quad on the Whittier Law School campus. Students who have earned degrees during Fall 2016 and those expected to earn degrees during Spring 2017 and Summer 2017 are invited to participate in the ceremony.

The Dean, Administration, Faculty, and Staff congratulate all graduating students and hope to make Commencement 2017 an enjoyable experience for you and your family by providing information about events, deadlines, requirements, and accommodations in this Handbook.
Graduation Information

Location, Date, and Time of Commencement

The 2017 Commencement Exercises will be held on Saturday, May 13, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the Quad on the campus of Whittier Law School. The ceremony lasts approximately two hours with a reception immediately following the ceremony. Graduates should arrive on campus no later than 8:30 a.m.

Commencement Honorees and Speakers

The Keynote Speaker will be Hilda L. Solis, Los Angeles County Supervisor for the First District of Los Angeles County.

Prior to becoming Supervisor she served as Secretary of Labor. Supervisor Solis was confirmed on February 24, 2009, becoming the first Latina to serve in the United States Cabinet. Before that, Supervisor Solis represented the 32nd Congressional District in California, a position she held from 2001 to 2009.

In the Congress, Supervisor Solis’ priorities included expanding access to affordable health care, protecting the environment, and improving the lives of working families. A recognized leader on clean energy jobs, she authored the Green Jobs Act which provided funding for “green” collar job training for veterans, displaced workers, at risk youth, and individuals in families under 200 percent of the federal poverty line.

In 2007, Supervisor Solis was appointed to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (the Helsinki Commission), as well as the Mexico — United States Interparliamentary Group. In June 2007, Solis was elected Vice Chair of the Helsinki Commission’s General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions. She was the only U.S. elected official to serve on this Committee.

A nationally recognized leader on the environment, Supervisor Solis became the first woman to receive the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award in 2000 for her pioneering work on environmental justice issues. Her California
environmental justice legislation, enacted in 1999, was the first of its kind in the nation to become law.

Supervisor Solis graduated from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and earned a Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California. A former federal employee, she worked in the Carter White House Office of Hispanic Affairs and was later appointed as a management analyst with the Office of Management and Budget in the Civil Rights Division.

In addition, the Alumni Association President, Aastha Madaan, Class of 2012, the SBA President, Kristina Edrington, and the Class of 2017 Valedictorian will address the graduating class.

Valedictorian

This year’s Valedictorian is Catherine Hegdale.

Graduation Program Booklet

Students should verify the correct spelling for the Commencement Program on their graduation application submitted to the Registrar’s Office.

Cap & Gown Fittings and Distribution

Students can go to [http://colleges.herffjones.com/college/whittierlaw/](http://colleges.herffjones.com/college/whittierlaw/) to place their orders for cap/gown and/or other graduation products. Gown measurements are based on height, however, for tams, students will need to measure their head. A representative from Herff Jones will be at Grad Fair on February 6 and 7 to assist students with measurements and placing orders.

Caps and Gowns will be distributed on campus in late-April through the Whittier Law School Bookstore. Students should arrive at the ceremony with their caps, gowns, and hoods. The café will be used as the student robing room prior to the ceremony. After the ceremony, students must leave their caps, gowns and hoods in the boxes indicated.
Invitation/Guest Lists

We will not distribute tickets for you to give to your guests. However, students are strongly urged not to invite more than 10 guests to the ceremony. We can seat approximately 1350 guests on the quad, so we are confident that there will be enough seating for all of your guests.

Graduation Announcements

You will have the opportunity to order graduation announcements during Grad Fair on February 6 and 7. Announcements may also be ordered directly from Herff Jones by going to their website at http://colleges.herffjones.com/college/whittierlaw/. Generic announcements may also be purchased through the Whittier Law School Bookstore.

Ceremony Arrival Time and Location

Graduates must arrive at the Law School no later than 8:30 a.m. for check-in in the Lower Concourse. Arrive with your Cap, Gown, and Hood. Changing facilities will be available on campus. The student processional line-up will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. in the Cafeteria. Graduates will march in alphabetical order by last name. Promptly at 10:00 a.m., the Marshals will lead the commencement processional line into the arena. Details regarding the processional, where you line-up, where you sit, and the logistics of the ceremony will be given the day of the ceremony.

Parking

Parking is available in the student parking lot. Additional parking will be available across the street from the Law School.

Disabled Students and Guests

There are ample disabled parking spaces on campus. In addition, special seats will be available near the front of the guest seating area. Due to the limited number of seats for disabled guests, please contact Radha Pathak at rpathak@law.whittier.edu no later than April 28, 2017 if any of your guests will
Photographs during Ceremony

The Law School has made arrangements with an independent professional photographer to photograph all graduates. During the ceremony, the photographer will take photos of each graduate as he/she receives his/her diploma cover. (Actual diplomas are mailed by mid-August). Photos can be viewed and purchased on-line shortly after the graduation ceremony at gradimages.com.

Graduation Reception

Immediately following the ceremony, a light reception will be offered for all graduates, their families and guests in the quad.

Graduation Diplomas and Certificates

Diplomas and Certificates will be mailed to your mailing address you indicated on your graduation application or will be available for pick-up during the summer.

COMMENCEMENT 2017

* * * * * * IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS * * * * * *

Grad Fair
Feb. 6-7
- Cap & Gown fittings for graduates
- SBA Election – Teacher of the Year
- Take Composite Photos
- Fingerprinting for the state bar
- Information regarding Graduation Announcements
- Information regarding ordering class rings and diploma frames

March 13
- Mandatory Graduation Counseling

March 20
- Graduate Portrait Make-up Date
TBA  Cap & Gown Distribution

May 13  Commencement Timetable
   8:30-9 a.m. - Graduate Check-in in Lower Concourse
   9:30 a.m. - Graduate Line-Up in café
   10:00 a.m. - Procession begins
   Dean’s Reception immediately follows ceremony on the Quad

TBA  Order graduation photos online www.gradimages.com

Early June  Whittier Swearing-In Ceremony for February Bar Admittees

Mid-Aug  Diplomas, Certificates and Official Transcripts mailed

July 25 & 26  California Bar Examination

Early December  Whittier Swearing-In Ceremony for July Bar Admittees

Questions regarding Graduation should be addressed to the Office Student and Alumni Relations at Extension 127.