Special Commencement 2009 Issue

The JURIST

Class of 2009
Degree Presentation and Hooding Ceremony
May 9, 2009
Dear Class of 2009:

In this special edition of The Jurist, we recognize you: the Howard University School of Law graduating class of 2009. Congratulations! You are receiving your law degree in an extraordinary year in the life of our country. The 2008 Presidential election saw an African American man, Barack Obama, elected to the highest office in the land, and arguably, the most powerful office in the world. On January 20, 2009, the world witnessed his swearing-in ceremony. President Barack Obama is a lawyer. You will be a lawyer soon, upon taking and passing your bar examination. My message to you as you move forward is to take seriously the charge of being leaders in the law for America AND the global community. You never know where your skills will be needed.

I would also like to thank you, on behalf of the law school, for your great service and contributions to the community during your time at the Howard University School of Law. You went to New Orleans during spring breaks to assist the survivors of Hurricane Katrina. You volunteered in our clinical programs, joined and led student organizations, competed in moot court competitions both here and abroad, and participated in many other extra-curricular and co-curricular activities. You’ve done so much more, and I thank you again for your service. The social engineering legacy of Charles Hamilton Houston is alive and well with the members of the Class of 2009.

Stay in touch with us. Visit the Web site for regular updates about the 140th anniversary gala and other programs. Come back and visit us often. As you know, we have reframed and relocated all of the class murals and we look forward to hanging yours. On behalf of the faculty and staff, it is my honor to salute this outstanding graduating class.

Sincerely,

Kurt L. Schmoke
Dean
Howard University School of Law
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On the Cover: Members of the Class of 2009 at the 2006 pinning ceremony.

Dean: Kurt L. Schmoke • Publications Manager and Editor: Jacqueline C. Young, M.S. • Editorial Assistance: Blair Diggs, Seth Kronemer, Mitzie Moore • Photography: Howard University School of Law Photo Archives, Marvin T. Jones & Associates, Jason Miccolo Johnson, Robert Roberts Photography. Some photos were provided as a courtesy. • Advertising: PMT Advertising • Production and Design: Print Graphics, Inc.

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For the sixth year in a row, K&L Gates and Howard Law School brought together guest lecturers for the annual James M. Nabrit Jr. Lecture Series. Justice Thomas, who last visited the law school in 1994, discussed his recent memoir *My Grandfather’s Son*. Professor Haddon, the James M. Nabrit Jr. Professor of Constitutional Law, discussed *Brown v. Board of Education* and its relevance in the 21st century. Pictured above are Justice Thomas, James Nabrit III, and Professor Haddon, with School of Law staff and students (l to r), Jo Ann Fax, Valeisha Brown, Kapil Pandit, Sariyah Buchanan, Amanda Zubiate, Jacqueline Young, and Joanne Kess.

Associate Justice Thomas was greeted warmly by members of the Howard Law School community.
The Howard Law School Gospel Choir performing at Heirs of the Dream, a pre-inauguration champagne reception held on January 16, 2009, in honor of the historic election of Barack Obama. The event also recognized Howard law alumni and faculty who contributed to the historic campaign. Visit the Web site at www.law.howard.edu/1236 for more on Heirs of the Dream.

Singing Praise to the Heirs

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Members of the Class of 2009 arriving on the campus of Howard Law on August 18, 2006, for the traditional pinning ceremony. The pinning ceremony speaker was Dr. Genna Rae McNeil, author of *Groundwork: Charles Hamilton Houston and the Struggle for Civil Rights*. Due to the generous contribution of Alumnus Vernon Jordan ’60, each member of the Class of 2009 received a free signed copy of the book.

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The permanent installation of the Charles Hamilton Houston bust and exhibit was unveiled on April 6, 2009. The exhibit will rest on the entrance level of Houston Hall, the law school’s administrative building. Houston was dean of Howard University School of Law from 1929 to 1935. Some items in the exhibit were contributed by his family and other items were collected through the law school archives. The exhibit was curated by the School of Law and Mr. Barry Lester, the owner of Attitude Exact Gallery in Washington, DC. (Photos by Marvin T. Jones & Associates).

Members of the Charles Hamilton Houston National Moot Court Team at the unveiling of the Houston bust and exhibit. Pictured on the front row (l to r) are Carl Roaches Jr., Danielle Davis, Marialisa Miller, Kellie Tollison, Christina Brooking, Ahmed Best, and Charles Major. On the back row are (l to r) Michael Jackson II, Chasity Lomax, Shomari Ward, Nkechi Iheme, Faculty Advisor Robert Fabrikant, and Sheida Lahabi. (Photos by Marvin T. Jones & Associates).

Dean Schmoke and Alumnus Donald Thigpen ’74, reflect on the life and legacy of Charles Hamilton Houston.

James M. Nabrit III, Professor Warner Lawson and others at the exhibit unveiling.
### Howard University School of Law

**Congratulates the Class of 2009!**

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**Note:** Appearance of a name in this program is presumptive evidence of graduation, but it shall not be regarded as conclusive. The diploma of the University, signed and sealed by its proper officers, remains the official testimony of the possession of the degree.
Eric H. Holder, Jr. was born in New York City and attended public schools there, graduating from Stuyvesant High School, before earning a B.A. in American History from Columbia College in 1973 and a J.D. from Columbia Law School in 1976.

Upon his graduation from law school, Mr. Holder joined the Department of Justice through the Attorney General’s Honors Program. He was assigned to the newly-formed Public Integrity Section, where he investigated and prosecuted corruption involving officials in local, state, and federal government. In 1988, President Reagan appointed Mr. Holder to serve as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, where he presided over hundreds of criminal and civil trials during his five years on the bench. In 1993, President Clinton appointed Judge Holder to serve as the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia. In 1997, President Clinton appointed Mr. Holder to serve as Deputy Attorney General of the United States, a position that he held until the end of the Clinton administration. At the request of President George W. Bush, Mr. Holder served as Acting Attorney General in 2001 pending the confirmation of Attorney General John Ashcroft.

In July 2001, Mr. Holder joined the Washington, D.C. law firm of Covington & Burling as a partner in the firm’s litigation practice group, where he represented clients in complex civil and criminal cases as well as internal corporate investigations.

President Barack Obama nominated Mr. Holder to be Attorney General and his nomination was confirmed by the United States Senate on February 2, 2009. Mr. Holder began his service as the eighty-second Attorney General of the United States the next day.

Mr. Holder’s many civic commitments have included service on the boards of Columbia University, the National Center for Victims of Crime, the Meyer Foundation, and the Save the Children Foundation, among many others. He also served on the U.S. Sentencing Commission Ad Hoc Advisory Group.

Mr. Holder has received numerous awards in recognition of his professional and civic contributions, including the Department of Justice’s Special Achievement Award, the District of Columbia Bar Association’s Beatrice Rosenberg Award, and George Washington University’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Medal for Outstanding Service in Human Rights. In 1997, the District of Columbia Bar Association recognized Mr. Holder as its Lawyer of the Year.
ON THE CAMPUS OF

HOWARD LAW

CHARLES HAMILTON HOUSTON ANNUAL LECTURE

Minister Joaquim Gomes Barbosa of the Supreme Federal Court of Brazil was the guest lecturer for the 2009 series. He discussed constitutional adjudication in Brazil. Minister Barbosa, a respected scholar and lecturer in Brazil and abroad, has been referred to as the “Thurgood Marshall” of Brazil.

SIX HOWARD LAW STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

Howard Law Students (l to r) Sarah Kaehler, Chasity Lomax, Robert Williams, Tycheia White, Charles McLaurin, and Ahmed Baset, attended the 23rd Annual Olender Foundation Awards in December 2008. The six second and third-year students received scholarships in memory of the late Earl H. Davis, an attorney who championed for the ordinary people. (Photo courtesy of Robert Roberts).

JAMES M. NABRIT JR. PROFESSOR OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

Professor Haddon taught the inaugural class of the James M. Nabrit Jr. Constitutional Law Seminar and also spoke at the sixth annual Nabrit lecture. Above, second year student Valeisha Brown presented Professor Haddon with a token of the law school’s appreciation for her contributions.

SAVE THE DATES

OCTOBER 23, 2009  •  WILEY A. BRANTON/HOWARD LAW JOURNAL SYMPOSIUM

From Reconstruction to the White House: The Past and Future of Black Lawyers in America. Renowned speakers will address the impact of the black lawyer throughout history.

OCTOBER 24, 2009  •  140th ANNIVERSARY GALA

Celebrate the history and legacy of Howard Law with alumni and friends at the magnificent National Building Museum in Washington, DC. Visit the Web site at law.howard.edu for additional information and updates on both events.
2009

JANINE N. ALSTON received the Huver I. Brown Advocacy Award.

SANAA ANSARI will be clerking for the Honorable Marcus J. Williams of the Fairfax County Circuit Court.

SARIYAH S. BUCHANAN will be clerking for the Honorable Petrese Tucker, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

CAMEISHA T. CALDWELL will be clerking for the Honorable Susan F. Maven, Superior Court of New Jersey, Vicinage I.

DANIELLA GAYAPERSAD-CHAN was voted the Public Interest Student of the Year.

VALERIE L. COLLINS will be clerking for the Honorable Chief Judge Royce Lamberth of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

SUSAN HENDERSON-UTIS will be clerking for the Honorable Inez Smith Reid of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

SEAN P. JAMIESON received the L. Douglas Wilder Award for Academic Achievement.

ALEXIS C. LOGAN, outgoing president of the Student Bar Association, received the Dean’s Leadership Award for 2008-2009.

JAI DA A. MOORE received a judicial clerkship with the Honorable Herman C. Dawson, Circuit Court of Maryland for Prince George’s County.

S IJ I A. MOORE will be clerking with the Honorable Alan Page of the Minnesota Supreme Court.

CHINÊ TURNER RICHARDSON will be clerking for the Honorable Richard Roberts of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

TYECHIA L. WHITE will be clerking for the Honorable Alexander Williams, Jr. of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland.

SHOMARI L. WARD received the Office of Admissions Volunteer of the Year Award.

2010

ALICIAMARIE JOHNSON has been elected president of the Student Bar Association for the 2009-2010 academic year.

RITU NARULA received the Wiley A. Branton Scholar Award for 2008-2009.

X. BLAKE SPARROW, MITRA JAFARY-HARIRI, KRISTA COPELAND, EMILY RUTLEDGE, AND CAREN SHORT were elected to the Howard Law Journal executive board for 2009-2010.

2011

The following first-year students secured judicial internships for Summer 2009:

ADAM ACOSTA
ABA ACQUAH
JESSICA BABRIDGE
SANDI PESSION BOYD
PHILLIP BRAHAM
RESHAUN FINKLEY
TAMIKA GIBSON
AARON HOLLOWAY
JULIAN JACKSON
LOU KOLODNER
DANIELLE MOORE
JANA MOSES
KAMAL NESFIELD
TAMICA NORTON
CHRISTOPHER RANDLE
WILLIAM ROBERTS
TOMEALA ROMEO
STACY SUBLETT
KATARINA WIEGLE

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Most first-year law associates spend their time in the library. Ours spend their time somewhere more appropriate: the courtroom.

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