

**WIDENER UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW**

COMMENCEMENT

MAY 21, 2011

**A Guide for Graduates
and Their Families**

Delaware Campus

A Tobacco Free Campus

March 2011

Dear Graduates:

On behalf of the faculty, staff and administration of the Widener University School of Law, I am writing to congratulate you as you approach the culmination of your legal education, our 2011 commencement ceremonies.

Commencement marks the completion of your legal studies and, accordingly, it is one of the most significant events on our academic calendar. At commencement, we celebrate your achievements and all the hard work that helped you reach this stage of your career. We also recognize the faculty's role in preparing you for the future and express appreciation to all of those who helped you succeed, especially your families.

I am looking forward to participating with you in the commencement ceremony and the events which surround it, and hope that your family and friends will join us to make your graduation a memorable occasion.

Sincerely,

Linda L. Ammons, J.D.
Associate Provost and Dean

WIDENER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
COMMENCEMENT 2011
SPECIAL EVENTS

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Awards Reception	April 20	5:00 p.m.	Ruby R. Vale Courtroom
Barristers' Ball	April 8	6:00 p.m.	Deerfield Golf Club
Commencement Ceremony	May 21	3:00 p.m.	Lawn, DE Campus
Commencement Reception	May 21	5:00 p.m.	Lawn, DE Campus

ABOUT THE EVENTS

AWARDS RECEPTION

Recipients of various scholarship and commencement awards, donors and families are invited to attend this special presentation and reception. It begins at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20, in the Ruby R. Vale Courtroom with the reception immediately following in the Strine Atrium. Invitations will be sent following the final determination of the awards.

BARRISTERS' BALL

The Student Bar Association sponsors this semi-formal/formal ball in celebration of the graduating class. All students, faculty, and staff are invited to attend. The Ball will be held at the Deerfield Golf Club on Friday, April 8. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Debra Berry in the Office of Student Affairs at (302) 477-2142.

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

This ceremony, in celebration of the achievements of the graduates of December 2010, May 2011, and August 2011, will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 21, on the lawn in front of Geesey House and Polishook Hall. **Graduates should report to the Law Building by 1:30 p.m.** Regardless of the weather, the ceremony will be held under a tent on the lawn. For this reason, the seats under the tent will be limited to ticket holders only. Additional seating will be available outside the tent and in Polishook Hall.

COMMENCEMENT RECEPTION

All graduates, their families, and guests are invited to attend a reception immediately following the commencement ceremony on the lawn in front of the law library. Light refreshments will be served.

LEGACY

Any member of the graduating class who is related to an alumni of the law school may invite the alumni to participate in the commencement ceremony. Please contact the Registrar's Office at (302) 477-2170 for additional information.

ACADEMIC REGALIA

All degree candidates will process in doctoral gowns with Widener University School of Law hoods and a mortarboard. Distribution will begin on April 18th from the Career Development Office area utilizing the schedule listed below:

Monday, April 18	9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 19	9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 20	9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 21	9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

You are encouraged to pick up your cap, gown, and hood early in order to check for the correct size. We do not ask you to buy the academic regalia nor do we charge you a rental fee, therefore, all pieces (you may keep the tassel)

must be returned immediately following the conclusion of the ceremony. If you leave campus with the regalia, you will be charged a rental fee; after three days, you will be charged \$450.00 for the cost of the regalia. Tables for gown return will be set up in the main hall of the Law Building.

DEGREE CLEARANCE

Pass/fail information for all graduates is due by Friday, May 20, 2011. Actual grades will not be available until five weeks after the last examination but in sufficient time to certify for the bar examination. Decisions regarding honors and awards are made based on fall grades. As part of the requirements for graduation, each graduate must file a petition to graduate. Also, each graduate must have financial clearance from the Bursar.

Any graduate who does not have final clearance may “walk through” graduation but will receive an empty tube. Further, any graduate participating in ITAP and graduating in August will also be permitted to “walk through” and will receive an empty tube.

Questions regarding graduation requirements or bar certifications should be directed to Ms. Lauren Piotti at (302) 477-2150.

INVITATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND TICKETS

Each graduate will receive a generic packet of 12 announcements, 10 invitations and 10 admission tickets. **Ticketed guests will be seated under the tent. Additional seating for non-ticketed guests is available outside the tent. The ceremony will also be broadcast into Polishook Hall.** Additional announcements and personalized name cards can be purchased from Spencer Graphics by calling (610) 793-2602. Order forms are available at the Registrar’s Office. The Student Bar Association will manage additional tickets. If graduates surrender any unused tickets, the Student Bar Association will run a lottery to determine distribution.

Distribution of packets will occur at the Career Development Office the week of April 4th utilizing the following schedule:

Monday, April 4	9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 5	9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 6	9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 7	9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Friday, April 8	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

LOCAL LODGING ACCOMMODATIONS

Best Western Brandywine Valley Inn 1807 Concord Pike (302) 656-9436 or (800) 537-7772. **Use Group Block: Widener School of Law.** \$98 + 8% tax per night (*price in effect through 5/1/11*). Includes deluxe continental breakfast. Transportation provided.

Courtyard by Marriott Wilmington Brandywine 320 Rocky Run Parkway (302) 477-9500 or (800) 321-2211. **Use Group Code: WDRS.** \$105 + 8% tax per night (*price in effect through 5/1/11*). Breakfast/dinner/cocktails available for purchase in new Courtyard Café.

DoubleTree Hotel 4727 Concord Pike (302) 478-6000 or (800) 222-TREE (8733) **Group Name: Widener School of Law Graduation Block.** \$99 + 8% tax per night (*price in effect through 4/21/11*).

Homewood Suites by Hilton Wilmington-Brandywine Valley 350 Rocky Run Parkway (302) 479-2000. \$119 + 8% tax per night. Includes Suite Start Breakfast.

Inn at Wilmington 300 Rocky Run Parkway (302) 479-7900. **Use Group Code: #2472.** \$105 + 8% tax per night (*price in effect through 5/1/11*). Includes continental breakfast.

The Quality Inn & Suites Brandywine 4000 Concord Pike (888) 880-0855. **Use Group Block: Widener University.** \$89.99 + 8% tax per night. Includes hot breakfast buffet.

PARKING

Parking is available on campus in designated lots on a first come basis. When the lots on campus are filled, the entrances will be closed. Additional parking is available next door in the Scrimmages parking lot and behind the DoubleTree Hotel.

SPECIAL NEEDS PARKING AND SEATING

Seating and parking are available for family members and guests using wheelchairs or for those who have other conditions that prohibit them from walking to their seats on the lawn. Forms to obtain tickets to the special seating area are available at the Registrar's Office or on the website. Completed forms must be returned by Friday, May 13, 2011. Upon receipt of the completed form, the graduate will exchange two white tickets for a pass to present at commencement in order to gain access to the designated parking and seating areas. Requests received late will be honored on a space-available basis. Due to the limitations of seating space, we cannot guarantee that entire families will be seated in the special needs section but will permit one additional person to be seated in that area with each special needs request. Wheelchairs and ushers are available to assist guests with difficulty walking from the special needs drop-off point to the seats. **Due to a limited number, the wheelchairs are not available for use as seating during the ceremony.** A live video feed of the entire ceremony will be viewable from all rooms in Polishook Hall. Guests with special needs and families with very young children are particularly encouraged to make themselves comfortable in Polishook Hall, if outdoor conditions are not favorable.

TOBACCO FREE CAMPUS

Widener University has adopted a Tobacco Free Policy on all campuses. Use of any tobacco product is prohibited on campus.

HANDSHAKE PHOTOGRAPH

The University has engaged a commercial photography studio to take an individual color portrait of each graduate receiving his or her diploma. The studio will mail a proof of the portrait to your home within two weeks after commencement. Additional information will be included in your invitation and announcement packet.

VIDEO RECORDING

A commercial company will video record the entire commencement ceremony. Copies of the video will be available for \$30.00 and DVDs for \$40.00. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the video recording of your Law School graduation, an order form is available at the Registrar's Office.

COMPOSITE PICTURE

A composite picture of the entire graduating class will be presented to each graduate during the commencement ceremony.

DIRECTIONS TO THE DELAWARE CAMPUS

FROM WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA AND OHIO

Pennsylvania Turnpike east to Exit 23 Downingtown. Take Route 100 south to Route 202 south. Follow Route 202 south to Pennsylvania-Delaware border. The Delaware Campus is on the left, two miles past the state line.

FROM PHILADELPHIA

I-95 south to Exit 8/Route 202-Concord Pike. Take Route 202 north, following signs for West Chester. The Wilmington Campus is on the right, five miles north.

FROM EASTERN MARYLAND AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

I-95 north to Exit 8/Route 202-Concord Pike. Take Route 202 north, following signs for West Chester. The Wilmington Campus is on the right, five miles north.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Registrar's Office (302) 477-2170

Bar Certifications (302) 477-2150

Bursar (302) 477-2209

www.law.widener.edu

CONGRATULATIONS

The deans, faculty, and staff of Widener University School of Law wish you the best for the future and look forward to celebrating this day with you, your family, and guests.

WIDENER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

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WILMINGTON, DE 19803