DEPAUL UNIVERSITY’S 119TH COMMENCEMENT
DePaul University’s 119th Commencement

**COLLEGE OF LAW**

Sunday, May 14, 2017
1:30 p.m.
Rosemont Theatre
Rosemont, Illinois
DEAR GRADUATE,

On behalf of the entire DePaul community, I would like to congratulate you on your graduation. I would also like to thank you for what you as a student have brought to DePaul University. Your hard-earned degree represents the power of lifelong learning to shape your life and transform our world for the better. We are proud that you will put your education to work in the career of your choice as a DePaul alumnus. We are confident in your success and ask that God will bless you abundantly in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M.
President
DePaul University has a distinct mission: to foster through higher education a deep understanding of social justice and the service of others. The university is the hub of an innovative and diverse community that has a reputation for innovative courses and personalized instruction. DePaul is one of America’s oldest and most respected theatre training schools. A new facility to house The Theatre School opened in 2013. DePaul is the largest Catholic university and the 14th-largest private, not-for-profit institution of higher learning in the country. The university enrolls about 22,100 students in 10 colleges and schools and offers a wide range of academic and professional programs on four Chicago-area campuses. DePaul’s reach extends internationally, from degree programs offered in Kenya to study-abroad opportunities around the globe. With Chicago, the metropolitan area and the world as its classroom, DePaul has a reputation for innovative courses and personalized instruction. The university is the hub of an innovative and diverse community that enables students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends to advance personally, professionally and intellectually.

Founded by Vincentian Fathers in 1850 to teach the children of immigrants, DePaul remains committed to students from a broad range of cultural backgrounds, especially first-generation and non-traditional students. Named for and inspired by the life of St. Vincent de Paul, the university has a 160-year tradition of teaching through education to foster the development of others. These values are the cornerstone of DePaul’s strategic plan, DePaul 2018: strategic plan producing strong results as it enters its final year. Many new programs have been developed, including ones in science and health that are creating new pathways into job-rich healthcare fields; online courses have expanded to serve student demand; and overall graduation rates continue to trend upward.

DePaul’s distinguished colleges and schools are known for the excellence of their academic programs and the achievement of their students. The College of Science and Health encompasses more than 10 undergraduate and graduate degree programs and its centers and institutes. With an overarching emphasis directed toward empowering leadership through the liberal arts, students pursue studies in such wide-ranging areas as social and political studies, media and studio arts, creative writing, management, journalism and philosophy. The college houses the School of Computing, which offers technical and innovative undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Its inventive approach to education has resulted in more than 180 courses from across the university.

The College of Computing and Digital Media offers a wide range of practical and innovative undergraduate and graduate degree programs. The college houses the School of Computing, which features technical degrees in computing, cybersecurity and computer game and web development. The School of Cinematic Arts, which showcases cinema, animation and screenwriting degrees; and the School of Design, which features degrees in media arts and graphic, game and experience design. The College of Education’s primary mission is to prepare students to become teachers, educational leaders and counselors. Partnerships with the Chicago Public Schools, the archdiocese, charter and private schools as well as with social service agencies have enhanced the experiences of our faculty, our students and their Chicago and Illinois individuals whose lives they touch.

The School for New Learning is an internationally recognized leader in educating adults, offering flexible undergraduate and graduate programs. It pioneered individualized degree programs, online learning for adult student assessment of learning outside the classroom, and competence-based education. Its innovative approach to education has been used as a model around the world. The Theatre School, founded as the Goodman School of Drama, is one of America’s oldest and most respected theatre training schools.

About the College of Law

DePaul University’s College of Law has helped set the standard for legal education in the United States since its establishment in 1912. Its rich history of quality education, access and diversity has long set it apart. DePaul was among the first law schools in Illinois to admit historically excluded groups, such as female and Jewish students. It was also among the first to introduce such educational innovations as the study of negotiation techniques and courses in international criminal law and pretrial skills. Since 1952, the school has been a member of the Order of the Coif, a prestigious national law school honor society.

Learning through experience is a defining characteristic of the college. The law school offers students an array of experiential learning opportunities including the Third Year in Practice program, the Field Placement Program, trial advocacy and dispute resolution coursework, and nine legal clinics. DePaul law students also gain a global perspective by participating in programs that take them to countries such as Argentina, China, Cuba, Germany and Spain to study other legal systems and gain real-life experience.

The College of Law provides students with a range of full-time and part-time educational opportunities. In addition to the traditional J.D. program, it offers joint degrees including a J.D./MBA, a J.D./M.S. in public service management, a J.D./M.A. in international studies and a J.D./M.S. in computer science. Students interested in concentrated professional study may choose from J.D. certificate programs in areas that include public interest, criminal law, international and comparative law, family law, business law, tax law, health law and intellectual property. Lawyers also can earn specialized Master of Laws (LL.M.) degrees in health law, tax law, international law and intellectual property, or a general LL.M. in U.S. legal studies. Professionals looking to enhance their legal knowledge, but not seeking to practice law, can earn a Master of Jurisprudence.

The law faculty consists of 45 full-time educators who are leading scholars, devoted teachers, as well as accomplished corporate, civil and public interest attorneys. They tackle the complex social and policy implications inherent in the law and probe its law from the theoretical to its most realistic and explicit aspects. They also take great pride in their ability to challenge and enlighten students through a collaborative learning process. As a result, students gain a broad and deep perspective on legal issues, learning how to problem-solve and impact the future of individuals, organizations and communities.

DePaul law graduates—more than 19,200 since the school’s inception—are highly skilled, committed and vigorous leaders of the bar, bench and business. They include managing partners of dozens of major law firms, chief executive officers and general counsel of a number of well-known national and international corporations, and lead attorneys in major nonprofit organizations. Alumni also include numerous state and federal judges, many municipal, county and state leaders; and three Chicago mayors.
Paulette Brown, Former President of the American Bar Association and Diversity Champion

During Paulette Brown’s prestigious legal career as a labor and employment attorney, she has practiced at the apex of corporate legal law, founded her own firm, served as a municipal court judge—and made history as the first woman of color to serve as president of the 400,000-member American Bar Association in its 157-year existence. Whether she is advocating for women and other diverse individuals in the legal profession or combating discrimination in the workplace, her life’s work has been dedicated to promoting diversity and inclusion in the highest levels of the legal field and serving as a mentor to the next generation of attorneys.

The youngest of four children, Brown attended segregated schools until tenth grade and was the first in her family to go to college. She attended Howard University with intentions of becoming a social worker. While there, two roommates who were aspiring lawyers introduced her to the legal field. Persuaded that she could make a bigger impact as a lawyer than as a social worker, she studied political science and earned a full scholarship to law school at Seton Hall University in New Jersey.

As a young lawyer, Brown worked her way up to become the in-house counsel for several Fortune 500 companies, including National Steel Corporation, Prudential Insurance Company of America, Inc., and Black Consultants. She later opened her own law firm, focusing on employment, civil rights and product liability law, and served as a municipal court judge. In 2005, she joined Edwards & Angell—now Locke Lord LLP—as a partner. She remains there today and co-chairs the firm’s diversity and inclusion committee. She also is a sought-after lecturer on labor and employment issues and matters relating to diversity and inclusion.

In the midst of her professional success, she also devoted time to bringing attention to diversity issues within the legal profession. Before serving her historic term as president of the ABA from 2015-16, Brown held a variety of influential positions within the association that would bring light to the challenges faced by women attorneys of color. She served on the Commission on Women in the Profession and was a co-author of “Visible Invisibility: Women of Color in Law Firms.”

Recognizing that women of color comprise fewer than 2 percent of equity partners at law firms and overall, the legal profession is the least diverse of all comparable professions as president of the ABA, she made diversity in law firms, law schools and in the ABA a major part of her platform. Under her leadership the ABA created the Commission on Diversity and Inclusion to address those issues and more. She also made it her mission to travel to all 50 states to meet with bar association groups and law students. Determined to inspire an even younger audience, she strived to include a visit with children at Boys & Girls Clubs on each trip, resulting in more than 40 such visits.

Brown’s many recognitions are a testament to her inspiring work ethic. She was recognized by the National Law Journal as one of “The 50 Most Influential/Most Diverse Lawyers in America” and received the New Jersey State Bar Association’s Excellence in Diversity Award. U.S. News & World Report repeatedly named her a New Jersey Super Lawyer in the area of commercial litigation. She was the first African-American woman to win the New Jersey State Bar Association’s Young Lawyer of the Year Award and the first minority to receive the association’s Medal of Honor. In 2015, she received the highest honor by the National Bar Association, the C. Francis Strawdard Award.

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CITATION

Paulette Brown, you now to the top of your profession as a litigator and selflessly used your seat of power to expand opportunities for minority groups in the legal field. Throughout your career, you have mentored hundreds of lawyers, shed light on the challenges faced by women attorneys of color. She served on the Commission on Women in the Profession and was co-author of “Visible Invisibility: Women of Color in Law Firms.”

The first of its kind to study women and race in the legal field, the “Visible Invisibility” study became a tool for law firm partners to help retain women of color and to steward their careers toward leadership levels within organizations.

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As ambitious as Brown’s career has been, she still finds time for her community. She has completed five 60-mile walks to raise money through Susan G. Komen for the Cure and monitors elections in low-income communities to make sure they are conducted fairly.

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DePaul, a Catholic, Vincentian and urban university, takes its name from Saint Vincent de Paul. The religious community founded by Saint Vincent, commonly known as "Vincentians," established the university and endowed it with a distinctive spirit to foster in higher education a deep respect for the God-given dignity of all persons, especially the materially, culturally and spiritually deprived, and to instill in educated persons a dedication to the service of others. The women and men of DePaul have retained the spirit as a highly valued heritage and a vital influence in every succeeding generation of the university's development.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL
Saint Vincent de Paul (1581-1660), for whom the university is named, lived in seventeenth-century France. He was a compassionate and deeply spiritual priest who dedicated his life to serving the poor. He founded the Congregation of the Mission, commonly known as the Vincentians. This is the Roman Catholic religious community that established and continues to sponsor DePaul University.

Vincent brought together and inspired groups of like-minded women and men to join him in addressing the needs of the poor, Saint Vincent is considered to be the Apostle of Charity. The panes above the heart holds a crescent symbolizing Mary, the Immaculate Conception, the patroness of the United States.

The upper section contains a fleur-de-lis, symbol of France, Vincent’s homeland. These are shown, representing the Trinity. This section also carries two symbols of Chicago: A line suggestive of the wall of a fort represents Fort Dearborn. The phoenix rising from the flames atop the shield is both a symbol of the Resurrection of Christ and the resurrection of the City of Chicago after the Great Fire of 1871. The inscription 1856 refers to the year DePaul was first chartered by the State of Illinois as St. Vincent's College. In 1907, a new charter was granted in the name of DePaul University.

The motto of DePaul University, "Viam sapientiae monstrabo tibi," is taken from the biblical book of Proverbs (4:11) and is translated "I will show you the way of wisdom."

THE TREE OF WISDOM
The symbol expresses the university’s integration of education and religion by combining the forms of a tree and a cross. Central to the symbol is a modified cruciform, suggestive of the Catholic roots of the university. This cruciform is also expressive of the human form, with arms uplifted and outstretched to give spirit and life to the environment. The figure stands erect and balanced suggesting a strength of knowledge and values.

Viewing the symbol as a single unit, one sees our “Tree of Wisdom” resting firmly on the ground, with its square base and raised limbs in symmetry. It has age and fullness in its trunk and limbs, suggesting tradition; and youth and simplicity in its internal negative spaces, representing leaf forms suggestive of sapling growth.

The symbol incorporates and combines the lower case letterforms d, p and u. The “u” form extending upward from the trunk is a true arc, a section of a perfect circle. Its position relative to the figure represents support, rather than containment, just as the university supports the human spirit in the pursuit of knowledge and the deepening of religious values.

THE DEPAUL UNIVERSITY CHARACTERS
DePaul University has created, as part of its permanent institutional academic regalia, a university mace. The mace was commissioned by the Office of Mission and Values.

Originally used as a weapon in medieval warfare, the mace has been used ceremonially since the 12th century. Traditionally bearing coats of arms or other heraldic images, the mace was borne in procession—always on the right shoulder—as a symbol of civil, ecclesiastical and academic authority and jurisdiction.

Designed by the renowned liturgical artist Joseph Luz Ramirez of Ave Mundis Studios in Chicago, the DePaul University mace has been hand-crafted utilizing the finest materials and the talents of crafts-persons on two continents. The silverwork for the work was Husyin Baykal, a distinguished Turkish artist. The silver work of the mace is called repoussage. It is a process of beating sheets of silver on dense beds of tar. The silversmith taps the silver thousands of times with steel punches to bring forth the intricacies of the envisioned design.

Measuring approximately 45 inches long, the mace is made of hand-turned yew wood. Covering the yew wood are silver rose stems and buds symbolizing the passage of time and the renewal of life.

Surmounting the mace is a phoenix from the university’s coat of arms. The phoenix rising from the flames is both a symbol of the Resurrection of Christ and the resurrection of the city of Chicago after the Great Fire of 1871. Also atop the mace are enameled pendants of hearts and the crescent moon. These symbols are also taken from the coat of arms. The heart represents Saint Vincent de Paul. The crescent symbolizes Mary, the Immaculate Conception, and patroness of the United States.

THE DEPAUL UNIVERSITY BANNERS
DePaul University and each of its 10 colleges and schools have a distinctive heraldic banner. These banners play a prominent ceremonial role in the university’s commencement ceremonies.

The university banner features DePaul’s colors, red and blue. The interrelationship between the university and the city is illustrated by the skyline motif.

COLLEGE OF LAW
Academic Color: Purple
The double-reversed chevrons illustrate the traditional scales of justice associated with the field of jurisprudence.
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Rev. John T. Richardson, C.M., Chancellor
Marten L. denBoer, Provost
Jeff J. Buthio, Executive Vice President
Rev. Edward R. Udoe, C.M., Secretary of the University

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