



# COMMENCEMENT

Saturday, May 13, 2023

Montgomery Performing Arts Centre

# ABOUT FAULKNER LAW



Faulkner University's Thomas Goode Jones School of Law has earned a reputation for providing students with a strong legal education in a caring, Christian environment. Established in 1928, Faulkner Law has grown from educating students in the borrowed chambers of local judges to its permanent home in nearly 70,000 square feet of state-of-the-art classrooms, courtrooms, clinics, library, and student space on the campus of Faulkner University. Faulkner Law is fully accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA).

Faulkner Law students gain invaluable, practical experience throughout their three years of legal study. Faulkner Law's onsite legal clinics, field placements, law review, and award-winning advocacy programs complement an outstanding classroom education that equips students with practice-ready skills.

The law school has produced over 3,350 graduates working in more than 25 states. The law school's alumni include state supreme court justices; appellate, magistrate, and district judges; politicians and government leaders; and attorneys working in public interest, solo practice, and leading law firms across the nation. Faulkner Law graduates are making a difference in their communities and beyond. Today, we are pleased to celebrate the Class of 2023's graduation and welcome them into the Faulkner Law alumni community.

# PROGRAM

Montgomery Performing Arts Centre, Montgomery, Alabama  
Procession starts at 10:00 a.m.  
(Guests remain seated during the processional)



## Processional

## Invocation

ANDY G. OLREE  
*PROFESSOR OF LAW*

## Welcome

CHARLES B. CAMPBELL  
*DEAN AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW*

## Faculty Farewell

MELVIN L. OTEY  
*PROFESSOR OF LAW*

## Student Farewell

TARA HERRING CHAMBLISS

## Introduction of Commencement Speaker

D. MITCHELL HENRY  
*PRESIDENT, FAULKNER UNIVERSITY*

## Commencement Address

THE HONORABLE TOMMY BRYAN  
*ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, ALABAMA SUPREME COURT*

## Conferring of Degrees, Presentation of Diplomas, and Hooding of Graduates

CHARLES B. CAMPBELL, *DEAN AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW*  
JENNIFER L. DEBOER, *ASSISTANT DEAN OF STUDENTS*

## Awards

CHARLES B. CAMPBELL  
*DEAN AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW*

## Benediction

TAURUS L. MYHAND  
*ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LAW*

# CLASS OF 2023



JONATHAN JAMES BAILIE, *CUM LAUDE* †

ANTHONY Y. MIKASOBE †

BRIANNA BENNETT

MATTHEW GREGORY OLIVER \* †

JUSTIN BLAKE BRIMMAGE \*

PAUL EDWARD OVERTON

ALLISON BUTTS-WALLEY †

GENA LISKA PARKER \*

TARA HERRING CHAMBLISS, *SUMMA CUM LAUDE*

ASHLEY JANA'E PEACOCK †

COURTNEY DONALDSON DAVIS †

JESSICA H. PEEK

SARAH DEVINE

OLIVIA RHEANN PLOWMAN †

MELVIN H. DIXON, JR.

LISA RENAE SALSMAN †

ROBERT ERHARDT \* †

JESSICA THOMAS SCOTT

JORDAN MARIE ESLINGER

JOHN MITCHELL SIKES, *MAGNA CUM LAUDE*

DAKOTA RANDALL FINSTER

NICHOLAS MATTHEW SMITH

SHEENA MAUREEN GAMBLE

PAYTON CAROLINE SMITH \*

KYLEY CATHERINE GOLDHAGEN †

ANNA MARIE SPIDLE †

JACOB H. HOWELL †

BENJAMIN ALLEN STANLEY

JACOB BENJAMIN HULCHER \*

ALEXANDRIA THOMPSON \* †

WILLIAM WALKER HUMPHRIES

DANNIELLE SUDEÑA THOMPSON †

KNUTE WILLIAM KLINKER

JOANNA RENITA WHITE \* †

BAYLEE MEADOWS McDONALD

JANEY LAUREN WHITNEY, *CUM LAUDE* \* †

ARJEN JAMES METER, *CUM LAUDE*

\* ADR Certificate Recipient

† Fellows, Public Interest Society: Students who completed 50 hours or more of voluntary service

# FAULKNER UNIVERSITY



## PRESIDENT

**D. MITCHELL HENRY**

B.A., Auburn University

M.A., Auburn University

J.D., University of Alabama

# FAULKNER LAW



## ADMINISTRATION

### **CHARLES B. CAMPBELL**

*Dean of Thomas Goode Jones School of Law*

*Associate Professor of Law*

B.S., Auburn University

J.D., University of Virginia

### **MICHAEL J. DEBOER**

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs*

*Associate Professor of Law*

B.A., Liberty University

M.A.R., Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary

M.Div., Southeastern Baptist

Theological Seminary

J.D., Valparaiso University

LL.M, Indiana University

McKinney School of Law

### **DONNA M. SPEARS**

*Associate Dean of Information Resources*

B.A., University of Louisiana at Lafayette

J.D., Loyola University

M.L.I.S., Louisiana State University

### **JENNIFER L. DEBOER**

*Assistant Dean of Students*

*Director of Academic Success*

B.A., Hope College

J.D., Valparaiso University

M.A., University of Colorado

at Colorado Springs

### **CHARLES I. NELSON**

*Dean Emeritus*

B.S., Abilene Christian University

J.D., University of Texas

## FACULTY

### **JOHN G. BROWNING**

*Distinguished Jurist in Residence*

B.A., Rutgers University

J.D., University of Texas

### **BETTY BOBBITT BYRNE**

*Director of Bar Success*

*Adjunct Professor of Law*

B.A., University of North Carolina  
at Chapel Hill

J.D., Samford University

### **CHARLES B. CAMPBELL**

*Dean of Thomas Goode Jones School of Law*

*Associate Professor of Law*

B.S., Auburn University

J.D., University of Virginia

### **JOHN C. CRAFT**

*Clinical Associate Professor of Law*

*Director of Clinical and*

*Field Placement Programs*

B.A., Auburn University

J.D., Faulkner University

### **MICHAEL J. DEBOER**

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs*

*Associate Professor of Law*

B.A., Liberty University

M.A.R., Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary

M.Div., Southeastern Baptist

Theological Seminary

J.D., Valparaiso University

LL.M., Indiana University

McKinney School of Law

### **A. JEROME DEES**

*Professor of Law*

B.A., Auburn University

J.D., Samford University

### **LAURA R. FORD**

*Associate Professor of Law*

B.A., Pacific Union College

J.D., Tulane University

M.P.A., Columbia University

LL.M., University of Washington

Ph.D., Cornell University

### **DONALD W. GARNER**

*Professor of Law, Emeritus*

B.A., University of Texas at Arlington

J.D., University of Texas

### **JEFFREY B. HAMMOND**

*Associate Professor of Law*

B.A., Harding University

M.T.S., Emory University

J.D., Emory University

### **COURTNEY L. HORTON**

*Research and Writing Assistant Professor of Law*

B.S., York College

J.D., Faulkner University

### **SHIRLEY D. HOWELL**

*Professor of Law, Emerita*

B.A., Huntingdon College

J.D., Jones Law Institute

### **LAYNE S. KEELE**

*Associate Professor of Law*

B.B.A., Freed-Hardeman University

J.D., Indiana University Maurer School of Law

### **ADAM J. MACLEOD**

*Professor of Law*

B.A., Gordon College

J.D., University of Notre Dame

**ROBERT L. MCFARLAND**  
*Associate Professor of Law*  
*Director of Advocacy Programs*  
B.A., Oklahoma Christian University  
J.D., Pepperdine University

**KELLY F. MCTEAR**  
*Director, Kenneth Dunham Mediation Clinic*  
*Clinical Associate Professor of Law*  
*Director of Public Interest Programs*  
B.A., Rhodes College  
J.D., University of Alabama

**TAURUS L. MYHAND**  
*Assistant Professor of Law*  
B.S., Excelsior College  
M.Div., Interdenominational Theological  
Center  
M.S.C.J., Troy University  
J.D., University of Alabama

**ANDY G. OLREE**  
*Professor of Law*  
B.B.A., Harding University  
J.D., University of Chicago

**MELVIN L. OTEY**  
*Professor of Law*  
B.S.B.A., St. Louis University  
J.D. Howard University  
B.A. Amridge University  
M.Div., Amridge University

**THURSTON H. REYNOLDS, II**  
*Professor of Law*  
B.A., Abilene Christian University  
J.D., University of Texas  
LL.M., New York University

**ERIC P. VOIGT**  
*Research & Writing Associate Professor of Law*  
*Director, Legal Writing Program*  
B.A., University of North Carolina  
J.D., Indiana University Maurer School of Law

#### **LAW LIBRARY**

**LEANNE M. JORDAN**  
*Technical Services Librarian*  
A.S.N., Troy State University  
B.S.B., Faulkner University  
M.L.I.S., University of Alabama

**GEORGETTE PANAGOTACOS**  
*Assistant Director of Collections Management*  
*and Research Librarian*  
B.S., Florida State University  
J.D., Florida State University  
M.L.I.S., Florida State University

**DONNA M. SPEARS**  
*Associate Dean of Information Resources*  
B.A., University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
J.D., Loyola University  
M.L.I.S., Louisiana State University

**NED D. SWANNER, JR.**  
*Assistant Director for Electronic Services*  
*and Research Librarian*  
B.A., Randolph-Macon College  
M.A., University of Missouri  
J.D., Campbell University  
LL.M., University of Missouri - Kansas City

# THE HONORABLE TOMMY BRYAN BIOGRAPHY



Justice Tommy Elias Bryan was raised on a family farm in southern Crenshaw County, Alabama, where his parents taught him the values of faith, family, and hard work.

A 1974 graduate of Brantley High School, Justice Bryan continued his education at Troy State University, where he received Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in education. In 1983, he graduated from the Thomas Goode Jones School of Law. After graduating from law school, Justice Bryan served as a staff attorney for the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals.

In 1987 Justice Bryan became an assistant attorney general for the State of Alabama, serving as an associate general counsel for Alabama's environmental department. In that position he gained valuable experience in defending and interpreting highly technical and scientific regulations and standards, as well as drafting administrative orders and reviewing legislation pertaining to environmental issues.

In 2004, Justice Bryan ran for a seat on the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals and, after winning every county in the state during the Republican primary election, he went on to win the general election after challenging an incumbent judge. He was sworn into office as a Judge on the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals in January 2005. He was reelected in November 2010. In 2012, during his tenure on the Court of Civil Appeals, Justice Bryan was named "Judge of the Year" by the Family Law Section of the Alabama State Bar. Also in 2012, Justice Bryan was elected to the Alabama Supreme Court and was sworn into office as an Associate Justice in January 2013. He was reelected to the Alabama Supreme Court in 2018 without opposition.

Justice Bryan is a member of the Alabama Bar Association. He has also been admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and the District of Columbia. In 2014, Justice Bryan was named as a "Significant Sig" of the Sigma Chi international fraternity. He was also a charter member of Troy University's Sigma Chi chapter in 1977. In 2019, he was recognized as one of Troy University's Alumni of the Year.

Justice Bryan is married to the former Pamela Mizzell from Tuscaloosa, and they have two children—a daughter, Thomason, and a son, Tucker. The Bryan family lives in Montgomery where they attend Montgomery's First Baptist Church. Justice Bryan has served as a deacon, participated in sanctuary choir, and leads an adult Sunday School at First Baptist.



