

COMMENCEMENT



Fredric G. Levin  
College of Law  
Fall 2025

# Commencement Agenda

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Thursday, December 18, 2025, 4:00 p.m., Ultima & John Morgan Courtroom

Processional

Welcome & Introduction of Platform Party ..... Interim Dean Merritt E. McAlister

Student Remarks..... Kourtney Marie Booster (JD 25, LL.M. in Taxation 25)

Introduction of Keynote Speaker..... Interim Dean Merritt E. McAlister

Keynote Address .....Nathan Collier (JD 82)

Conferral of Degrees ..... Interim Dean Merritt E. McAlister  
UF Board of Trustees Member Dr. Luisa Amelia Dempere

Presentation of Graduates

- Master of Laws in U.S. Law
- Master of Laws in International Taxation
- Master of Laws in Taxation
- Juris Doctor

Closing Remarks ..... Interim Dean Merritt E. McAlister

Alma Mater

Recessional

## Greetings from the Levin College of Law Dean

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On behalf of the Levin College of Law community — especially our talented faculty and staff — I congratulate you on this momentous day! You’ve made it. You’ve done it. You’ve earned your place on this stage today.

You have also made the law school a better place for your having been here. In addition to your numerous achievements, you have been steadfastly committed to ensuring that Florida Law is a welcoming community — one that is rich in a variety of backgrounds, thoughts, and aspirations. Each of you, in your own way, has contributed to the cultural fabric of Florida Law. We will continue to nurture and build that culture for years to come.

Today your professional journey takes a new turn, as you embark on your legal careers. You also become part of the most powerful law alumni network in the world — the Gator Law Nation. We are proud to call you one of ours. We trust we have trained you well for the road ahead but don’t forget that we will always be here as a resource and touch point for you. We’re excited to watch you soar!



Merritt E. McAlister

# Commencement Speaker

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## Nathan S. Collier (JD 82)

Nathan S. Collier is the Owner and Executive Chair of The Collier Companies (TCC), where he oversees a portfolio controlling \$2.5 billion in assets. A visionary real estate entrepreneur, Collier built his organization from the purchase of a single-family home more than 50 years ago into one of the largest privately held owners of multifamily housing in Florida. Today, he personally owns over 13,000 apartment homes and is actively developing seven 300+/- unit apartment communities throughout Florida and the southeast region, supported by a team of approximately 400 dedicated professionals.

Guided by a lifelong passion for learning, Collier founded TCC with the intent to create *a different kind of workplace* - one with a true sense of community, a place that is a joy to live and work, and a place where team members truly care about each other as individuals and demonstrate that every day, in part by the depth of their commitment to quality, excellence, and customer service.

Collier's belief in continuous education is woven into the culture of TCC. He co-teaches Collier College, a 10-week internal program that provides team members with an in-depth look at real estate investing, as well as essential life and professional skills including emotional intelligence, decision-making, goal setting, communication, and time and energy management. His commitment to education extends well beyond the company.

Nathan endows the Nathan S. Collier Master of Science in Real Estate Program at the University of Florida's Warrington College of Business, where he continues to teach case studies, annually. He serves as an adjunct faculty member at the UF Levin College of Law, where he earned his Juris Doctor. Collier has delivered commencement addresses for the Warrington College of Business in 2010 and 2018 and will be giving UF Levin College of Law's commencement address for the fall of 2025.



In addition to his contributions to real estate education, Collier is a passionate advocate for journalistic integrity and accountability. In 2019, he founded The Collier Prize for State Government Accountability through UF's College of Journalism and Communications. In 2024, he established The Peter F. Collier Award for Ethics in Journalism, administered by NYU's Carter Journalism Institute Ethics and Journalism Initiative, honoring both student and professional journalists who demonstrate unwavering ethical commitment under pressure. Collier also serves on the Columbia Journalism Review Board of Overseers.

A prolific writer, Nathan maintains NSCBlog, where he has published over a thousand posts on personal and professional growth. Each entry carries his longtime guiding mantra: *"I share what I most want and need to learn."*

# Master of Laws in U.S. Law

The LL.M. in U.S. Law degree is awarded to students who complete Levin College of Law requirements and have earned a first-law degree from a recognized foreign university. Students are recommended for the degree by the faculty of the Levin College of Law.

Nishtha Madhra

# Master of Laws in International Taxation

The LL.M. in International Taxation degree is awarded to students who complete Levin College of Law requirements (including a substantial research paper and a minimum of 13 credits in international taxation courses) and have earned a Juris Doctor (JD) degree, or in the case of international students, a law degree from a university outside the United States. Students are recommended for the degree by the faculty of the Levin College of Law. A student who obtains the LL.M. in Taxation degree is not eligible to obtain the LL.M. in International Taxation degree.

Andrés Felipe Valera Carreño  
Michael Joseph Evans

Yan He  
Jose A. Hoyos Arciniegas

Feier Qu  
Harry H.C. Zhou

# Master of Laws in Taxation

The LL.M. in Taxation degree is awarded to students who complete Levin College of Law requirements (including a substantial research paper) and have earned a Juris Doctor (JD) degree, or in the case of international students, a law degree from a university outside the United States. Students are recommended for the degree by the faculty of the Levin College of Law. A student who obtains the LL.M. in International Taxation degree is not eligible to obtain the LL.M. in Taxation degree.

Christopher A. Adams  
Kourtney Marie Booster  
Zachary Alan Brookmyer  
Vincent M. Cosenzo, Jr.  
Zachary James Estela  
Andrew Cole Faul  
David Alexander Gardner

Robert Hampton\*  
Patrick Stephen Hodges  
Patrick Howard  
Jung Hyun Kate Lee  
Elizabeth Marie Leonard  
Erika Michelle Martinez  
Sean M. Olevnik

Natalia Ouellette-Grice  
Ashtyn Gwatney Pike  
Savannah Mae Rankich  
Justas Schillinger  
Oleg Shmal  
Hallie N. Young

\*2013 LL.M. in Taxation Graduate

# Juris Doctor

The Juris Doctor degree is awarded to students who have earned at least a baccalaureate degree, who have completed a three-year course study at the Levin College of Law, and who are recommended by its faculty. The law school recognizes scholastic achievement by awarding the degree of Juris Doctor summa cum laude, magna cum laude, and cum laude based on the following: the top 2% of each graduating class will be awarded the JD degree summa cum laude, the next 8.5% of the class will be awarded the degree magna cum laude, and the next 37.5% of the class will be awarded the degree cum laude. Honors designations are as of Spring 2025.

Kourtney Marie Booster\*\*  
Zachary Alan Brookmyer  
Zachary James Estela\*\*

Patrick Howard  
Erika Michelle Martinez\*\*  
Ryan Edward Montoto

Thomas John Pecor  
Hallie N. Young\*\*  
Harry H.C. Zhou

\*\*cum laude

# Congratulations, graduates!