



Commencement 2016 CLASS of

Gerald Chichester smiles at the crowd during the commencement ceremony.



Ty Adams celebrates with his niece and nephew after graduation.



Dean Bo Rutledge (left) and Law School Association President Dan Snipes (J.D.'95) (right) are presented a check representing the Class of 2016 pledge of \$50,800 by 3L Class President J.D. Howard (second from left) and 3L Class Vice President Hari Narayanan. Photo by Dennis McDaniel.



Before commencement (l. to r.) Anna Fowler, Austin Ramsey, Kaylee Maxwell, Kathleen Mayer and Samantha Feinberg pose for the camera. Photo by Dennis McDaniel.



Taylor Murray and her three-year-old daughter, Loghan, receive Taylor's diploma from Dean Bo Rutledge while UGA Provost Pamela Whitten looks on. Loghan was five months old when her mother began law school.



Hammad Sheikh (left) and Katherine Richardson (right), two members of Georgia Law's first graduating class of Master in the Study of Law students, pose with the program's faculty advisor, Allison Hale (J.D.'89).



U.S. Deputy Attorney General encourages graduates to unlock justice

Serving as keynote speaker at this year's Commencement was U.S. Deputy Attorney General Sally Quillian Yates (J.D.'86).

Yates, who holds the second highest position in the U.S. Department of Justice, encouraged the Class of 2016 to unlock justice as they begin their legal career.

"I know that the usual graduation advice is to tell you to look inside yourself, find your passion and then follow it. And if you were graduating from one of the other colleges here at the university, that might be my advice to you today," Yates said. "But you're not graduating from one of the other colleges. You're graduating from the law school. And the degree that you have earned carries with it a responsibility that no other degree does. Because you now hold in your hands the key to unlock justice in this world. To reveal truth. To stand up for the rights of the voiceless. To hold our country to its promises. That degree that you've just earned doesn't belong just to you. Rather, you share it with the world."

Yates quoted a Law Day speech given at Georgia Law in 1961 by then-Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy who told students that: "All the high sounding speeches about liberty and justice are meaningless unless people such as you and I breathe meaning and force into it."

She then told the graduates, "Sometimes justice prevails on a grand scale and sometimes it flourishes in the simple righting of a wrong. Being a lawyer means standing ready to take on those seemingly routine cases, happening day in and day out, all across our country that have a profound impact on the lives of ordinary Americans."

Yates encouraged each graduate to follow Kennedy's words and pursue justice.

"I hope that you will seize opportunities to right wrongs large and small, that you will stand up for the voiceless and that you will uphold the promise of our country," she said. "I hope that you will use the key that you are about to receive to unlock justice."

Keynote speaker and U.S. Deputy Attorney General Sally Quillian Yates (J.D.'86) chats with 3L Class President J.D. Howard (left) and Vice President Hari Narayanan before the ceremony. Photo by Dennis McDaniel.

"... the degree that you have earned carries with it a responsibility that no other degree does."

—Sally Quillian Yates (J.D.'86)