



Atlanta's John Marshall Law School

*Commencement Exercises
Class of
Two Thousand Twenty-Four*

The Rialto Center for the Arts

One Thirty p.m.

*May 18, 2024
Atlanta, Georgia*

PRELUDE.....	<i>Prelude, Sigurd Jorsalfor</i> by Edvard Grieg
PROCESSIONAL.....	<i>Pomp and Circumstance March</i> by Edward Elgar
PROCESSIONAL MARSHALS.....	<i>Leah L. Young, Class of 2024</i> <i>Marquez A. Jones, Class of 2024</i>
NATIONAL ANTHEM	Amadeus String Ensemble
INVOCATION.....	Rev. Dr. David Anthony Spencer, Jr.
WELCOME	Jace C. Gatewood Dean
REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT OF STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION	Ricky Panayoty President, Student Bar Association
AWARDS	Jace C. Gatewood Dean
INTRODUCTION OF HONORABLE JUDGE ROANLD B. RAMSEY, SR.	Jace C. Gatewood Dean
ADDRESS	Judge Ronald B. Ramsey, Sr. State Court of Dekalb County
CONFERRING OF DEGREE.....	Jace C. Gatewood Dean Adam Malone, Chairman, Board of Directors
REMARKS FROM THE CLASS	Derek Nunes Dias Fernandes 2024 Valedictorian – Part-Time Division Taylor Blumenthal 2024 Valedictorian – Full-Time Division
REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI BOARD	Tavis Knighten Class of 2005
BENEDICTION	Rev. Dr. David Anthony Spencer, Jr.
CLOSING REMARKS.....	Jace C. Gatewood Dean
RECESSIONAL.....	<i>Grand March from "Aida"</i> by Verdi

The Audience is requested to remain seated during the recessional.

As a courtesy to our guests, we ask that you silence all communication devices and assure that all small children are monitored or removed if causing a distraction.

**Atlanta's John Marshall Law School Honors
The Honorable Judge Ronald B. Ramsey, Sr.**

Judge Ramsey, Sr., is the immediate past Presiding Judge of Division –B and led the court through the recent world-wide pandemic by leading a team to develop technology innovations, including virtual proceedings and other platforms that will serve the court and citizens of DeKalb County for years to come. Judge Ramsey also successfully negotiated with county leadership for relocation and construction of a new State Court – Division B, courthouse with expected occupancy in early 2025. In 2021, Judge Ramsey was instrumental and reshaping legislation to transform the governance and equity of the court. Judge Ramsey is the immediate past District Chair for the Council of State Court Judges, where he served as Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee.

After graduating with honors from North Carolina Central University in 1981, Judge Ramsey began his professional career in Atlanta, with the National Labor Relations Board, a federal agency. While working full-time as a federal investigator and hearing officer, Judge Ramsey enrolled as an evening student at John Marshall Law School. Immediately upon being admitted to the State Bar of Georgia in 1992, Judge Ramsey became a member of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) legal team for the ensuing two years. He became a certified mediator during that period and remained a key member of the Justice Center of Atlanta's mediation team for eighteen years.

Judge Ramsey left government service in 1994, to become the Southeast Regional Counsel for the Laborers International Union. During that period, he also served as an Adjunct Professor at John Marshall Law School. Three years later, Judge Ramsey became the Director of Labor Relations and Legal Affairs for the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office, where he served for nearly 2 years.

In 2000, the Honorable Ronald B. Ramsey, Sr. was appointed as the first African-American to serve as a Municipal Court Judge in the City of Stone Mountain, Georgia, where he served until 2007. While serving on the bench, Judge Ramsey engaged in the private practice of law in the areas of criminal defense, labor and employment, business and probate law. His mediation and arbitration services also comprised a significant portion of his practice.

In 2015, Ramsey resigned his nine-year tenure as Georgia State Senator and his ten-year tenure Chief Legal Officer for the DeKalb County School District to accept an appointment by Governor Nathan Deal as an Associate Judge on the DeKalb County State Court.

Judge Ramsey is a past Judicial Section Chair of the historic Gate City Bar Association. Judge Ramsey is also past District 4 Representative of the American Bar Association/ Judicial Division/ National Conference of Specialized Court Judges, where he was subsequently elected to the executive committee and ultimately served a successful term as Chair of the Conference. In 2022, Judge Ramsey was the second African American Judge appointed to serve as a Judicial Outreach Liaison for the American Bar Association/ Judicial Division. Most recently, in 2023, Judge Ramsey was elected to serve on the House of Delegates for the American Bar Association.

Judge Ramsey has been married to his wife, Doris, for over 38 years and they are the parents of two adults, both of whom are graduates of the University System of Georgia.

CANDIDATES
JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE
December 2023

Tiffany D. Barragan
Darryl H. Ford

Oluwatoyin Leke-Alli
Devin S. McCoy

CANDIDATES
JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE
May 2024

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Nicholas S. Barker
Robert O. Baumbach
Andrea D. Beard
Candice L. Belafi
Jacob R. Belcastro
Tylore Bell
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Alexis J. Burnett
Wendy D. Carlyle, *Cum laude*
Skyelar G. Caudle
Joseph M. Chappelle
Tiara L. Clemmons, *cum laude*
Michael T. Craven
James Dahlquist
Gabrielle E. Dean
Shinnay Richards Dodson
Savannah L. Drexler
Robert S. Ferguson
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Marquez A. Jones
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*Criminal Justice Certificate Program

CANDIDATES
JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE
July 2024

Heather A. Jenkins*

Chinyere Marshall

CANDIDATE
JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE
December 2024

Tamaara Dunlap

2024 STUDENT HONORS & AWARDS

Pro Bono Distinction Award

Lucilla Harrell

Excellence in Pro Bono

Carolina Melguizo

The Chief Justice Leah Ward Sears Pro Bono Award

Tekari J. Matthews

**Atlanta's John Marshall Law School Award for
Excellence in Appellate Advocacy**

Noelia C. Rivera

Jude Harold R. Banke Advocacy Award

Taylor Blumenthal

**Henning Award for The Atlanta Bar Association
Dispute Resolution Section**

Devin S. McCoy

Georgia Association of Women Lawyers Outstanding Graduate Award

Katie C. Jett

National Association of Women Lawyers Outstanding Graduate Award

Tylore Bell

Order of Quill

Taylor Blumenthal, Scholar of the Order

Grace Rispoli-Gomez, Scholar of the Order

Derek Nunes Dias Fernandes, Exemplar Scholar and Marshall of the Order

Atlanta's John Marshall Law School Outstanding Graduate Award

Full-Time: *Derek Nunes Dias Fernandes*

Part-Time: *Grace C. Rispoli-Gomez*

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For additional information on giving, please contact Wendy Aina, Chief Development Officer, at waina@johnmarshall.edu or via phone at (678) 916-2674.

*Music by Amadeus String Ensemble
Photography by Grad Images*