

Sentiments of the Summer 2021

Graduating Class

Thank you to my family and friends who have been there with me through it all. Your support made today possible. I love you all.

Garrett S. Anderson

B.A., Johns Hopkins University

Hometown – Roslyn, New York

Tita, thank you for encouraging me to pursue a dream, for keeping me in your prayers, and for your support. To my family and friends, thank you for supporting me along the way.

Kimberly Taise Andrade

B.A., Baylor University

Hometown – Odessa, Texas

I want to thank my husband, Sean, for being my rock through everything; My parents, for providing me with so many opportunities in life; My sister, Katie, for always inspiring me to be strong; and my friends who got me through this. I love you all.

Emily Jean Carria

B.S., University of New Haven

Hometown – Durham, Connecticut

So many wonderful family members and friends guided me through this journey. To each of you, I give my appreciation and love.

Christian Louis Carson-Banister

B.A., Boston University

Hometown – El Paso, Texas

To my family: Thank you for your unyielding love and support to help me pursue my dreams. Without the values and life lessons that you have each contributed to my life, I would not be the person I am today. I am so honored and grateful that you each chose me.

Madelyn Grace Caskey

B.B.A., University of Oklahoma

Hometown – Sherman, Texas

To my family and friends, thank you for your unconditional love and support throughout every chapter of my life. I look forward to the many chapters ahead.

Samantha Landi Chaiken

B.A., Rice University

Hometown – Dallas, Texas

To my parents, David and Robbie, thank you for always supporting and believing in me. I wouldn't be who or where I am without you. To my brother, Thomas, I'm so proud to be your sister, and you have inspired me more than you know. To my dog, Syd, thanks for the unconditional love. I would not have made it through law school without you.

Jessica L. Francis

B.S., Sam Houston State University

M.B.A., Texas Tech University

Hometown – Huffman, Texas

It's an injustice that only my name goes on the diploma.

My dad, Lee ('79); my wife, Sherri; my children: Tyler, Madison, McKinley & Kennedy, have all sacrificed more than I could have ever asked for. I promise to spend my life earning it.

Byron A. Haney

B.A, Texas A&M University

M.S., M.B.A., Western Governors University

M.S., West Texas A&M University

Hometown – Brownwood, Texas

Thank you to my parents for providing me with the tools necessary to get to this very moment. Thank you to Cameron for his understanding, support, and reassurance. Thank you to my family and friends, old and new, for their constant encouragement.

Sydney Anne Ironside

B.S., Clemson University

Hometown – Travelers Rest, South Carolina

Per Aspera Ad Astra – “Through hardships, to the stars!” To Mom, Dad, and Brittany: from the lowest of lows, to the highest of highs - thank you for standing by my side through it all! I love you! And lastly, to Grandma and Mimi: we did it!

William Vascoe Jordan IV

B.A., Baylor University

Hometown – Sugar Land, Texas

McKellar Lee Karr

B.A., University of Texas

Hometown – Diana, Texas

Done.

Matthew Austin Katona

B.A., University of Colorado

Hometown – San Antonio, Texas

Thank you to my family for all your love, support, and never-ending patience. Thank you for always picking up the phone when I needed encouragement or reassurance. I also want to thank my dogs for all the love and early morning snuggles that got me through.

Alyssa Morgan Killin

B.B.A., Baylor University

Hometown – Holyoke, Colorado

From "Mom, I got in" to "Mom, I made it" and all the moments in between, thank you for being my biggest supporter.

Kinsey Dawn Lakey

B.A., West Texas A&M University

Hometown – Amarillo, Texas

We made it! Thank you to absolutely everyone who has helped me through the past three years. Shoutout to my family and friends. I could not have done this without your support. Special thanks to Ryan and Colt for all the love!

Jaycee Lynn Lee

B.S., Missouri Southern State University

Hometown – Ash Grove, Missouri

I would like to thank God, Kathleen, Dwight, Ann, Dustin, Zoe, Astro, Oreo, Jose, Tony, family, friends, and brothers for their help in keeping me sane through this journey. I would also like to thank my mentors, Kevin and Edgar, for the guidance and wisdom they shared with me.

Devante Dwight Marshall

B.A., Houston Baptist University

Hometown – Houston, Texas

Much love and many thanks to my Dad, Mom, and rest of the family for the endless love, support, and encouragement. Sage, I couldn't have done it without you.

"Illegitimi non carborundum" - (Love you Papa). Love you all.

Megan Brooke Mattson

B.S., Texas A&M University

Hometown – Salado, Texas

None of this would have been possible without the love and support of my team, Jordyn, and Rho.

Matthew James McKinnon

B.A., University of Pennsylvania

Hometown - Missouri City, Texas

Thank you, Mom and Dad, for all you put up with during this. I could not have made it through without you. Thank you God, that I passed that PC3 final.

John David Merritt

B.A., Baylor University

Hometown – Amarillo, Texas

To Mom, Dad, and Ramona, thank you for unconditionally supporting every dream and always encouraging me to reach higher. Thank you for teaching me that hard work always pays off. To my friends who have taken on Baylor Law with me, if I could graduate after accidentally falling asleep during the first 45-minutes of the Business Organizations 2 final exam, then we can take on anything. Congress y'all, we somehow made it! Sic 'em!

Rohit Mittal

B.A., New York University

Hometown – Lubbock, Texas

May the rest of our lives be the best of our lives.

Dana X. Nguyen

B.B.A., M.S., Baylor University

Hometown – Waco, Texas

Edward J. Odre

B.A., Southern Methodist University

Hometown – Buffalo, New York

I want to thank my mother, father, and my dog Kobe for always supporting and loving me unconditionally. I know I can be a handful, unpredictable, and hard to love at times. Lucky for me, y'all didn't have much of a choice. This is for y'all. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

Steven Ovando

B.A., University of Texas

Hometown – Cleburne, Texas

Thank you, Mom for teaching me perseverance, Dad for teaching me the value of a strong work ethic, and all my family and friends for your prayers, encouragement, and support. Mr. Chandler—*thank you, amigo*. To Baylor Law, my professors, and my classmates: it's been one hell of a ride!

Preston Roquemore Polk
B.S., Texas A&M University
Hometown – Lufkin, Texas

Audrey Michelle Ramirez
B.S., Texas A&M University
Hometown – Lake Jackson, Texas

Thank you to my parents, my brother, and to Kate for all your love and support. Also thank you to the folks at Pinewood for always having a seat, an outlet, words of encouragement, and bottomless coffee. Finally, I want to thank my friends without whom I could not have done these past few years. I am so excited for what the future holds for each of you! We did it!

Emma Lee Roddy
B.F.A., Baylor University
Hometown – New Braunfels, Texas

I want to say thank you to my Mom, Dad, Amy, my family and my friends I would not be here without your support.

David Anthony-Cruz Rothweil
B.S., Azusa Pacific University
Hometown – San Diego, California

To say that this experience has been a challenge for me is a monumental understatement. So much so that at one point I told the Dean, "I don't know if I am being resilient, or just plain stubborn." Now I know. Thank you for never giving up on me.

Ryan William Rowley
B.S., Texas State University
Hometown – Austin, Texas

Thank you to my family and friends for being there for me when I wasn't the best version of myself. Thank you to the professors for making topics that I never thought I would be interested in exciting. To all my classmates, I can't wait to see everything y'all accomplish.

Jennifer Margaux Schein
B.A., University of Texas
Hometown – Plano, Texas

God has blessed me so much. I wouldn't have made it here without the friends and family who have uplifted me with unwavering love and support. The past three years, I have learned the importance of advocating not only for others, but for myself and what I believe in.

Alexandra Irene Simms
B.S., University of Houston
Hometown – Houston, Texas

Thank you, Mom, Dad, and Harpreet for supporting me throughout my journey. Thank you, Uncle Vikram, for pushing me to continue my education and for always making sure I was on the right path.

Pawandeep Singh
B.B.A., Baylor University
Hometown – Jewett, Texas

Thank you to my amazing husband for basically spending the last 3 years alone, for making dinner and vacuuming, for emergency junk food and flash card runs, for being my witness/ opposing counsel/ paralegal/ involuntary study partner, and for dealing with a whole other level of crazy. I love you.

Tara Smith Hambacher

B.S., University of Alabama

Hometown – Deatsville, Alabama

Thank you to my parents for their constant support and encouragement. Thank you to my friends and everyone who was understanding throughout the last few years. And thank you to Baylor Law for pushing me past my boundaries and showing me, I can accomplish more than I ever believed.

Danielle Brogan Snow

B.A., Texas A&M University

Hometown – Kerrville, Texas

Thank you to my friends and family for your continued support and encouragement. Special thank you to my mom, who kept encouraging me to go to law school even after I continually said that nobody in their right mind would go back to school after college.

Nicholas Todd Stevens

B.A., Baylor University

Hometown – Waco, Texas

I want to thank my dear wife, Taylor, for the continual support you provided me through this process. You were a breath of fresh air when I needed it the most and I could not have accomplished what I did without you.

David W. Suttner

B.A., Brigham Young University

Hometown – St. George, Utah

Thank you, Dad, you for being a role model for work ethic, sacrifice, and success. To my loving mother, Carmon, thank you for endlessly believing in me. To my siblings: thank you for all your love and support. To my friends and family: thank you for being a listening ear and loving me unconditionally. Thank you, Baylor Law faculty, for preparing me for this profession. Here's to the best thing I never want to do again!

Allison Jane Taff

B.S., Texas A&M University

Hometown – Gilmer, Texas

“Just do better.” Well, I did better. I'll be forever grateful to my ever-supportive friends and mentors. Uncle Lou, I love you - I know you're so proud right now. My biggest thank you is to you, Mom and Dad. I wouldn't be here without you. Thank you both for being my greatest teachers. P.S. I didn't forget my crayons. Don't sweat the little things – and they're all little things. WE DID IT!

Alexandra Lee Thompson

B.B.A., University of Mississippi

Hometown – Dripping Springs, Texas

To the countless friends and family that got me here today: Thank you for believing in me when I didn't believe in myself. Thank you for always reminding me that there's a world outside of law school and loving me through the difficult phases. Thank you for crying with me, laughing with me, and everything in between. I wouldn't be here without you.

Estefania Villarreal Montemayor

B.A., University of Texas

Hometown – Brownsville, Texas

To Ashley, Family, and Friends: Thank you for believing in me! Graduating from Baylor Law School was the most challenging thing I have ever done. At the best times and the most stressful time, you all were there for me. I am forever grateful!

Christopher Cole Waggoner
B.S., Full Sail University
Hometown – Austin, Texas

Thank you, Mom, for always believing in me; Dad, for always supporting me; and Katie, for always being the optimistic phone call I need at the end of the day. Your support means more to me than you'll ever know. I owe all my accomplishments to you. And to my friends, thank you for sticking by my side through it all.

Mallorie Shay Walker
B.A., North Carolina State University
Hometown – Maiden, North Carolina

I wouldn't have made it through law school without my faith in God, my family, or my friends. I'm so grateful for everyone who has encouraged me when I felt down, helped me have fun when I needed to de-stress, and made sure I took care of myself. Thank you for knowing and loving me well!

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." —Joshua 1:9

Rebecca Ann Wesley
B.S., Texas Christian University
Hometown – Grapevine, Texas

I am here because of Jesus, my family, my friends, and absolutely my wife. This is a collective win more than an individual accomplishment.

James Donnell Wilson
B.A., Southwestern Assemblies of God University
Hometown – North Richland Hills, Texas

To my loving family, great family, peers, and professors, I thank you so much for your love and support through law school and through COVID.

Solomon Sing Young Wong
B.S., University of Texas
M.P.H., University of Texas Health Science Center
Hometown – Houston, Texas