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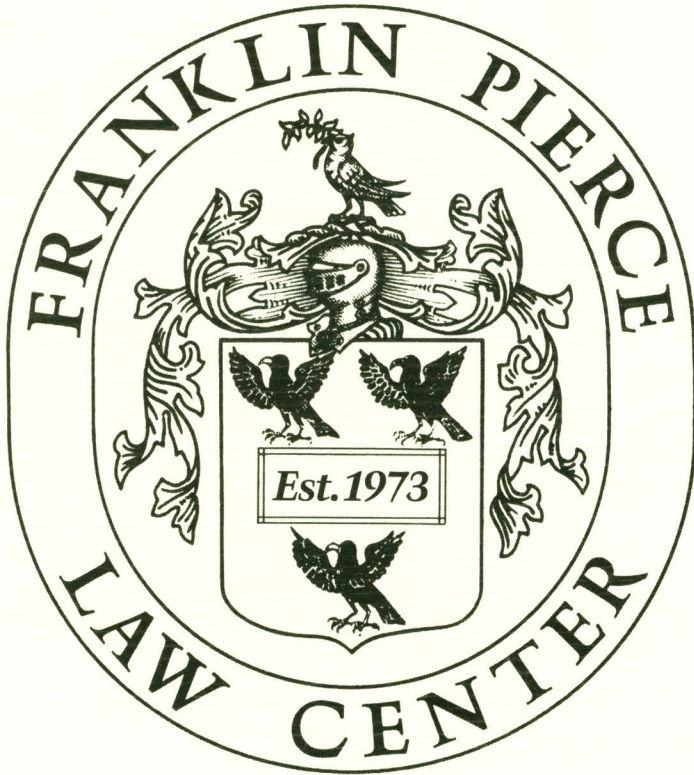
Twenty-seventh Commencement

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Twenty-seventh Commencement

18 May 2002

Franklin Pierce Law Center
Concord, New Hampshire

Order of Exercises

PROCESSIONAL

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

John D. Hutson

Dean

ADVICE FROM THE FACULTY

Mitchell M. Simon

Professor of Law

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Michael Th. Johnson, Esq.

Chief of Prosecutions

International Criminal Tribunal

for the former Yugoslavia,

United Nations

AWARDING OF DEGREES

John D. Hutson
Dean

Frances Canning
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

Lory Attalla
Registrar

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

CLOSING REMARKS

NATIONAL ANTHEM

RECESSIONAL

DEAN'S RECEPTION

Candidates for the Juris Doctor Degree

James Michael Acheson, Jr.
Westbrook, Maine
B.A., Reed College

Adi Amrany
Wayside, New Jersey
B.S., George Washington
University

Gloria Maria Arteaga
Pawtucket, Rhode Island
B.S., University of Rhode Island

Ellen B. Azad*
Boston, Massachusetts
B.A., B.A., Carleton University

David R. Bacon
Northfield, New Hampshire
B.A., Pennsylvania State
University

Charlene F. Beaulieu
Goffstown, New Hampshire
B.A., University of New
Hampshire

Melanie M. Bell*
Goshen, New Hampshire
B.A., University of Colorado

Flynn Parker Bertisch
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida
B.A., University of
Massachusetts at Amherst

H. Scott Bethune
Comrie Perthshire, Scotland
LL.B., Edinburgh University

Malcolm Paterson Blackwood
Nashua, New Hampshire
B.A., Columbia University

Julie-Anne Blanchard
Auburn, Maine
B.A., University of Southern
Maine

Lisa-Dawn Ura Bollinger
Nashua, New Hampshire
B.A., Notre Dame College

Andrea June Boudreau
Allentown, New Hampshire
B. S., Johnson & Wales
University

Allison M. Bowles
Orlando, Florida
B.S., University of Florida

John J. Bresaw
Dover, New Hampshire
B.A., University of Southern
Maine

Kerri A. Brittain*
Jasper, Indiana
B.A., Indiana State University

Steven Patrick Bunker
Lawrence, Massachusetts
B.A., Plymouth State College

Steven Bush
Mahopac, New York
B.A., Mercy College
M.A., Texas Tech University

Daniel Charles Cabral
Ocean Park, Maine
B.A., University of Southern
Maine

Jack Nunes Capelas
Northampton, Massachusetts
B.S.W., Salem State College

Jason J. Carrier
Concord, New Hampshire
B.A., Keene State College

June Anderson Casey*
Tamworth, New Hampshire
A.B., Wellesley College

Andrew Paul Cernota*
Nashua, New Hampshire
A.B., Dartmouth College

Suhel Emile Chahwan
Bekaa Valley, Lebanon
B.A., M.S., Boston College

Jennifer A. Chamberlain
Green Bay, Wisconsin
B.A., University of Wisconsin

Patrick A.K.K. Chee
Half Moon Bay, California
B.S., Florida State University

Joseph Anthony Cipolla*
Concord, New Hampshire
B.A., University of Nebraska

Heather B. Clark*
Bedford, Massachusetts
B.S., Bentley College

Jeremy Smith Cleverly
Rockwall, Texas
B.A., Stephan F. Austin State
University

Barbara Ashley Cole
Columbia, South Carolina
B.A., Columbia College

Rob Coleman
Seattle, Washington
B.A., University of Washington

David Evan Collier*
Boca Raton, Florida
B.A., Florida Atlantic
University

Dean Henry Costales*
Los Angeles, California
B.A., University of Michigan

Deanna M.B. Crockett
Gilford, New Hampshire
B.S., University of New
Hampshire

Marie S. Devlin
Nashua, New Hampshire
A.B. Harvard University
M.Ed. Harvard Graduate School
of Education
M.B.A., Northeastern
University

Martin Steven Dicker
Brookside, New Jersey
B.A., Brandeis University

Melinda Ellen Dupre
Concord, New Hampshire
B.A., Saint Anselm College

Michelle Mae Eckley*
Concord, New Hampshire
B.A., University of Nebraska

Kendrea O. Elvis*
Brooklyn, New York
B.A., State University of New
York at Albany

Giovanna Helen Cotichelli
Fessenden
Santa Monica, California
B.A., Smith College

Donna Marie Fillipon-Perry
Center Ossipee, New
Hampshire
B.A., Plymouth State College

Robert Lloyd Florence
Salt Lake City, Utah
B.S., University of Utah

Kimberly Ayne Force*
Columbia, Missouri
B.S.B.A., University of Missouri
- Columbia

Nicole R. Fortune
Concord, New Hampshire
B.A., University of New
Hampshire at Manchester

Elizabeth Fossum
Concord, New Hampshire
B.A., University of Texas

Jay Scott Franklin
Salt Lake City, Utah
B.S., University of Utah

Tamiko R. Franklin
Columbus, Ohio
B.A., Antioch College

Charles Edward Fredericks
Colchester, Vermont
B.S., University of Vermont

Michael J. Frodsham
Salt Lake City, Utah
B.S., Brigham Young University

Sherri E. Gallant
Auburn, Massachusetts
B.S., Becker College

John Michael Gasaway, Jr.
Concord, New Hampshire
B.S., University of North
Carolina at Charlotte

Leo Goldstein-Gureff*
Woodbridge, Connecticut
B.S., Southern Connecticut
State University

Adam Preksta Gyurisin
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
B.A., University of Pittsburgh

Jonathan Andrew Hagn
Lone Tree, Colorado
B.S., University of Colorado

Kimberly A. Hallquist
Twin Mountain, New
Hampshire
B.S., Southern New Hampshire
University

Lauren Fern Hanke*
St. Petersburg, Florida
B.A., Alfred University

Christopher Michael Hennessey*
Concord, New Hampshire
B.A., Tulane University

Harry Andrew Hild, Jr.*
Shoreham, New York
B.S., Alfred University

Dennis Charles Hogan*
Nashua, New Hampshire
B.A., University of New
Hampshire

Shelly Lynn Hokenstad
Appleton, Wisconsin
B.S.E.E., University of
Wisconsin

Chang Bae Hong*
Norristown, Pennsylvania
B.S., Dickinson College

Donghyun Kim
Seoul, Korea
B.S., Seoul National University
M.S., Ph.D., University of
Connecticut

Suzanne Melissa Klunk^o
Trumbull, Connecticut
B.A., University of New
Hampshire

Jeffrey S. Kowalski
Sterling Heights, Michigan
B.S., Lawrence Technological
University

Paul J. Kroon, Jr.*
North Andover, Massachusetts
B.S., University of Delaware

William Roger Lambert
Concord, New Hampshire
B.A., University of California at
Berkeley
Ph.D., California Institute of
Technology

John Paul Lawrence
Boston, Massachusetts

B.S., University of
Minnesota/Twin Cities
M.S., Northeastern University
M.S., State University of New
York at Buffalo

EuiHoon Lee*

Seoul, Korea
B.S., Seoul National University

Sanghyun Lee

Seoul, Korea
B.A., Yonsei University
Msc., London School of
Economics

Won Sang Lee*

Seoul, Korea
B.A., M.S., Seoul National
University

Matthew Allan Leff

Detroit Lakes, Minnesota
B.A., B.S., M.S., University of
North Dakota
Ph.D., University of Louisville

Natasha Geneva Lewis

Irvington, New Jersey
B.S., University of Maryland

Jason A. Lindstrom

Bisbee, Arizona
B.A., University of Arizona

Hsin-Hsin Liu

Taipei, Taiwan
B.S.E.E., Chiao-Tung University
at Taiwan

Jennifer Lubin

New York, New York
B.A., New York University

Amanda Beth MacKinnon*

Milan, New Hampshire
B.A., Franklin Pierce College

Andrew Martin

Leesburg, Virginia
B.S., Virginia Tech

Byron L. McMasters

Franklin, Pennsylvania
B.S., Pennsylvania State
University

Kelly Patricia Moore

Anchorage, Alaska
B.S., Valparaiso University

Janet Cabral Moreira

Merrimack, New Hampshire
B.S., University of New
Hampshire

Keith V. Morris

Marysville, California
B.S., Weber State University

Mary Ellen Wenners Morse*

Rye, New Hampshire
B.S., Boston College

Karen B. Nesbitt
Newmarket, New Hampshire
B.A., M.P.A. Pace University

Jacqueline E. Ngole
Cameroon, West Africa
B.A., University of Maryland
Eastern Shore

David L. Odom
Abilene, Texas
B.S., Chapman University

Marc Edward Papini
Fairfield, Connecticut
B.S., Northeastern University

Bhaveeni Devidas Parmar
Royersford, Pennsylvania
B.S.E.E., Rochester Institute of
Technology

Brent D. Rafferty
Peoria, Illinois
B.S., University of Illinois
M.S., University of Iowa
Ph.D., Pennsylvania State
University

William Pete Reid
Easley, South Carolina
B.S., University of South
Carolina

Jennifer Michelle Rich*
Reno, Nevada
B.A., B.S., University of Nevada
at Reno

Richard John Vance Rygalski
Bangor, Maine
B.A., Colby College

Brien Paul Santarlas
Mt. Laurel, New Jersey
B.S.E.E., Villanova University

Wonkyu Seo
Incheon, Korea
B.S., M.S., Pohang University of
Science and Technology

Ajay Shamdasani
Kowloon, Hong Kong
A.B., Ripon College

Joel T. Shaw
Pembroke, New Hampshire
B.A., Boston College

Meesung Shim*
Seoul, Korea
B.S., M.S., Seoul National
University

Laurie Jeanne Sholtis
Fairfax, Virginia
B.S., George Washington
University

Anita Soni*
Marlboro, New Jersey
B.A., Rutgers University

Eric Louis Sophir
Port Washington, New York
B.S., Cornell University

Theresa Marie Spearing*
Hudson, New Hampshire
B.A., Rivier College

Margot Ann Stewart
New York, New York
B.A., Hunter College
M.A., New York University

Michael Patrick Studebaker
Anaheim, California
B.A., Regents College

Angela Marie Thibodeau
Waterboro, Maine
B.A., University of Southern
Maine

Robert Stephen Thomas
Efland, North Carolina
B.S., North Carolina State
University

Eric Kratz Tolbert*
Concord, New Hampshire
B.A., Mary Washington College

Scott M. Tulino
Wayne, New Jersey
B.S., Rutgers University

Jun Umemuro
Chiba, Japan
B.S., M.S., Science University
of Tokyo

Ian Roberto Vallejo
El Paso, Texas
B.A., Brigham Young
University

Christopher John Verni
Marion, Massachusetts
B.S., University of Rochester

Laura Jane Voyatzis
Greensboro, North Carolina
B.S., North Carolina State
University

Jamie S. Waldo
Spokane, Washington
B.A., Eastern Washington
University

Joseph Michael Warren
Waukee, Iowa
B.S., Tulane University

Ty G. Waterman*
Raymond, New Hampshire
B.S., US Coast Guard Academy
M.A., US Naval War College

Nathan Sebastian Webber
Evergreen, Colorado
B.A., University of
Massachusetts at Amherst

Michael Robert Wesolowski
Tewksbury, Massachusetts
B.S., Boston College

Sara Kay Wiley
Alice, Texas
B.S., Texas A&M University

Todd Bernard Wilson
Binghamton, New York
B.S., State University of New
York at Oswego

Alexandros Stamatios Yiokarinis*
Kingston, New Hampshire
B.A., University of New
Hampshire

Aaron Isadore Young
Nashua, New Hampshire
B.A., University of Southern
California
Ph.D., University of
Massachusetts Medical
Center

Adriana L. Zachousky
St. Leonard, Maryland
B.S., B.A., University of North
Carolina at Chapel Hill
M.S., Johns Hopkins University

Yuri Zalzman
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
B.A., Temple University

Trisha D. Zettlemyer*
Casper, Wyoming
B.A., Fort Hays State
University

* Signifies enrollment in the JD/MIP Joint Degree Program

° Signifies enrollment in the JD/MEL Joint Degree Program

Candidates for Master of Intellectual Property

Zain Isnaeni Adnan
Jakarta, Indonesia
B.A., Carleton University
M.B.A., Ateneo de Manila
University

Eun Kyung Ahn
Seoul, Korea
B.A., Hankuk University of
Foreign Languages

Lincoln Lone Bome
Gaborone, Botswana
B.A., University of Botswana

James Derman
Port Jefferson, New York
BSEE, Worcester Polytechnic
Institute

Amichia Edward Djoley
Lowell, Massachusetts
B.A., University of Abidjan
Ivory-Coast, West Africa

Li Feng
Beijing, China
B.S., Renmin University, China

Peter Jaglom Gardner
B.A., Middlebury College
J.D., MSEL, Vermont Law
School

Susumu Hikichi
Tokyo, Japan
B.S., M.S., Tokyo Institute of
Technology

Enshan Hong
Liaoning, China
B.S., Petroleum University

Hye-In Kim
Seoul, Korea
B.S., M.S., Seoul National
University

Hideaki Kobayashi
Chiba, Japan
B.A., M.A., Kyoto University

Folorunsho Laiyemo
San Jose, California
B.S. San Jose State University

Heungmo Lee
Seoul, Korea
B.A., Yonsei University

Hyon Kyong Leeu
Seoul, Korea
B.S., M.S., Seoul National
University

Chihiro Minamiyama
Tokyo, Japan
B.A., KEIO University

Abdulraheem Abdulhaleem
Mohammed
Khartoum, Sudan
M.A., Vermont College of
Norwich University

Rong, Ding
Beijing, China
LL.B., Shanghai Institute of
Foreign Trade

Usha Shrestha
Kathmandu, Nepal
B.S., M.S., Tribhuvan University
M.S., New Hampshire College

Naoki Takahashi
Kanagawa, Japan
B.A., Hiroshima University

Zhuo Xu
Beijing, China
B.S., Shan Dong Institute of
Building Materials

Ling Yao
Beijing, China
M.Eng., Harbin Institute of
Technology
B.S., Dalian University

Chih Feng Yeh
Kaohsi'u'ng, Taiwan
Master 'of EE', Chung Yuan
Christian University

YeaSun Yoon
Kyunggi-Do, Korea
B.A., Sogang University

Miranda Zamboni di Salerano
Rome, Italy
B.S., University of Saint
Thomas

Xia Zheng
Beijing, China
B.S., Yunnan University
M.E., Res. Institution of
Petroleum Processing
M.S., University of Illinois

Adrian F. Zumbach
Basel, Switzerland
B.Sc., M.S., University of Basel

Candidates for Master of Laws in Intellectual Property

Sumit Aggarwal
New Delhi, India
B.Com, LL.B., Delhi University

Yahya Issa Al-Riyami
Muscat, Sultan of Oman
LL.B., Cairo University, Egypt

Julius Deinma Anga
Rivers, Nigeria
LL.B., University of Nigeria

Satya Pal Arora
New Delhi, India
B.S., M.S., M.B.A., Kurukshetra
University
LL.B., University of Delhi

Juan Martin Aulmann
Buenos Aires, Argentina
LL.B., Universidad de Buenos
Aires

Audrey Avenier
LL.B., Aix-Marseille
La Cadiere D'Azur, France
Maitrise de Droit des Affaires

Syeda Ameer Batool
Punjab, Pakistan
B.A., University of Punjab
LL.B., University Law School of
University of Punjab

Deborah Smith Bernhardt
Concord, New Hampshire
B.S., Jacksonville State
University
J.D., Franklin Pierce Law Center

H. Scott Bethune
Comrie Perthshire, Scotland
LL.B., Edinburgh University

Debora Branco Santos
Vacaria, Brazil
LL.B., Pontieicea Universidade
Catolica

Jose Ramon Cardeno Shaadi
Mexico, Estados Unidos
Mexicanos
LL.B. (Abogado) Escuela Libre
de Derecho

Yi-Cheng Chan
Taiwan, Republic of China
LL.B., Soochow University

Maria E. Cobos
Lima, Peru
LL.B., Pontificia Universidad
Catolica del Peru

Keshav Dhakad
New Delhi, India
B.A., LL.B., University of Delhi

Pooja Dodd
New Delhi, India
B.A., LL.B., Delhi University

Thomas Norman Doty
Las Vegas, Nevada
B.S., Southern Illinois
University
J.D., Empire School of Law

Zhijhua Duan
Beijing, China
L.L.M., Chinese University of
Political Science and Law

Nina Ebkar
Lund, Sweden
LL.M., LL.B., Lund University

Robert Flury
Zurich, Switzerland
lic.iur., Dr.iur., University of
Zurich

Jui Chui Gan
Johor Bahru, Malaysia
LL.B., University of Bristol,
England

Elena Grimme
Torino, Italy
LL.B. University of London

Shinichiro Hara
Tokyo, Japan
LL.B., Hitotsubashi University

Kimiko Hasegawa
Nagoya, Japan
M.L.I., University of Wisconsin,
Madison
LL.B., Ninon University College
of Law

James Hawkins
B.A., M.A., University of
Arizona
J.D., University of Oregon

Kei Iida
Kanagawa, Japan
LL.B., University of Tokyo

Byeongil Jeong
Seoul, Korea
B.E., In Ha University
LL.B., Yonsei Graduate School
M.I.P., Franklin Pierce Law
Center

Sonia Kahai
Noida, India
B.A., LL.B., Delhi University

Sumant Akram Khan
Delhi, India,
B.S.L, LL.B, & I.L.S., University
of Pune

Junko Kinoto
Tokyo, Japan
B.A., Seikei University

Eric Kolo
Geneva, Switzerland
LL.B, Universite de Sciences

Mohit Lahoty
New Delhi, India
LL.B., University of Pune
B.Commerce, University of
Delhi

Yi-Hui Lee
Taipei, Taiwan
LL.B. Chung-Yuan Christian
University

Carlos Eduardo Rodrigues
Loureiro
Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
LL.B., Candido Mendes Law
School

Alejandro Luna F.
Mexico, D.F.
LL.B., Universidad
Latinoamericana

Thiess Gert Matzke
Munich, Germany
LL.B, Free University Berlin

Emmanuelle Merlin
Marseille, France
LL.B., University of
Aix.en.Prevence

Rajlakshmi V. Nesargi
Karnataka, India
B.A.L., LL.B., Visveswarapure
College of Law

Shigeumi Amy Okumura
Kyoto, Japan
LL.B., Doshisha University

Jamaleldin Mohamed Nour Omer
Khartoum, Sudan
LL.B., Cairo University, Sudan

Wallis Pons C.
Santo Domingo, Dominican
Republic
J.D., PUCMM

Thays Portugal
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
J.D., Candido Mendes Law
School
M.B.A., Getulio Vargas
Foundation

Marilu Rodriguez
San Juan, Puerto Rico
B.B.A. University of Puerto Rico
J.D., Pontifical Catholic
University

Laurie Jeanne Sholtis
Fairfax, Virginia
B.S., George Washington
University

Manisha Shridhar
New Delhi, India
B.Sc., LL.B., Delhi University
M.A. Punjab University

Jaya Shrivastava
Uttar Pradesh, India
B.A., LL.B., Delhi University

Anjali Sirsikar
Maharashtra, India
B.S.L., LL.B., I.L.S Law College

Sutawan Sutprakonkate
Bangkok, Thailand
LL.B., Thammasat University
M.L.I., University of Wisconsin

Annick Tchokonte
Atlanta, Georgia
LL.B., University of Paris, XII
Law School

Jose A. Venegas
Mayaguez, Puerto Rico
B.B.A. University of Puerto Rico
J.D., Pontifical Catholic
University

Paul Payot Vestal
San Pablo, California
B.S.E.E., University of
California
J.D., New York Law School

Bin Yang
Liaoning, China
LL.B., Jiangu University of
Science and Technology
L.L.M., Liaoning University

Guoxu Yang
Beijing, People Republic of
China
LL.B., Law School of Renmin
University of China

Ting Yu
Beijing, China
LL.B., China University of
Political Science and Law

Jin Zhang
Beijing, People Republic of
China
B.S., LL.B., Tsinghua University
M.S., University of Wisconsin

Candidate for Master in Education Law

Paula Adriance
North Sandwich, New
Hampshire
B.A., Belknap College

Kelly M. Farmer
Kingwood, Texas
B.S., Southwest Texas State
University

MARSHALS

Richard A. Hesse
Professor of Law

Ellen Musinsky
Professor of Law

Thomas G. Field Jr.
Professor of Law

Hugh H. Gibbons
Professor of Law

Susan M. Richey
Professor of Law

William O. Hennessey
Professor of Law

MUSIC

University of New Hampshire Faculty Brass Ensemble
Robert Stibler, Director

Commencement March
Composed by Robert H. Rines
Arranged by Branch Sanders '77

Michael Th. Johnson, Esq.
Chief of Prosecutions,
International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia,
United Nations

Michael Johnson was appointed Chief of Prosecutions for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in July 2001. The tribunal was established in 1993 to prosecute those who allegedly violated international humanitarian law during the Balkan wars of the 1990s. Jurisdiction of this tribunal includes war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

Prior to his appointment as Chief of Prosecutions, Mr. Johnson served as Chief Law Enforcement Officer/Prosecutor for Merrimack County, New Hampshire from 1983 to 2001. During that tenure, he received the New Hampshire Award for Outstanding Prosecutor in 1990 and 1994. In 1997, he acted as a legal specialist for the American Bar Association's Central and Eastern European Law Initiative "Rules of the Road Project." From 1998 until the present he has served as Chair for the Board of Directors for the International Criminal Justice Resource Center.

Mr. Johnson has served on many boards and committees for the American Bar Association including serving as a delegate for the Governing Body of the American Bar Association and as Chair of the National Criminal Justice Standards Committee in 1996-1997. He also served previously as Liaison to the American Bar Association Standards Task Force for the National District Attorneys Association and on the Board of Regents for the National College of District Attorneys.

Michael Johnson is married to Pierce Law alumnae Susan Alfin Johnson '83.

Historical Notes

Commencements in America are as old as the first one held by Harvard University in about 1640. These early ceremonies were patterned after the English ones of Oxford and Cambridge. Since then American colleges and universities have added their own trappings, in many cases making the occasion far more festive.

Here in Concord, New Hampshire, in the bicentennial year of 1976, Franklin Pierce Law Center held its first commencement as a graduate adjunct of Franklin Pierce College. At the wish of the graduates the exercises were held in the rural setting of the Law Center's Mountain Road location, where they studied the past three years. In January of 1977 the Law Center moved to its permanent home adjacent to White Park near downtown Concord. At this, the twenty-seventh commencement, the Law Center is granting its degrees for the twenty-sixth time as an independent educational institution. We are guests in the park today through the hospitality and cooperation of the city of Concord.

The caps, gowns and hoods of those in the procession represent a tradition of academic dress which began in the 12th century when the stone buildings which housed medieval universities were not known for warmth. The gowns are an adaptation of clerical garb.

A scholar's academic hood is more than elegant and colorful attire; it denotes degree, field and alma mater. The band of velvet circling the outer edge of the hood varies in width according to the highest degree attained—narrow for the bachelor's degree, medium for the master's, and broad for the doctorate. The color represents the field of scholarship—arts and letters, white; engineering, orange; medicine, kelly green; science, gold; philosophy, blue; law, purple, etc. The hood is lined with the colors of the institution attended by the wearer. A Franklin Pierce Law Center hood, for example, is lined in crimson crossed by a broad band of silver gray.