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Order of Exercises

PROCESSIONAL

NATIONAL ANTHEM

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

John D. Hutson
Dean & President

ADVICE FROM THE FACULTY

John Orcutt
Professor of Law

STUDENT SPEAKERS

Jürg Domenig, *Juris Doctor*
Linh Thi Mai Nguyen, *Master of Laws in Intellectual Property,
Commerce & Technology*

PRESENTATION OF CLASS GIFT

Patrick Thomas Muffo, *Juris Doctor*
Jaya Josyula Murthy, *Master of Intellectual Property & Technology*

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Christine Boisvert
Administrative Assistant, Registrar and Student Services

AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREES

Presented by Douglas J. Wood, Esquire
Chair, Board of Trustees

Ralph H. Baer
*Inventor and Videogame Pioneer
Recipient, National Medal of Technology*

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

U.S. Congressman Timothy J. Ryan (D-Ohio)
Juris Doctor, Class of 2000

Awarding of Degrees

John D. Hutson
Dean & President

Mary B. Sheffer
Assistant Dean for Career Services

Frances Canning
Assistant Dean for Students

Lory Attalla
Assistant Dean for Records and Registration

CLOSING REMARKS

RECESSIONAL

DEAN'S RECEPTION

Awarding of Degrees

John D. Hutson
Dean & President

Mary B. Sheffer
Assistant Dean for Career Services

Frances Canning
Assistant Dean for Students

Lory Attalla
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CLOSING REMARKS

RECESSIONAL

DEAN'S RECEPTION

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B.A., Colby College

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Music

University of New Hampshire Faculty Brass Ensemble
Robert Stibler, Director

Commencement March
Composed by Robert H. Rines,
Founder, Franklin Pierce Law Center
Arranged by Branch Sanders '77

Timothy J. Ryan

United States Congressman

A native of Niles, OH, Congressman Timothy J. Ryan was sworn in as the youngest Democratic member of the 108th Congress on January 7, 2003, his district's first new congressman in 17 years. Now serving his third term, Congressman Ryan represents more than 600,000 residents in Ohio's 17th District. He is a strong advocate for working families, focusing on the economy and quality-of-life issues of his district.

In 2006, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi chose Congressman Ryan to join the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, which is responsible for nominating democratic members to serve on House Committees and advising the speaker on policy. In addition, the Steering and Policy Committee appointed Congressman Ryan to the House Committee on Appropriations where he serves on the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies and the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development. Ryan served previously on the House Armed Services Committee and the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

In Congress, Congressman Ryan co-chairs the Congressional Manufacturing Caucus, working to strengthen the U.S. manufacturing base and reform U.S. trade policies. Ryan has also focused on making college more affordable, revitalizing America's downtowns and improving the health and well-being of American families and children.

Prior to his election to Congress, Congressman Ryan served in the Ohio State Senate and was the ranking minority member on the Ways and Means Committee. He was also a member of the Committee on Highways and Transportation, the Judiciary Committee on Criminal Justice, and the Insurance, Commerce and Labor Committee. He spearheaded efforts to establish a state-based earned income tax credit, standardize community school data reporting, and bring college students into the debate over higher education funding.

Congressman Ryan began his career in politics in 1995 as a congressional aide with the U.S. House of Representatives, and later served as an intern for the Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office. He also served as president of the Trumbull County Young Democrats and chair of the Earning by Learning Program in Warren, Ohio.

Born July 16, 1973, Congressman Ryan and his older brother were both raised by their mother, Rochelle Ryan, with the help of grandparents Anna and John Rizzi. Ryan earned a BA degree in political science from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio. In 2000, he earned his JD from Pierce Law, and is currently a member of the Dean's Leadership Council, a select group of alumni and friends committed to the well being of Pierce Law.

Ralph Baer

Inventor and Videogame Pioneer

Visionary and videogame pioneer, Mr. Baer, age 85, is referred to by videogame historians as the “Father of Videogames.” His inventions transformed the television and computer gaming industries and helped to launch a multi-billion dollar industry.

“Baer created a cultural phenomenon,” says Dean John D. Hutson. “His vision changed the way we interact with technology.” Many members of Pierce Law’s graduating class grew up playing with Mr. Baer’s inventions such as “Odyssey,” the first home video game, and “Simon,” an electronic saucer shaped game which made its debut in 1978.

Mr. Baer holds more than 50 U.S. patents and 100 international patents. In 2006, President Bush awarded Baer the National Medal of Technology, the nation’s highest award for innovation.

Many of the prototypes of Mr. Baer’s first inventions are now part of the collection of the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History. The Smithsonian’s Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation recently published an online archive of Mr. Baer’s papers. The Museum of the Moving Image, Queens, NY will house Mr. Baer’s “brown box” and other models on permanent display. The American Computer Museum, Bozeman, MT, will ship the entire contents of his basement workshop to museum galleries to be preserved. In 2005, he received a Legend Award at the G4 Video Game Award Show for his work in the development of video games.

Mr. Baer was born in Germany in 1922 and, at age 16, fled to the United States with his family when Nazi anti-Semitism forced him to leave school. He worked briefly at a New York factory that produced leather accessories before enrolling at the National Radio Institute to become a radio service technician. In 1943, he joined the U.S. Army, assigned to Military Intelligence, attached to Eisenhower’s Headquarters in London but stationed in France. In 1949, Baer earned a B.S. in television engineering, the first such degree awarded in the U.S., from the American Television Institute of Technology in Chicago.

In the early 1950s, Mr. Baer worked on electromechanical equipment, including military systems, while employed by Wappler, Inc., (then Loral Electronics and then Transitron, Inc.) where he became vice president of engineering and moved with the firm from New York to Manchester, NH. In 1956, he joined Sanders Associates (now part of BAE Systems) in Nashua, NH, until his retirement in 1987.

In the 1950s, when televisions were gaining popularity, Mr. Baer thought it would be fun to add an interactive, game-playing element to television. Nearly 15 years later while at Sanders, Mr. Baer, along with two colleagues, further developed his ideas, creating games on transistor-circuit boxes. In 1966, he developed a prototype for a chase game that would be playable on a television screen. Sanders agreed to fund further research. In 1968, Mr. Baer filed his first patent for gaming technology. In 1970, Magnavox (now Phillips, North America) signed a license agreement with Baer for his “brown box,” later introduced as “Odyssey” in 1972.

In addition to his success with videogames, Mr. Baer also developed a variety of successful electronic games and toys in addition to “Simon,” including “Maniac,” “Computer Perfection,” Tonka Toy’s “Talking Tools,” and a talking picture frame, “Time Frame.”

Mr. Baer has lived in Manchester for 48 years. He is the father of Pierce Law alumnus, Mark Baer ’88.

Historical Notes

Commencements in America began at Harvard University circa 1640. Early ceremonies were patterned after those of Oxford and Cambridge, England. Since then, American colleges and universities have added their own trappings, in many cases making the occasion far more festive.

The caps, gowns and hoods of our graduates in the procession represent a tradition of academic dress that 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 degree, medium for the master, and broad for the doctorate. The color represents the field of scholarship: law, purple; arts and letters, white; engineering, orange; science, gold; philosophy, blue; etc. The hood is lined with the colors of the institution attended by the wearer. A Franklin Pierce Law Center hood is lined in crimson crossed by a broad band of silver gray.

MISSION

Pierce Law strives to provide its students with the best possible legal education. Pierce Law is a community of scholars, oriented towards the practice of law, who teach, learn and empower others to contribute productively to a global legal system. Students from around the world with diverse experiences engage in active, practice-based learning in small, cooperative and interactive learning environments. While traditional areas of law and emerging specialties are taught, the intellectual property law curriculum, one of the broadest in the country, is continually emphasized and improved. Graduates are highly capable, confident professionals who will serve clients, employers and the public with integrity and excellence.

STATEMENT OF VALUES

EXCELLENCE — Pierce Law seeks to excel in all it undertakes and to inspire its students to excel in their pursuit of educations and careers.

PUBLIC SERVICE — Pierce Law recognizes its obligation to its community and the greater public. It strives to improve the lives of people and encourages its students to do the same.

INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP — Pierce Law was founded in the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship. It supports and promotes creativity and the exploration of innovative solutions. It is receptive to change and views challenges as growth opportunities.

INTEGRITY — Pierce Law believes that its mission to deliver legal education creates an obligation to adhere to the highest ethical standards. These standards apply equally to its administrative/financial affairs and in all dealings with students, faculty, staff, and other stakeholders.

LEADERSHIP — Pierce Law leads by empowering its community and others to act and think in ways that will get the job done, consistent with proper governance and mindful of the needs of all.

TEACHING AND SCHOLARSHIP — Pierce Law believes in a healthy blending of practical application and scholarship. It defines scholarship broadly to include articles about law for a non-legal audience, legislative drafting, technology and internet-based knowledge forums and other opportunities to gain and impart legal wisdom. The Pierce Law library supports both teaching and scholarship.

DIVERSITY — Pierce Law values diverse opinions, backgrounds, and perspectives that come from diversity of national origin, race, gender and culture. This enrichment within the classroom and Pierce Law community is core to the educational experience.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE — Pierce Law is committed to a global perspective in the education of its students. It is equally committed to maintaining a robust community of foreign students so that they and its American students can learn from each other.

RESPECT AND PROFESSIONALISM — Pierce Law recognizes the importance of individual excellence and personal accountability. Its success depends on working collaboratively and treating everyone with respect. Dignity and respect are critical to successful leadership and professional relationships.