

CUNY School of Law Commencement
Friday, May 16, 2008, Noon
Selma and Max Kupferberg Center for the Performing Arts,
Colden Auditorium, Queens College

Congratulations on your hard work and achievements!

Commencement Speaker and Honorary Degree Recipients:

The Commencement speaker is Juan Gonzalez. He will also receive an honorary degree along with Dolly Filártiga and The Honorable Roderick Ireland. The short biographies for each of these honorees are below:

Juan Gonzalez, a staff columnist for the New York Daily News and co-host of *Democracy Now*, the Pacifica networks celebrated morning news program, has covered a wide array of national and international events during a journalism career that has spanned nearly thirty years. Among his numerous citations for reporting and social justice work are: the 1998 George Polk Award for commentary, a 1988 Associated Press award for column writing, a lifetime achievement award from the National Council of La Raza, and the 2004 leadership award of the National Hispanic Heritage Foundation.

Dolly Filártiga was one of the plaintiffs and played an indispensable role in *Filártiga vs. Peña-Irala*, the landmark case that opened the federal courts to lawsuits under the Alien Tort Claims Act for human rights violations committed against non-US citizens. The case laid the legal basis for subsequent claims against the Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos, the Bosnian Serbs leader Radovan Karadzic, the Unocal Corporation, and other corporate violators of human rights.

Roderick L. Ireland was appointed an Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court in 1997, and is the first African-American to sit on this bench in its over three-hundred year history. Previously, he served at the Massachusetts Appeals Court for seven years, and the Boston Juvenile Court for almost thirteen years. Justice Ireland has received a number of honors and awards, most recently the Great Friend of Justice Award from the Massachusetts Bar Foundation (2008) and the Judicial Excellence Award from the Massachusetts Bar Association and Lawyers Weekly Newspaper (2001).

Commencement Ceremony:

Commencement will be at Selma and Max Kupferberg Center for the Performing Arts, Colden Auditorium, Queens College. For information on parking and directions to Kupferberg Center go to <http://kupferbergcenter.org/directions.htm> Graduates must arrive at the Colden Auditorium at 10:30 A.M. for a group photograph. Family and friends will be admitted at 11:30 A.M.

If you or a guest are in need of handicapped parking or seating accommodations, please contact our Public Safety Director, Steve Katz, at 718-340-4270 or email katz@mail.law.cuny.edu He will forward your request to the Kupferberg Center.

Invitations/Tickets:

Each graduate will receive ten invitations which will also serve as tickets. If you need more than ten tickets, you may request additional invitations by filling in the appropriate place on the graduation survey enclosed in the graduation newsletter or available at Student Affairs. The Office of Student Affairs will maintain a list of these requests and after all the graduates have had an opportunity to pick up their ten invitations, the Office will notify those on the list and distribute the remaining invitations in appropriate numbers.

Reception at CUNY Law School:

Immediately following the graduation, there will be a reception held at the Law School. This is an opportunity for your family and friends to meet the CUNY School of Law community members. Light food and refreshments will be served and entertainment will be provided by Steel Impressions, a steel drum group.

Graduation Regalia:

You must order your graduation regalia online. To do this, please go to the website www.herffjones.com/college/graduation and follow the prompts for CUNY Law School. You must order before April 6th.

Your regalia is being paid for by your materials fees, but you must order it online. Please note: There is a tassel included with your regalia that has the date attached which you will be able to keep. The Souvenir Tassel for sale on the website for an extra \$7.50 is an extra large tassel and must be paid for separately by you if you choose to order it.

You will pick up your regalia in the Career Planning Office, Room 105H, on a date TBA. Your gown and hood must be returned to the Law School immediately following graduation. The cap and tassel are yours to keep. We will have a drop-off station for you to leave the items to be returned. This must be done directly following the graduation ceremony.

Commencement Photography:

On the day of graduation, a professional photographer will take a photograph of the entire class and take individual photographs as you receive your diploma. Proofs will be sent during the summer to the address you specify on your graduation survey, and you will have the option of purchasing them. You are under no obligation to purchase photos or have your picture taken.

Hotel Reservations:

The Law School has reserved a block of rooms at the Wyndham Garden Hotel-LaGuardia Airport at a special rate. Each individual is responsible for making his/her own reservation by calling the hotel directly at 1-718-426-1500 or 1-888-798-4747. When your guests are making reservations, they must identify themselves with the CUNY Law School Graduation Group to ensure they receive the special discounted rate. All reservations must be received by Monday, April 14, 2008; any reservations received after this date will be honored on a space available basis at the prevailing corporate rate.