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The National Anthem	KASHISH SHAMSI '26
Remarks to the Graduating Class	DEAN DAVID D. MEYER <i>President and Joseph Crea Dean</i>
Valedictorian	CLARA W. GOLDRICH '26
Conferring of Honorary Degree	FRANCIS J. AQUILA '83
Address to the Graduating Class	HON. SPARKLE L. SOOKNANAN '10 <i>United States District Judge</i> District of Columbia
Conferring of Degrees	FRANCIS J. AQUILA '83
Closing of the Ceremony	DEAN DAVID D. MEYER
Music	THE BROEKLUNDIAN QUARTET NAOMI GRAF , Viola JENNIFER JAHN , Cello NIKI MATSOUKAS , Violin SANDRA SCHIPIOR , Violin

A NOTE TO OUR GUESTS:

We ask all guests to join us in maintaining the dignity of today's ceremony. Please be respectful and mindful of all graduates and their families by refraining from disrespectful or disruptive behavior. Every graduate deserves to have their name heard and to enjoy this important moment with their loved ones. Guests who do not comply may be asked to leave the venue. Thank you for helping us create a celebratory environment for everyone.

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At Brooklyn Law School, many of the Student Organizations, Pro-bono Projects, Honors Societies, and Journals have honored this year's graduates with Honor Cords and Stoles. The colorful cords and stoles have different meanings and in some cases are connected to national organizations. We have included a list worn by our graduates below.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Honor Society (ADRH5)

Cord Colors: Maroon and Silver
Stole Colors: Maroon and Gold

American Civil Liberties Union Chapter of BLS (ACLU)

Cord Colors: Red and Blue

Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA)

Cord Colors: Black and Red
Stole Colors: Red and Gold

National Organization Affiliation: National Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (NAPALSA)

Black Law Student Association (BLSA)

Stole Colors: Black, Yellow, Green, and Red
National Organization Affiliation: Northeast Black Law Students Association (NEBSA) and National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA)

Brooklyn Blockchain and Emerging Technology Association (BBETA)

Cord Colors: Purple and Gold

Brooklyn Business Law Association (BBLA)

Cord & Stole Colors: Light Blue and White

Brooklyn Chess and Board Gaming Society (BCBGS)

Cord Colors: Brown and White
Stole Color: Checkered

Brooklyn Entertainment & Sports Law Society (BESLS)

Cord & Stole Colors: Navy and Gold

Brooklyn Journal of Corporate, Financial & Commercial Law

Cord & Stole Colors: Blue and White

Brooklyn Law Immigration Society (BLIS)

Cord Colors: Light Blue and Green

Brooklyn Law & Political Economy Collective

Cord Colors: White

Brooklyn Law School Athletics

Cord Colors: White, Red, and Gold

Brooklyn Law School Real Estate Society (RES)

Cord Colors: Maroon and White

Brooklyn Law School Student Bar Association (SBA)

Cord Colors: Red and Silver
Stole Colors: Maroon and Antique Gold

National Organization Affiliation: American Bar Association

Brooklyn Law School Tax Law Association (TLA)

Cord Colors: Purple and Bright Gold

Brooklyn Law Students for the Public Interest (BLSPI)

Cord & Stole Colors: Purple and Silver

Brooklyn Sports and Entertainment Law Blog

Cord & Stole Colors: Maroon and Red

Center for Criminal Justice Fellows

Cord Colors: Purple and White

Center for Urban Business Entrepreneurship

Cord Colors: Red and Purple

Christian Legal Society

Cord Color: Maroon

Disability Advocacy Law Students Association (DALSA)

Cord Color: Light Blue
National Organization Affiliation: National Disability Advocacy Law Students Association (NDALSA)

Dual Degree Students

Cord Colors: Purple and Maroon

Edward V. Sparer Public Interest Law Fellowship

Cord Colors: Purple and Lavender

Family Law and Policy Association (FLPA)

Cord Color: Rose Pink

Family Law and Health Law Fellowship Fellows

Cord Colors: Light Green and White

Fashion Law Society

Cord Color: Red

First Generation Professionals

Cord & Stole Colors: Silver and Maroon

If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice

Cord Color: Mint Green
National Organization Affiliation: If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice

Intellectual Property Law Association (IPLA)

Stole Colors: Maroon and White

Jewish Law Student Association (JLSA)

Cord & Stole Colors: Royal Blue and White

Journal of Law and Policy

Cord & Stole Colors: Dark Green and Silver

Korean American Law Student Association (KALSA)

Stole Colors: Royal Blue, Red, and White

Labor and Employment Law Association (LELA)

Cord Colors: Gold (Executive Board); White and Red (Members)

Latin American Law Students Association (LALSA)

Stole Color: Serape
National Organization Affiliation: National Latina/o Law Students Association (NLLSA)

Legal Association for Women

Stole Colors: White and Pink

Legal Hackers

Cord Colors: Red and White

Moot Court Honor Society (MCHS)

Cord Colors: Maroon and Gold
Stole Colors: Red/Gold (MCHS Executive Board); White/Gold (MCHS National Team)
National Organization Affiliation: Moot Court Honor Society

Muslim Law Student Association (MLSA)

Stole Colors: Gold
National Organization Affiliation: National Muslim Law Students Association (NMLSA)

National Lawyers Guild (NLG)

Cord Color: Lime Green
National Organization Affiliation: National Lawyers Guild (NLG)

OUTlaws

Cord Color: Rainbow

Parole Preparation Project (PPP)

Cord Color: Maroon

Pro Bono Scholars

Cord Colors: Brown, Bright Gold, and Silver

Real Estate Society

Cord Colors: Maroon and White

South Asian Law Student Association (SALSA)

Cord Color: Maroon and Gold (Executive Board); Cord and Stole Colors: White and Gold (Members)
North American South Asian Law Students Association (NASALSA)

Student Advisor Mentorship Program (SAMP)

Cord & Stole Colors: Teal and Gold

Students Against Antisemitism

Cord Color: Royal Blue (Members)
Stole Color: Blue and White (Executive Board)

Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (SALDF)

Cord Color: Orange
National Organization Affiliation: Animal Legal Defense Fund

Students for Justice in Palestine

Cord Colors: Black, Green, Red, and White

Trust and Estates Law Society (TELS)

Stole Colors: Maroon and White

Veteran Students Association (VSA)

Stole Color: Black and Red (Veteran, Active Duty, Reservist)
Cord Colors: Red and Black (Non-veteran Members)

Women of Color Alliance (WoCA)

Stole Color: Pink

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**HON. SPARKLE L. SOOKNANAN '10,
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**



Judge Sparkle L. Sooknanan '10 was appointed to the District Court in January 2025. Born in Trinidad and Tobago, she received her B.S., summa cum laude, from St. Francis College in 2002, her M.B.A., with distinction, from Hofstra University in 2003, and her J.D., summa cum laude, from Brooklyn Law School in 2010.

After law school, Judge Sooknanan clerked for the Honorable Eric N. Vitaliano on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York and the Honorable Guido Calabresi on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Following those clerkships, Judge Sooknanan joined the United States Department of Justice through the Attorney General's Honors Program, where she served on the Civil Division's Appellate Staff. She left that position to clerk for the Honorable Sonia Sotomayor on the United States Supreme Court.

In 2014, Judge Sooknanan joined the Issues and Appeals practice in the Washington, D.C. office of Jones Day, where she had an active pro bono practice. She became a partner at Jones Day in 2020.

In 2021, Judge Sooknanan returned to the Justice Department as a Deputy Associate Attorney General, where she served until 2023. She then served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Rights Division until her appointment to the bench.



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