



2016 Commencement Awards Information

Graduating JD students in the class of 2016, which includes students graduating in May 2016 and December 2015, are eligible for two awards that will be announced at the School of Law graduation ceremony on May 21, 2016. Each recipient will receive a plaque and \$1000.

The Academic Excellence Award: Our students are asked to embrace the intellectual challenge of legal education both inside and outside the classroom. They learn the theory of law and the skills of lawyers, and they are encouraged to apply both theory and skills in scholarly pursuits. The Academic Excellence Award is presented to a student in the graduating class who has made an extraordinary contribution to the intellectual life of the law school. Criteria for the award selection includes:

- Superior academic achievement throughout the recipient's law school career
- Scholarly legal research and writing (published & unpublished)
- Activities supporting academic programs and/or contributing to the intellectual growth of the student body

The Pursuit of Justice Award: We strive to have our students recognize that law is an instrument of justice. We ask that they accept a shared obligation to each other and to the underrepresented in local, national, and international communities. The Pursuit of Justice Award is presented to the student in the graduating class who best exemplifies the law school's commitment to providing service to others in the pursuit of justice. Criteria for the award selection includes:

- Activities and contributions supporting justice
- Legal experience (paid and unpaid)
- Community and volunteer service
- Service to the law school
- Service to other law students

Candidates for the awards must be nominated by a current USF law student, faculty member, or staff member. Self-nominations will be accepted. All nominated students will be invited to complete a Candidate Application Form, which is required to be considered for either award. To be eligible, candidates must be in good academic standing and complete all degree requirements by and participate in the May 2016 graduation ceremony. The nomination form will be considered part of the candidate's application.

**2016 Commencement Awards
Nomination Form**

Please return in hard copy to the Deans' Office (KN 328) or electronically to mwatt@usfca.edu by 5:00pm, March 1, 2016.

Nominator: _____ Student Faculty Staff

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Please complete one form for each student you are nominating.

I nominate _____ for the following award(s) – please check one or both. If you check both, please provide reasons for each nomination:

- The Academic Excellence Award
- The Pursuit of Justice Award

Please provide a brief description of your reasons for nominating the graduating student. If necessary, attach up to one additional page describing your reasons for nomination.

Please include the names of other people that may have knowledge of the student's accomplishments.

Signature of Nominator

Date