

PREPARE. CONNECT. LEAD.



Toni Wormald celebrates her accomplishment after the ceremony. Photo by Dennis McDaniel.



Kaitlyn Fain smiles with her nephew. Photo by GradImages.

# 2018 COMMENCEMENT



Master of Laws students (l. to r.) Shah Hussain, Chudi Ofili, Chen Song, Haibin Wang, Maria Belgionio, Chioma Ogbozor, Jessica Perez, Qianming Zou, Parham Zahedi and Thelma Aguilar-Pierce pose together.



Senior Director of Career Development Kenny Tatum assists Jarrell Bogan with his regalia before Commencement. Photo by Dennis McDaniel.



Noel Couch gathers with her family after earning her Juris Doctor.



The Class of 2018 donated close to \$40,000 to the law school as their legacy gift. Class President and Legacy Gift Go-Chair Hallie Willis (second from left) and Class Vice President and Legacy Gift Co-Chair Laura Lantrip (third from left) presented a “check” to Law School Association President Andy Davis (J.D.’84) and Dean Bo Rutledge (right). Photo by GradImages.

View more 2018 Commencement photos at [law.uga.edu/photo-gallery](http://law.uga.edu/photo-gallery). Watch the ceremony at [youtube.com/c/UGALawSchool](https://youtube.com/c/UGALawSchool).

## Georgia Supreme Court justice encourages students to improve legal system and society

Supreme Court of Georgia Justice Robert Benham (J.D.’70) presented the keynote address at the School of Law’s 2018 Commencement ceremony.

Benham was the first African-American ever appointed to the state Supreme Court. He served the court as chief justice from 1995 to 2001.

Prior to his appointment to the court, Benham was a judge on the Georgia Court of Appeals for five years.

The jurist encouraged the Class of 2018 to use their law degrees to better the world.

“As newly minted graduates, we want you to find ways to improve the quality of life,” he said, explaining that such a task would not always be easy.

“It’s my sincere hope that you will use your legal education not only to improve the legal system but also to improve society in general,” he said. “In order to do that, you’re



Georgia Supreme Court Justice Robert Benham (J.D.’70). Photo by GradImages.

going to have to kick some dogs that have been sleeping on the porch a long time – and when I became a lawyer, I decided that since I was already a Bulldog, I might as well kick some dogs.”

He also asked the graduates to remember their friends and family members who helped them along their paths to law school.

Benham recalled when his “little country church” took up an offering to help pay for his education when the members found out he wanted to go to college, and said he never forgot that investment in him and his future.

“For the graduates, someone invested in you and they are due a return on their investment,” he told them.

More than 200 students received degrees – the Juris Doctor, the Master of Laws or the Master in the Study of Law – at the ceremony.