

**Remarks of Elizabeth A. Rivera Cruz '20
Student Senate President
Columbia Law School Graduation
Wednesday, May 20, 2020**

Introduction of Joseph R. Biden Jr., 47th Vice President of the United States:

Our commencement speaker truly needs no introduction. Vice President Biden is a dedicated public servant and family man.

After serving his community as a public defender, he launched his first political campaign for the New Castle County Council in 1969. He won by 2,000 votes.

Shortly thereafter, he shifted the insight and knowledge gained from his city council experience to serve the state of Delaware, earning Senate election at the young age of 29.

In the Senate, Joe Biden was instrumental in passing the Violence Against Women Act, which is one of his proudest achievements.

After his time in the Senate, Joe Biden spent eight years as vice president under President Barack Obama and stood by the president in passing the Affordable Care Act, repealing “don’t ask, don’t tell,” and bringing Justices [Sonia] Sotomayor and [Elena] Kagan to the Supreme Court.

Joe Biden has continued to do inspiring work, since leaving the White House.

His work with the Biden Foundation, whose mission is to champion progress and prosperity for American families; the Beau Biden Foundation, whose mission is to prevent child abuse; the Biden Cancer Initiative, whose mission is to accelerate progress in cancer prevention, detection, diagnosis and care to reduce disparities in cancer outcome; as well as his work with the Biden Institute, has created spaces for the brightest minds to influence, shape, and work to solve some of America’s most pressing problems.

Without further ado, the 47th vice president of the United States, Joe Biden.