

**Remarks of Chizoba Ukairo
Graduation Committee Co-Chair
Introduction of Dean Gillian Lester
Columbia Law School Graduation
Thursday, April 29, 2021**

Thank you, Lune. My name is Chizoba Ukairo, and as this year's graduation co-chair, it is my great honor to introduce Dean Gillian Lester.

Dean Lester is the 15th Dean of Columbia Law School, the Lucy G. Moses Professor of Law, and the second woman ever to serve as the Law School's Dean.

Over the course of her tenure, Dean Lester has led many positive changes at the Law School, such as the expansion of clinics and externships, a sharp increase of student financial aid, additional support for students interested in public service and judicial clerkships, and a steadfast commitment to faculty excellence and diversity. Dean Lester is a strong and compassionate leader and has been a graceful example of how to lead effectively even in the midst of uncertainty.

During my time at Columbia, Dean Lester made herself available to students and was always willing to talk through student concerns. It's been wonderful getting to know her and personally observing her commitment to all students in holistic and meaningful ways.

Thank you, Dean Lester, for your unwavering support and leadership of the Columbia Law School community. It is now my pleasure to introduce our Dean, Gillian Lester.