

**Remarks of Austin Collier  
Graduation Committee Co-Chair  
Introduction of the Keynote Speaker  
Columbia Law School Graduation  
Thursday, April 29, 2021**

Thank you, Professor Glass. Our distinguished graduation speaker, Secretary Antony Blinken, is a dedicated public servant who as a top diplomat in multiple presidential administrations has championed U.S. interests and shaped foreign policy for decades.

Upon being confirmed by the Senate, President Biden said that Tony Blinken has “displayed extraordinary integrity, judgment, and inclusiveness as he has implemented America’s foreign policy priorities.”

After graduating from Columbia Law School in 1988, Secretary Blinken quickly distinguished himself as an indispensable asset to the U.S. foreign policy community, holding senior positions in the National Security Council and State Department during the Clinton administration, followed by six years as the Democratic staff director of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

During his time as deputy national security advisor, and then as deputy secretary of state under President Obama, Secretary Blinken strengthened connections across the interagency community to foster cooperation on a broad range of challenging policy issues.

Secretary Blinken again answered the call to public service when he joined President Biden’s campaign as a foreign policy advisor in 2020 and was sworn in as the secretary of state in January of this year with strong bipartisan support.

While his foreign policy achievements are well known, his personal passions extend beyond the world of diplomacy. He is a dedicated Columbia alumnus, an author, and a musician who you can listen to on Spotify under the name Ablinken.

And, of course, you will be able to hear Secretary Blinken on the news on a daily basis as he forges U.S. foreign policy for years to come.

On behalf of the Columbia Law School Class of 2021, it is my great honor to introduce the 71st U.S. Secretary of State, Tony Blinken.