

**Remarks of Paul Augustus Riley Jr. '22
Student Senate President
Columbia Law School Graduation
Monday, May 16, 2022**

Class of 2022, rain or shine, day or night, nothing could stop us from walking across this stage today.

My name is Paul Riley, and I am the outgoing Student Senate president, [Applause.] though I would be remiss if I didn't also acknowledge my fellow classmate, Mary Rebecca Gardner, who served as our Senate president when she was only a 2L, something that's rarely done at Columbia. [Applause.] Over the past two years, we have navigated a global pandemic and transitioned to remote learning and back again, making our presence here and our in-person graduation all the more meaningful and special. I know Saaket said this earlier, but if you believe as I do that it truly took a village, let's once again thank the professors and faculty behind me on this stage today, the essential workers who have made this event possible tonight, and our families under the tents, on the livestream, and with us in spirit as we celebrate this occasion.

This evening—this rainy evening, I should say—I have the distinct privilege and honor of introducing our J.D. student speaker, Eni Popoola, and our LL.M. student speaker, Jordan Jarrett. Each of whom were elected by their respective class to give remarks today.

Introduction of Enioluwada “Eni” Oluwafunto Popoola '22—J.D. Class Speaker

Eni is a native of Queens, New York and a graduate of Harvard University. At Columbia, she has undoubtedly left her mark, serving not only as an essays editor of the *Columbia Law Review* but also as the secretary of the Black Law Students Association during her 2L year. As a social media influencer herself, Eni transformed BLSA's social media presence at a time when everyone was looking to the organization to contextualize and engage with the social justice efforts taking place throughout the summer of 2020. Just as she inspires over 34,000 followers of her lifestyle and beauty blog on Instagram. And, I just learned, over 100,000 followers on TikTok. We're still hip, as the Class of 2022.

Just as she inspires all of those individuals, I am confident that her remarks here today will also leave us inspired, uplifted, and ready to tackle whatever the future has in store for us. So, without further ado, please welcome our J.D. student speaker, Eni Popoola, to the podium.

Introduction of Jordan A.J. Jarrett '22 LL.M.—LL.M. Class Speaker

Thank you, Eni, for those remarks. Our LL.M. student speaker, Jordan Jarrett, is a native of Kingston, Jamaica, and a first-class honors graduate of the University of the West Indies.

Before pursuing his LL.M., Jordan was a practicing attorney and served as a judicial clerk to the chief justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court. At CLS, Jordan was selected as one of 15 United Nations externs and also served as a staff editor of the *Columbia Journal of Transnational Law*.

In addition to his scholarly endeavors, Jordan is also an amazing singer. At BLSA's open mic night in March, I mistakenly, but luckily, performed before him. While I needed the Spotify track in case I couldn't hit my note or I had to catch my breath, Jordan within seconds seamlessly wowed the crowd with a cappella renditions of classic songs. Just as he wow'd that open mic night audience with his voice, I am confident that he will captivate all of us with his words. Without further ado, please welcome our LL.M. student speaker, Jordan Jarrett.