

SCHOOL OF LAW
Commencement



12 MAY 2023

PROGRAM

Presiding

David Madigan

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Processional

Christopher Bosso

Chief Marshal

Welcome and Opening Remarks

James Hackney

Dean, School of Law

Student Addresses

Obioma F. Okonkwo

Maya Marie Hill

Faculty Address

Daniel Medwed

Commencement Address

Corey E. Thomas, *Chairman and CEO of Rapid7*

Conferring of Degrees

David Madigan

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Degrees in Course

James Hackney

Dean, School of Law

Charge to the Graduates

David Madigan

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Recessional

The audience is requested to remain seated during the recessional.

Music provided by

Majestic Brass

Eric Berlin, *trumpet*

Takatsugu Hagiwara, *tuba*

Whitacre Hill, *horn*

Greg Spiridopoulos, *trombone*

We kindly ask those in attendance to silence their electronic devices.

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Corey E. Thomas

Corey E. Thomas, the chairman and chief executive officer of Boston-based cybersecurity firm Rapid7, is a strategic leader who has forged a socially conscious company culture in which the pursuit of innovation is aligned with the pursuit of the public good.

Thomas, who joined Rapid7 as senior vice president for marketing and sales in 2008, quickly ascended to the C-suite, and was named chief operating officer in 2010 and CEO in 2012. Since he took the company public in 2015, Rapid7's revenues have grown six-fold and reached 10,000 customers. Rapid7 now employs almost 3,000 people in 23 global offices across the U.S., Europe, Asia, Australia, and Canada.

For Thomas, those business successes are powered by a "Never Done" approach to infusing social good as a core corporate value. To reinforce that idea for his firm's employees, customers, and partners, Rapid7 launched its inaugural Social Good Report in 2022. The annual report is a measure of goals and achievements in diversity, equity, and inclusion; advancing cybersecurity at the community and global scale; mission-driven philanthropy; environmental sustainability; and corporate governance.

Thomas shared the company's philosophy in the report's introduction: "We believe that if we empower our employees and communities, it also creates the highest possible value for our customers and our shareholders. When you can align these groups, your opportunities to make a positive impact are endless."

Under Thomas's guidance, Rapid7's diversity initiatives have earned the company a place on Bloomberg's Gender Equality Index every year since 2019. The company has partnered with national and global organizations to promote widespread sharing of information about cyber threats and vulnerabilities, to support the development of a cybersecurity ecosystem of free and open-source tools, and to deter and disrupt ransomware attacks. And since 2021, it has invested more than \$1.5 million in philanthropic efforts that support STEM, minority groups, and cybersecurity progress, culminating in the creation of the Rapid7 Cybersecurity Foundation.

Thomas' personal focus on societal impact is equally effective. His technological expertise and service on the boards of national organizations—such as the Cyber Threat Alliance and Aspen Global Cybersecurity Group—earned him a White House appointment to the President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee and 2021 election to the Council on Foreign Relations.

To advance a more diverse and inclusive technology talent pipeline, Thomas made a gift of \$1 million to establish the Underrepresented Student Program within the School of Engineering at Vanderbilt University, his alma mater. In 2020, he co-founded the New Commonwealth Racial Equity and Social Justice Fund with a coalition of black and brown executives, focused on working with community organizations to address systemic racism and racial inequity in Massachusetts.

Thomas also serves on the boards of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, LPL Financial, Vanderbilt University, Massachusetts Competitive Partnership, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

Thomas' own journey began with the limitless possibilities inherent in technological innovation. After earning his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and computer science, he discovered a deep interest in the business side of technology and earned an MBA from Harvard Business School. Prior to joining Rapid7, Thomas held executive positions at Microsoft, Deloitte Consulting, and AT&T.

SCHOOL OF LAW

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Rameesha N. Aftab
Dillon Samuel Aisenberg
Nayab Razzaq Ajaz
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Sophia Al-Khamis
Margaret Bowyer Annis
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Pearl Angeli Q. Canada
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This program is for ceremonial purposes only.*

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