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## **Wolper, Emens to Address ODU Winter Graduates at 100<sup>th</sup> Commencement**

**Columbus, OH** – [Ohio Dominican University](http://www.ohiodominican.edu) (ODU) will hold its 100th commencement exercise at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2013. Approximately 200 students will have degrees conferred upon them as they are joined by hundreds of family and friends in Alumni Hall, located on ODU's main campus at 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus, 43219.

Beatrice "Bea" Wolper, J.D., and Richard "Dick" Emens, J.D., will deliver the commencement address and receive honorary degrees. This is the first time a husband and wife have jointly addressed ODU graduates at commencement.

Wolper and Emens co-founded the [Conway Center for Family Business](#), and serve on its Advisory Board. Emens also serves as executive director. The not-for-profit Conway Center, located on the ODU campus, is the only organization in Central Ohio that provides education resources, including succession planning, for family business leaders.

### **Bea Wolper**

Wolper is president of [Emens & Wolper Law Firm](#), located in Columbus. Her law practice focuses on family-owned business and women business owners, estate planning and wealth transfer, and serving as outside general counsel to privately held businesses.

She serves as Ohio president for the International Women's Forum, and is involved with Insight Bank, Capital Club and the Legal Advisory Boards of the Columbus Foundation and Central Ohio Planned Giving. Wolper has served on committees of the boards for the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce, COSI, Women's Business Board, Greater Columbus Arts Council, Mt. Carmel College of Nursing, Greater Columbus News Bureau and Small Business Council.

Wolper has won numerous awards, including Women Who Make a Difference from the International Women's Forum; Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year from the Columbus Region; the YWCA Women of Achievement; and the Women in Business Advocate from the United States Small Business Association. Sky Radio Network named Wolper one of America's Most Influential Women in 2006. Wolper is listed in "Best Lawyers in America" for Corporate Law.

Wolper received a bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati, and a Juris Doctor from Northern Kentucky University.

### **Dick Emens**

Emens is a partner of Emens & Wolper Law Firm, and practices in the areas of business planning, oil and gas law, and natural resources law.

He is a member of the Bar Associations of the States of Ohio and Michigan, and has served as trustee and president of the Energy and Mineral Law Foundation. He also was chair of the Ohio State Bar Association Oil and Gas Committee, trustee of the Ohio Oil and Gas Association, attorney member of the Ohio Oil and Gas Commission and a drafter of Ohio's Oil and Gas Conservation Law. He served as chair of the Ball State University Foundation where he founded the Emens Scholars Program, and also served as chairman of the Board of Trustees of Franklin University.

Emens is listed in "Best Lawyers in America" for Oil and Gas Law, Natural Resources Law, and Corporate Law categories. Emens writes frequently on oil, gas and mineral issues, and has spoken to more than 8,000 Ohio landowners about oil and gas leases, and pipeline easements over the last three years.

Emens received a bachelor's degree summa cum laude from DePauw University, and a Juris Doctor from the University of Michigan Law School.

The start time for Commencement may be subject to change due to the ODU Panthers football team's appearance in the NCAA Division II playoffs and the possibility of ODU hosting a football game on the same day as Commencement.

Ohio Dominican University is a comprehensive four-year, private, liberal arts and master's institution, founded in 1911 in the Catholic Dominican tradition. The University has approximately 2,600 students and offers undergraduate degrees in 43 majors as well as nine graduate degree programs. Ohio Dominican uses a student-centered approach, with a commitment to quality teaching and learning.

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