Ken Salazar to Give Commencement Address at Sturm College of Law

Former U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Colorado Senator and Colorado Attorney General to speak to new law graduates at the University of Denver

February 6, 2015 DENVER – Ken Salazar, former Colorado senator who, in 2009, became U.S. Secretary of the Interior for President Barack Obama, will deliver the 2015 Sturm College of Law commencement address to graduates at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 16, 2015 at Magness Arena.

“The Sturm College of Law is passionately dedicated to preparing our graduates for practice – for being ready to provide value to their clients and to the community throughout their careers,” said Dean Martin Katz. “As we prepare to send the Class of 2015 along their career paths, it is fitting to honor the work of Ken Salazar, whose life's work has made such a significant difference for thousands of people across the nation. We are delighted that he will address our graduating students.”

A cowboy-hatted lawyer, businessman, farmer and rancher, Salazar served in the U.S. Senate from Colorado from 2004 until 2009. He previously served as the state's attorney general, as executive director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, and as chief legal counsel to Gov. Roy Romer. Currently with the law firm of WilmerHale, Salazar’s practice centers on matters at the intersection of law, business and public policy. He also helps lead the firm’s efforts on tribal issues.

Salazar holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Colorado College (1977) and a law degree from the University of Michigan (1981). He and his wife, Hope, have two daughters, Andrea and Melinda. He is a fifth-generation Coloradan.

Approximately 300 law students are expected to receive their degrees at the Sturm College of Law’s commencement ceremony.

Founded in 1864, the University of Denver is committed to improving the human condition and engaging students and faculty in tackling the major issues of our day. In 2014, the University of Denver will celebrate its sesquicentennial with a full calendar of events and programs that not only honor the institution’s 150-year commitment to serving students, the community and the public good, but that look forward to a future of continued achievement and innovation. The University of Denver ranks among the top 100 national universities in the U.S. For additional information, subscribe to The University of Denver Newsfeed, visit the sesquicentennial website or follow the University on Facebook and Twitter.