

## **The Honorands of The 2014 Commencement**

### **Mary L. Bonauto Doctor of Laws**

Mary Bonauto has been the civil rights project director at Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) in Boston since 1990. For more than twenty years she has been committed to ending discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, and she is a central figure in building the legal framework for marriage equality in the United States. A native of Newburgh, New York, and a graduate of Hamilton College in 1983 and Northeastern University School of Law in 1987, Bonauto began her legal career at a small law firm in Maine. At GLAD she was co-counsel for the landmark decision by the Vermont Supreme Court to allow same-sex civil unions. She has been a clear and steady voice for ending discrimination in marriage, despite occasional disappointments and setbacks over the past decade. Largely through her long-term strategic view of the legal landscape, her legal skill, and her perseverance, Bonauto accounts for many of the recent victories at the ballot box, in state and federal courts, and in state legislatures on the issue of marriage equality.