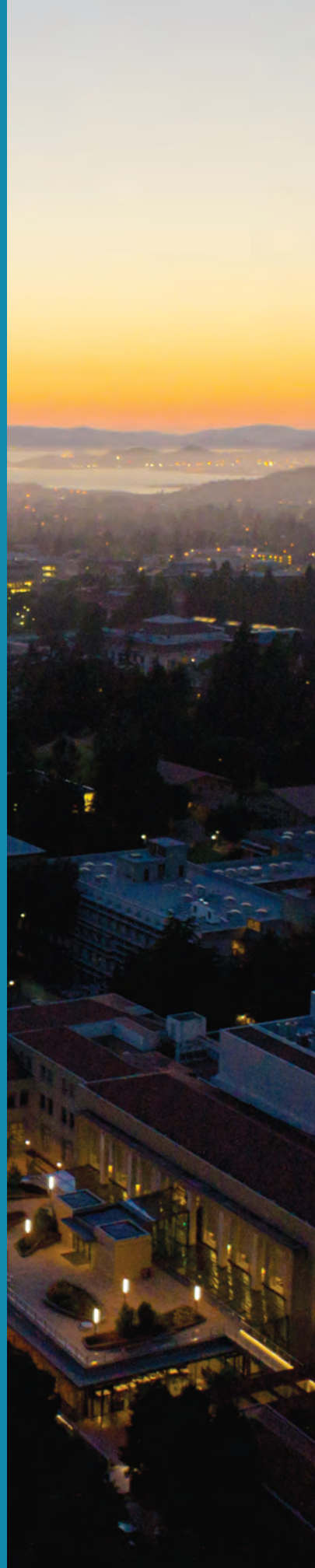


# WHERE WILL YOU GO?

JD Prospectus 2024–25

Berkeley  
Law



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#### **Land Acknowledgment**

UC Berkeley sits on the territory of xučyun, the ancestral & unceded land of the Chochenyo-speaking Ohlone people, successors of the sovereign Verona Band of Alameda County.

#### **Nondiscrimination**

The University of California, in accordance with applicable federal and state law and University policy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or service in the uniformed services.





Berkeley Law

# WHAT SETS US APART

I am often asked what makes Berkeley Law special. First, it is an excellent law school by every measure. The quality of any educational institution is a product of its faculty, students, and programs. Berkeley Law has a terrific faculty. They are top scholars in their fields; many have written the books used in law school classes across the country. They are also great teachers. Our students are superb and diverse in every way, with over half coming from outside California. And Berkeley Law has centers and programs doing cutting-edge work in every area of law.

Second, there is a deep commitment to public service. Almost 95% of first-year law students do pro bono work. Fellowships are provided to every student doing public service work during the summers of law school so long as they have done pro bono work during law school. There are post-graduate fellowships and a loan forgiveness program. The commitment to using law to improve society and the world animates the work of our clinics and centers and the teaching in our classrooms.

Finally, Berkeley Law is a very special community. It is a warm, collegial environment, not a competitive one. It is the most intellectually exciting law school that I have been part of, with a plethora of speakers and programs and symposia every week. It is part of a superb and beautiful campus in a great location.

I feel very proud to be the dean of Berkeley Law and am excited for you to learn more about it.

Warmly,



Erwin Chemerinsky  
Dean and Jesse H. Choper Distinguished Professor of Law

# EXCELLENCE, PUBLIC MISSION, & COMMUNITY

At Berkeley Law, we admit people, not numbers.

What are we looking at in the admissions process? In short, everything. We employ a holistic review process and we read every application, front to back. We want to know who you are, where you come from, what matters to you, and that you understand what makes Berkeley Law the right law school for you.

What sets us apart:

- **You don't need to wait until your second year to make a difference.** Our 40+ Student-Initiated Legal Services Projects let you dig into legal work in your first year — from the Tenants' Rights Workshop to the Homelessness Service Project to the Clean Energy Leaders in Law. You can also join 12 of our 13 journals during your first year, or try out for one of our advocacy competition teams.
- **We were among the first law schools to recognize the need for a First Generation Professionals student organization.** This group offers community, alumni mentorship, social events, and support from faculty who are first-gen themselves.
- **The Berkeley Law faculty is second to none, and their doors are always open.** "The faculty here are extraordinary — I was not expecting to get lucky with such approachable, down-to-earth professors. There's never been a point at all in my two semesters where I've felt concerned or nervous about going to introduce myself to a professor or to go to their office hours or to ask them a question. They've always been incredibly welcoming." — Ryan Campbell '24
- **We believe that law school is tough, but it doesn't have to be brutal.** Our nontraditional grading system means students are focused on doing their best work, not doing better than their classmates.



“

*I was confident that Berkeley Law would provide the best legal education in my areas of interest and equip me with the necessary extracurricular experience, cultural awareness, and networking opportunities to be an effective changemaker in my field. In addition to the comprehensive traditional doctrinal coursework, the Berkeley Law curriculum allows for valuable hands-on and experiential opportunities right from the start of 1L. The collaborative and tight-knit nature of the student body was apparent when speaking with students and attending prospective student events.*

— Edlene Miguel '25



# THE BAY AREA & CAMPUS

The Bay Area is as rich in natural wonders as it is with world-class eateries and cultural history. UC Berkeley's main campus, set on 178 park-like acres, is world renowned as a paragon of learning and research and has been home to 26 Nobel laureates. San Francisco sparkles across the bay with all its diverse offerings, but you can walk, hike, bike, or eat your way to hundreds of spots within a mile of campus — or venture out and discover the magic California has to offer.

Keep up with the latest news from our community and see more of what life is like as a student at #BerkeleyLaw by following us on social media.

- f @UCBERKELEYLAW
- @ @BERKELEYLAW
- X @BERKELEYLAW
- @ @BERKELEYLAW
- @ @UCBERKELEYLAW



“

*A big differentiator for Berkeley is its exposure to the tech world. People come to Berkeley from all over to do tech law and tech law adjacent work. The access is amazing. You can go drive by Google's, Facebook's, Apple's headquarters — it's not like some figment of your imagination.*

— Alex Wolff '24







“

*Being at Berkeley has allowed me to find a healthy balance of caring about my education but also developing really meaningful friendships and community that allow you to have a fully holistic law school experience.*

— Sewit Beraki '24

# 1L

## First year

- Civil Procedure
- Contracts
- Criminal Law
- Legal Research & Writing
- Torts
- Written & Oral Advocacy
- Electives

We recommend Constitutional Law and one other elective.

# 2L/3L

## Upper Division

The second- and third-year curriculum offers a variety of topics and course styles, including core subjects, seminars, experiential courses, individual and group research projects, clinical work, and judicial externships. Students construct their upper-level schedules around their own interests and a few fundamental graduation requirements: Constitutional Law (which most upper-level students have completed already as a 1L elective), a course on professional responsibility, six units of experiential coursework, one or more classes to satisfy our writing requirement, and two units of coursework focusing on how laws and legal institutions shape and are shaped by racism and other forms of systemic inequality.

## Academic Skills Program

Berkeley Law is committed to fostering an academic environment where all students can thrive. Our Academic Skills Program (ASP) — offering individual advising, small group workshops led by upperclass fellows, and skills-focused courses — helps students build the skills critical to success in law school and in practice. ASP is open to everyone.

## Curriculum & Faculty

# WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

Berkeley Law offers a solid academic foundation, whether you're aiming for corporate litigation, public interest law, criminal prosecution, international law, or any of a dozen other fields. But the foundation is just the base. You can build anything on it.

## Courses by Subject

Our curriculum is rich in traditional subjects as well as innovative and specialized courses like the ones listed here. Course descriptions and requirements may change; not all courses are offered every year.

### Business, Law & Economics

Advanced IT Contracts: Drafting and Negotiating  
Advanced Topics in Corporate Governance: A Comparative Analysis of the U.S. and Asia  
Advanced Topics in Delaware Corporate Law  
Art Deals, Dealers, and Litigation  
An Interdisciplinary Approach to Land Development and Investment  
Antitrust Law  
Antitrust and Digital Platforms  
Bankruptcy Law  
Being General Counsel  
Business Associations  
Business Basics for Lawyers  
Business Strategy in the Global Political Economy  
Climate Change and Corporate Governance Reform  
Corporate Strategic Transactions  
Communication Skills for Business Lawyers  
Consumer Financial Regulation  
Corporate Finance  
Corporate Social Impact  
Disruptive Technologies & Regulation  
Elon Fought the Law: The Law Won  
Empirical Methods for Lawyers  
Executive Compensation: Legal Fundamentals and Practical Application  
FinTech: Tools for Analyzing New Financial Products  
Fundamentals of Leveraged Buyouts  
International Antitrust Law  
International Business Transactions

Introduction to Financial Accounting Law, Accounting, and Business Workshop  
Leadership Laboratory  
Leading People  
Mergers & Acquisitions  
M&A on the Ground: Hostiles, Proxy Fights and the M&A Ecosystem  
Mergers, Market Power and Monopoly in U.S. Antitrust Law  
Negotiating Hollywood Contracts  
Principles of Financial Regulation  
Real Estate Transactions and Litigation  
Representing Professional Athletes  
Secured Transactions - Article 9  
Securities Regulation  
Selected Topics in Venture Capital  
Social Enterprise Law  
Sports Law  
Structuring and Negotiating Complex Financial Transactions  
Structuring for Impact: Exploring the Role of Tax Exempt Organizations & Hybrid Structures  
Taxation of Modern Financial Products  
The Business of the Legal Profession  
The Court of Public Opinion: Storytelling for Corporate Lawyers  
Transactional Litigation in Practice  
Transactional Practice for 1Ls  
Venture Capital Deal Bootcamp  
Venture Capital Finance  
Venture Capital in Practice  
Venture Funds: Structuring, Advising and Regulating

## Clinics & Field Placements

Away Field Placements  
Berkeley Law in The Hague  
Civil Field Placement  
Clean Slate Clinic  
Community Economic Justice Clinic  
Consumer Justice Clinic  
Criminal Field Placements  
Death Penalty Clinic  
Domestic Violence Field Placement  
East Bay Community Law Center  
Education Justice Clinic  
Environmental Field Placement  
Environmental Law Clinic  
Health and Welfare Clinic  
Housing Clinic  
Human Rights Clinic  
Immigration Law Clinic  
Judicial Externships  
Policy Advocacy Clinic  
Samuelson Law, Technology  
& Public Policy Clinic  
UCDC Law Field Placements  
Youth Defender Clinic

## Criminal Law

California Prisons and Discretionary Parole  
Capital Punishment and the  
Constitution Seminar  
Criminal Field Placements  
Criminal Justice Theory  
Criminal Procedure - Adjudication  
Criminal Procedure - Investigations  
Criminal Trial Practice  
Crimmigration  
Death Penalty Clinic  
Introduction to Restorative Justice  
Diversion  
Policy Advocacy Clinic  
Police Use of Force in the 21st Century  
Post-Conviction Remedies  
Role of the Lawyer in Corporate Criminal  
Investigations  
Where Civil and Criminal Laws Collide  
White Collar Crime  
Youth Justice Law, Practice, and Policy

## Environmental Law

Biodiversity Law  
California Climate Law and Policy  
Climate Change and the Law  
Energy Law and Policy  
Energy Project Development & Finance  
Environmental Justice in Practice  
Environmental Justice: Race, Class,  
and the Environment  
Environmental Law Clinic  
Environmental Law & Policy  
Environmental Law Colloquium  
Environmental Law Practicum  
Environmental Law Writing Seminar  
Environmental Transactional Law  
Fire Science, Law, and Policy  
International Environmental Law  
Land-Use Law

Ocean and Coastal Law  
Pathways to Carbon Neutrality  
Renewable Energy Law and Policy  
Science and Regulatory Policy  
The Supreme Court and Emerging  
Developments in Environmental Law  
Water Law

## Family Law

Domestic Violence Law Seminar  
Domestic Violence Field Placement  
Estates and Trusts  
Family Law  
Litigating Children's Civil Rights:  
The Immigration Crisis  
Reproductive Rights and Justice  
Youth Justice Law, Practice, and Policy

## International & Comparative Legal Studies

Anti-Corruption Compliance  
Climate Refugees: Responding to Climate  
Displacement  
Colloquium on Law and Geopolitics  
Comparative Equality  
Conducting Open Source Investigations  
Disputes with Sovereigns  
Forced Migration  
Health and Human Rights  
Human Rights Clinic  
Human Rights and New Technologies  
Human Rights Futures  
Human Rights and Social Justice Writing  
Workshop  
Human Rights and War Crimes  
Investigations  
International Human Rights  
INHR: Geneva Advanced Field Placement  
Seminar  
International Law  
International Litigation and Arbitration  
International Tax Law  
International Trade Law and Policy  
Introduction to Comparative Law  
Introduction to Roman Law  
Introduction to Sub-Saharan African  
Legal Systems  
Islamic Law  
Jewish Law  
Self Determination of Peoples in  
International Law  
U.S. Asylum Law in Practice

## Jurisprudence & Social Policy (JSP)

*\* open only to students accepted as BELS  
Fellows*

*\*\* open only to first-year JSP Ph.D.  
students*

Advanced Interdisciplinary Workshop  
on Law  
Berkeley Empirical Legal Studies Seminar\*  
Bioethics  
Citizenship and Immigration  
Criminal Justice (Punishment and Society)  
Criminal Law Theory

Critical Theory and Social Science Method  
Economic Inequality  
Foundations of Moral Philosophy  
History of Political Economy  
JSP Orientation Seminar\*\*  
Law & Classical Social Theory  
Law & Economics Foundation Seminar  
Law and Economics Social Science  
Workshop  
Law & History Foundation Seminar  
Law and Order  
Law and Organizations  
Law and Politics Foundation Seminar  
Psychology of Diversity and  
Discrimination  
Sociology of Law  
Teaching Learning in Higher Education  
Quantitative Approaches to Law &  
Social Science  
Workshop in Law, Philosophy &  
Political Theory

## Law & Technology and Intellectual Property

Art and Cultural Property Law  
Berkeley IP Practicum  
Biotechnology Law  
California Privacy Law  
Computer Crime Law  
Computer Law  
Computer Programming for Lawyers  
Copyright Law  
Copyright, Competition, and Technology  
Cybersecurity Law and Policy  
Deep Tech Commercialization Strategies  
Disruptive Technologies & Regulation  
Entertainment Law in the TV Industry  
Fundamentals of Technology  
Transactions  
Future of Cybersecurity Workshop  
Internet Platform Regulation  
Information Privacy Law  
Intellectual Property Law  
IP Remedies  
IP and Human Creativity in the AI Age  
Law and Governance of Artificial  
Intelligence  
Law and Technology Colloquium  
Law and Technology Writing Workshop  
Music Law Practice  
Name, Image & Likeness (NIL) Practicum  
and Seminar  
Patent Law  
Patent Litigation  
Patent Litigation II: PTAB and ITC  
Patent Prosecution  
Regulated Digital Industries: Telecommu-  
nications Law & Policy for a Modern Era  
Samuelson Law, Technology & Public  
Policy Clinic  
Social Justice Issues in Entertainment  
and Media Law  
Technology and Human Rights  
The Business of Intellectual Property

## How do grades and exams work at Berkeley Law?

We have anonymous grading at Berkeley Law. Students are assigned a unique exam number for every exam. Our system is curved but does not use A-F letter grades. Instead, students receive High Honors (HH), Honors (H), or Pass (P). It is possible to receive a sub-passing grade.

## Does Berkeley Law rank?

Berkeley Law does not rank its students. However, each summer rising 2Ls, rising 3Ls, and recent graduates will be sent an email from the Office of the Dean of Students notifying them that their academic distinctions are available. Information about students' academic honors shall be made available solely for the purpose of aiding students who are applying for judicial clerkships and academic positions. Revealing the distinction in any other context is a violation of the honor code.

Academic distinctions are awarded to the Top 3 students (Berkeley Law Scholars), Top 5%, Top 10%, Top 15%, Top 25%, and Top 33% in each class based upon one academic year of grades.

## Curriculum continued

Topics in Pharmaceutical Policy:  
The Case of Biotherapeutics  
Topics in Privacy and Security Law  
Trade Secret Law  
Trademark Law  
Trademark Practice  
Transnational Intellectual Property Law  
Video Game Law  
Wine Law

## Legal Ethics & Professional Responsibility

Legal Profession  
The U.S. Legal Profession: Professional Responsibility in Global Perspective  
Understanding the U.S. Legal Profession

## Legal History

American Legal History  
Legal History Colloquium

## Litigation & Procedure

Ninth Circuit Practicum  
Advanced Ninth Circuit Practicum  
Advanced Civil Procedure: Complex Litigation  
Civil Procedure: Critical and Traditional Perspectives  
Conflict of Laws  
Evidence  
Federal Courts  
Legislation and Statutory Interpretation for 1Ls  
Litigating Class Actions Remedies  
Multidistrict Litigation: The New Reality of Class Actions and Mass Torts  
Public Access to Court Electronic Records  
Statistics for Lawyers  
Suing Corporations

## Private Law & Theory

Legal Theory  
Property  
Private Law Theory

## Public Law & Policy

Administrative Law  
Advanced Constitutional Law: Separation of Powers  
Advanced Constitutional Law: Federalism  
California Constitutional Law  
Civil Rights and Anti-Discrimination Law  
Colloquium on the Court and Judicial Process  
Consumer Bankruptcy Law  
Constitution in the Early Republic  
Constitution in War Time  
Constitutional Interpretation  
Constitutional Law  
Current Topics in National Security Law  
Education Policy Research Action Practicum and Seminar  
Election Law  
Federal Indian Law: Selected Topics  
First Amendment

First Amendment: Freedom of Speech  
First Amendment: Freedom of Religion  
Immigration Law  
Introduction to Legislation and Statutory Interpretation for 1Ls  
Introduction to the Supreme Court for 1Ls  
Policy Advocacy Clinic  
Public Health Law  
Law, Politics, and Governance  
Legislation and Statutory Interpretation  
Local Government Law  
Marijuana Law and Policy  
National Security Law: A Practitioner's Perspective  
Navigating U.S. Healthcare Law  
Originalism  
Presidents and Policy  
Public Law and Policy Workshop  
Statutory Interpretation and Legislation Workshop  
Strategy: Theory, Law, and Policy  
Supreme Court Seminar  
The Legacy of Ruth Bader Ginsburg  
Whistleblower Law: Detering Fraud Against the Government  
Workshop on Industrial Policy

## Race and Law

Advanced Civil Rights  
Anti-Blackness and the Law  
Asian Americans and the Law  
Civil Rights and Anti-Discrimination Law  
Comparative Equality Practicum  
Court of Public Opinion: Advocacy Outside the Courtroom  
Criminal Justice Theory  
Criminal Procedure - Adjudication  
Criminal Procedure - Investigations  
Critical Race Theory  
Critical Theories of Law: Race, Gender, and Sexuality  
Death Penalty Clinic  
Domestic Violence Law Seminar  
Election Law  
Employment Discrimination  
Employment Law  
Environmental Justice in Practice  
Environmental Justice: Race, Class, and the Environment  
Environmental Law Clinic  
Forced Migration  
Immigration Law  
Human Rights Clinic  
Law and History Foundation Seminar  
Litigating Children's Civil Rights:  
The Immigration Crisis  
Policy Advocacy Clinic  
Policing Families  
Public Health Law  
Reproductive Rights and Justice  
Selected Topics in Federal Indian Law  
Social Justice Issues in Entertainment and Media Law  
The Court of Public Opinion:  
Advocacy Outside of the Courtroom

Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Case  
Work as Liberation, Work as Exploitation  
Youth Justice Law, Practice, and Policy

### Simulation Courses

Advanced Criminal Trial Practice  
Advanced Legal Writing  
Advanced Legal Writing: Transnational Litigation  
Appellate Advocacy  
Appellate Competition Intensive  
Business Negotiations  
California Trial Practice  
Civil Trial Practice  
Criminal Trial Practice  
Depositions  
Evidence Advocacy  
Drafting and Negotiating Sports Law Contracts  
Economic Expert Witnesses: Depositions and Testimony  
Hypothetical Test Course  
International Business Negotiations  
Introduction to Trial Practice for 1Ls  
Lawyering as Problem Solving  
Listening and Communicating: Stagecraft for Lawyers  
Managing Difficult Conversations  
McBaine Honors Moot Court Competition  
Mediation  
Mindfulness-Based Conflict Resolution Negotiations  
Negotiations Competition Intensive  
Note Publishing Workshop  
Structural Change in Public Education Seminar  
Transactional Drafting  
Trial Competition  
Understanding and Drafting Business Documents

### Social Justice & Public Interest

Advanced Civil Rights  
Animal Law  
Advanced Veterans Law Practicum  
Angel Island: Legal Histories  
Anti-Blackness and the Law  
Asian Americans and the Law  
Asylum Law Practicum  
Civil Rights and Anti-Discrimination Law  
Comparative Equality Practicum  
Consumer Law and Economic Justice Workshop  
Consumer Litigation: The Course of a Case  
Consumer Protection Law  
Credit Reporting and Economic Justice  
Critical Race Theory  
Critical Theories of Law: Race, Gender, and Sexuality for 1Ls  
Disability Rights

Food Justice  
Housing Litigation and Policy  
Lawyering in the Public Interest/Public Sector World  
Litigating Children's Rights  
Mental Health and the Law  
Negotiating Trauma, Emotions & the Practice of Law  
Organizing for Reproductive Rights and Justice  
Policing Families  
Public Health Law  
Race and American Law  
Race, Sexuality, and the Law  
Radical Lawyering: Legal Work in Working Class Struggle  
Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and the Law  
Social Justice Issues in Entertainment and Media Law  
State and Local Impact Litigation Practicum and Seminar  
Student Loan Law  
Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Case  
Veterans Law Practicum and Seminar

### Tax, Estates & Trusts

Corporate Tax  
Estates and Trusts  
Income Tax  
International Tax Law  
Partnership Tax  
Structuring for Impact: Exploring the Role of Tax Exempt Organizations & Hybrid Structures  
Tax Policy and Public Finance  
Taxation of Modern Financial Products

### Wellness and Lawyering

Mindfulness for the Legal Mind  
Mindfulness, Self-Care, and Belonging in the Legal Profession  
Satisfaction in Law and Life  
Negotiating Trauma, Emotions & the Practice of Law

### Work Law

California Wage and Hour Law  
Current Issues in Work Law  
Employee Benefits Law  
Employment Law  
Employment Arbitration  
Employment Discrimination  
Labor and Employment Arbitration  
Labor Law  
Representing Low-Wage Workers  
Work as Liberation, Work as Exploitation  
Work Law  
Work, Unions, and Intersectional Inequality

### Student-Published Journals

California Law Review  
Ecology Law Quarterly  
Berkeley Technology Law Journal  
Berkeley Journal of Employment and Labor Law  
Berkeley Journal of International Law  
Berkeley Journal of Gender, Law & Justice  
Berkeley Journal of Black Law & Policy  
Berkeley Latine Journal of Law and Policy  
Asian American Law Journal  
Berkeley Journal of Criminal Law  
Berkeley Business Law Journal  
Berkeley Journal of Middle Eastern & Islamic Law  
Berkeley Journal of Entertainment & Sports Law



“

*The Journal of Black Law & Policy taught me the importance of vision. Its tradition of taking big leaps and speaking on important issues is the spirit that I invoked while editor in chief. Now, as editor in chief of the California Law Review, I seek to similarly lead our membership beyond our horizons to speak on the important issues we're facing across the legal field.*

— Dominick Williams '25



View the current course listings



Read about our new courses

# TOP PROFS

Two Berkeley Law faculty members were recently honored for their extraordinary classroom skills: Seth Davis with the school's Rutter Award for Teaching Excellence and Kristen Holmquist with a UC Berkeley Distinguished Teaching Award.

The Rutter Award has been given annually to a law professor since 1995, while the Distinguished Teaching Award recognizes a small group of faculty — five this year — from across the university for “sustained excellence in teaching.”

Holmquist is the 18th member of the law school faculty to be recognized and fourth to receive a campus-wide award in the last five years: Professors Andrea Roth and Andrew Bradt were honored in 2019 and 2022, while Professor Molly Van Houweling won a special Extraordinary Teachers in Extraordinary Times award in 2021.

Professors must be nominated for the campus-wide award, which also requires instructors to submit some course materials and be observed by multiple former winners — in Holmquist's case, Roth was one of them. Holmquist says she was thrilled just to be nominated by Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, but her emotions hit a whole other level when she got the news she'd won late on a Friday night.

“I don't think I knew until it happened how good it would feel to have master teachers recognize me as deserving,” she says. “I know the students and I have a good relationship with them. But to have people who are not part of that relationship watch and say what you're doing in the classroom works and is important and just felt amazing.”

Davis expressed similar sentiments about being recognized within the Berkeley Law faculty, particularly by the remarks of two students, Kelsey Lutgen '24 and Cameron Washington '25, who talked about him at a law school celebration in April.

“It was very moving to receive the Rutter Teaching Award,” he says. “I was especially honored listening to the students who spoke.”

Holmquist and Davis exemplify the Berkeley Law faculty's dedication to excellence in the classroom, Chemerinsky says.

“

*The Distinguished Teaching Award is the highest recognition by the campus for outstanding teaching. Kristen Holmquist is a terrific teacher and a very deserving recipient of this award. She cares deeply about the learning of each student and in helping each to find a path in the law. Seth Davis is a natural born teacher. He excels in challenging students to think and in clearly communicating difficult material. He is a wonderful mentor to students, outside as well as inside the classroom.*

— Dean Erwin Chemerinsky





#### New Faculty Spotlight

## ASSISTANT PROFESSOR JOSÉ ARGUETA FUNES

Born and raised in El Salvador, Argueta Funes moved to the United States to attend college at the University of Virginia. An interest in Latin American history led to a conversation that changed the course of his career: His advisor suggested he speak with renowned legal historian Charles McCurdy, who promptly declared that Argueta Funes should get a J.D. and a Ph.D. and become a law professor.

Argueta Funes was instantly hooked. He attended Yale Law School and received a Ph.D. in history from Princeton. His dissertation studies the history of adoption laws in Hawai'i as a way to illuminate his main research focus: how American law developed in the context of empire and racial subordination.

Argueta Funes was drawn to the Berkeley Law faculty's deep roster of social scientists, particularly in the fields of history, sociology, and philosophy, as well as scholars like Professor Seth Davis who examine questions of sovereignty and indigeneity. After his Princeton adviser compared his work to that of the late Berkeley Law Professor David Lieberman, Argueta Funes became a fan. Although they never met, that legacy drew him to the school.

“

*Berkeley Law is the best fit for me intellectually. There are just so many people here doing great work, and it's also clearly a place where the students are really driven to make the most of their education. That's really appealing.*



Learn more about our faculty

# EXPLORING CORPORATE GOVERNANCE'S ROLE IN COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

At the recent inaugural Berkeley Corporate + Climate Summit, experts in business, government, academia, and the nonprofit sector discussed strategies for corporations to propel a more sustainable economy. The very topic itself — how corporate governance can help mitigate climate change — reflects profound changes they've seen from boardrooms in recent years.

The law school's Berkeley Center for Law and Business (BCLB) and Center for Law, Energy & the Environment (CLEE) co-sponsored the unique two-day event with the American Bar Association.

Panelists explored many ways lawyers can help drive this change, and how in-house counsel are moving the needle. They also highlighted the recent pushback against the ESG (environmental, social, and governance) movement, which urges companies to factor ethical and sustainability considerations into their decisions.

Susan Mac Cormac, who co-chairs Morrison Foerster's ESG + Sustainability and Social Enterprise + Impact Investing practices, hailed Berkeley Law's seminal work in corporate governance research and called it a fitting venue for the debut conference.

"This is the first conference about climate on the corporate side at any law school in the country," said Mac Cormac, who interviewed former Sustainability Accounting Standards Board CEO Janine Guillot. "The fact that Berkeley is taking a leading role is really special and speaks about the institution and the people who work and teach here."

Noting that "being a long-term investor is a responsibility, not just an advantage, to future generations of both taxpayers and beneficiaries," Guillot identified corporate behavior and corporate disclosure as two key areas of change. She said that "disclosure influences operations and operations influence disclosure."

“

*This is the most exciting time for corporate law in my career because we see this big change in how corporations are responding to climate. That's why we wanted to convene this meeting. While a bunch of new regulations are coming, a change in the depth, size, and intensity required to meaningfully address climate change cannot happen without internal change within companies.*

— Professor and Faculty Director of the Berkeley Center for Law and Business Stavros Gadinis





## Research Centers & Programs

Berkeley Law is home to more than two dozen research centers and initiatives where faculty and researchers seek solutions to wide-ranging challenges, from developing business strategies to combating climate change to safeguarding intellectual property in the global economy.

### **Berkeley Center for Consumer Law & Economic Justice**

Advocating to ensure safe, equal, and fair access to the marketplace.

### **Berkeley Center for Law and Business**

The hub of Berkeley Law's cutting-edge research and teaching on the impact of law on business and national and global economies.

### **Berkeley Center for Law & Technology**

Promoting the understanding and guiding the development of intellectual property and related fields of law and policy as they intersect with business, science, and technology.

### **Berkeley Center for Private Law Theory**

Fostering insights into the legal building blocks of our social and economic life, including the laws of property, contracts, and torts as well as central aspects of family law, trust law, and work law.

### **Berkeley Center on Comparative Equality & Anti-Discrimination Law**

A group of scholars, activists, and legal professionals from six continents working together to address the equality issues of the day.

### **Berkeley Judicial Institute**

Building bridges between judges and academics to promote an ethical, resilient, and independent judiciary.

### **Robert D. Burch Center for Tax Policy & Public Finance**

Promoting and disseminating research in tax policy and public finance to help stimulate informed discussion of tax policies of national significance.

### **California Constitution Center**

The first and only center at any law school devoted exclusively to studying the constitution and high court of the state of California.

### **Center for Indigenous Law and Justice**

Aiming to facilitate meaningful ways for interested students, faculty, and staff to work with tribal nations and on Indigenous issues, and to offer programming including conferences, networking events, training sessions, and student fellowships.

### **Center for Law, Energy, & the Environment**

Fostering environmental law and policy research and translating it into pragmatic solutions.

### **Center for Law and Work**

Promoting cross-disciplinary scholarship to address the pressing employment-related policy concerns of today.

### **Center on Race, Sexuality & Culture**

Examining contemporary questions of identity and discrimination through the lens of intersectionality, considering how race, gender, and sexual orientation overlap to produce distinct experiences of vulnerability and resilience.

### **Center on Reproductive Rights and Justice**

Broadening the conversation on reproductive rights and choices through legal scholarship, teaching, and conferences, and by bolstering law and policy advocacy efforts.

### **Center for the Study of Law and Society**

Fostering empirical research and theoretical analysis concerning legal institutions, legal processes, legal change, and the social consequences of law.

### **Civil Justice Research Initiative**

Using interdisciplinary, academically based, and independent research to explore how the civil justice system can be made more available to everyone seeking relief.

### **Criminal Law & Justice Center**

A research and advocacy hub striving to transform the criminal legal system by centering the lived experience of communities most directly affected, providing support for impactful teaching, empirical analysis, and pragmatic training in criminal legal reform.

### **Helen Diller Institute for Jewish Law and Israel Studies**

Developing opportunities for research, programming, scholars, and classes to strengthen academic inquiry and discourse related to Jewish and Israeli topics across the Berkeley campus.

### **The Election Administration Research Center**

Working to improve the administration of elections, both within the U.S. and internationally, through research, education, training, technical assistance, and public outreach.

### **Thelton E. Henderson Center for Social Justice**

Producing and fostering creative scholarship examining the law through a lens of social justice and working with communities to provide education to the general public.

### **Human Rights Center**

Promoting human rights and international justice worldwide and training the next generation of human rights researchers and advocates.

### **Institute for Legal Research**

Combining research, teaching, and public service in constitutional law and history, criminal justice, and environmental law and policy. Home to the Sho Sato Program in Japanese and U.S. Law and the Constitutional Law and History and Environmental Law and Policy programs.

### **Kadish Center for Morality, Law & Public Affairs**

Promoting research and reflection on moral philosophical issues in law and public life, with special concern for the substantive aspects of criminal law.

### **Korea Law Center**

Addressing the development of the Korean legal, constitutional, and political systems by bringing together scholars, judges, and others to foster a robust exchange of ideas.

### **Law, Economics, and Politics Center**

Advancing interdisciplinary scholarship, ideas, and discussion in law, policy, economics, business, and government.

### **The Honorable G. William and Ariadna Miller Institute for Global Challenges and the Law**

Supporting populations overlooked or unprotected by existing legal infrastructure, with a global focus on climate and energy justice, corruption, the rule of law, and human rights.

### **Public Law and Policy Program**

Highlighting scholarship on issues of constitutional and administrative law and the judicial and legislative process.

### **The Robbins Collection**

Promoting and sponsoring comparative research and study in the fields of religious and civil law, including Jewish and Islamic law and the various Christian traditions.

### **Statewide Database**

The redistricting database for the State of California and a nonpartisan resource on census data, elections and election data, districting on all levels, and voting rights.



# WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Our experiential education programs are designed to train effective, ethical, and reflective lawyers.

We offer a wide range of courses explicitly designed to introduce you to the theory and practice of professional lawyering. These include: clinics, practicums (in areas such as mediation, Ninth Circuit litigation, and veterans law), student-initiated pro bono work, and field placements. Our programs offer you the opportunity to roll up your sleeves, work with real clients, and put legal theory into human practice.

## Key skills you will develop

- legal research and professional writing
- counseling
- interviewing
- litigation strategy and casework
- transactional tactics
- negotiation
- mediation
- legal drafting
- legal problem solving
- legislative drafting and lobbying
- other legal practice skills



Photo credits: Brittany Hosea-Small and Darius Riley (middle)  
Illustration credit: Ojima Abalaka





#### Experience Spotlight

## REPORT SHOWS HOW COLLECTING JURORS' DEMOGRAPHIC DATA IS CRUCIAL TO DIVERSE JURIES

The Death Penalty Clinic expands on “Whitewashing the Jury Box: How California Perpetuates the Exclusion of Black and Latinx Jurors,” a 2020 report which investigated the history, legacy, and ongoing practice of excluding people of color — especially African Americans — from state juries through prosecutors’ peremptory challenges.

“Guess Who’s Coming to Jury Duty?: How the Failure to Collect Juror Demographic Data Contributes to Whitewashing the Jury Box” continues the clinic’s racial justice research and advocacy by cataloging the states that gather prospective jurors’ self-identified race and ethnicity — and those that do not. It examines what courts do with the information, including whether it is provided to the court and counsel for use during jury selection, and the consequences of these choices in furthering or obstructing jury representativeness and diversity.

In particular, the report shows why the collection of prospective jurors’ self-identified race and ethnicity is vital to meeting state and federal fair cross-section guarantees and eliminating the discriminatory exercise of peremptory challenges.

“

*The premise of the report and our recommendations is that race permeates jury selection as much as it permeates every aspect of the criminal legal system. We cannot be blind to the ways in which racial discrimination — whether explicit or implicit — continues to whitewash jury boxes.*

— Elisabeth Semel, Death Penalty Clinic co-director and Chancellor’s Clinical Professor of Law



Read more about the report

# CLINICAL PROGRAM

We currently have 13 clinics designed to provide hands-on experience and first-rate legal services; five are in the law school, eight are in the community. These are directed by faculty members who are highly regarded experts in their fields and taken for course credit.

You'll learn the foundational law in a seminar and receive one-on-one supervision through your clinic casework, designed to advance racial, economic, and social justice.

**The Death Penalty Clinic** offers students a rich opportunity for meaningful training, seeks justice for individuals facing the death penalty by providing them with high-quality representation, and exposes problems endemic to the administration of capital punishment. *Recently, students have drafted filings for trial and appellate courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court; interviewed clients' relatives, jurors, and other witnesses; engaged support from unexpected corners through non-traditional forms of advocacy; and worked with mental-health experts and on victim-outreach efforts.*

**The Environmental Law Clinic** bolsters our environmental law program by providing live-client experience to students in litigation, administrative agency practice, legislation, and policy analysis. *Students recently helped draft a complaint to the United Nations about human rights violations from PFAS chemical contamination of drinking water in North Carolina's Cape Fear River that is sickening residents; won a lawsuit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to improve its response to oil spills; and brought several California cities into compliance with a state law that expedites permitting for rooftop solar arrays.*

**The Human Rights Clinic** designs and implements creative solutions to advance the global struggle to protect human rights. Students work on individual cases and cutting-edge campaigns in California and globally. *Students helped hold U.S. law enforcement accountable for excessive use of force, defend the rights of asylum seekers in Mexico, investigate crimes against humanity, and strengthen the United Nations' response to forced disappearances of land and environmental defenders.*

**The Policy Advocacy Clinic** uses teams of law and public policy students to pursue non-litigation strategies to address systemic racial and economic injustice. *Students have supported successful campaigns in more than a dozen states to end fees imposed on youth and their families in the juvenile and criminal systems. Looking forward, clinic students will be working on campaigns related to police misconduct, re-entry, and restitution.*

**The Samuelson Law, Technology & Public Policy Clinic** gives students an opportunity to tackle the complexities of technology-related law. The clinic's mission is to support the public interest in technology law and policy and to teach students through work with real clients. *The clinic recently filed a brief on behalf of three public interest organizations explaining the importance of reader privacy in digital library lending. The clinic also helped to prepare comments on behalf of the ACLU of Northern California on what guidelines the state should put in place to protect vulnerable communities from any negative impacts of state deployment of AI.*



“

*As the Berkeley Law Clinical Program steps into an era of expansion, we are deepening our commitment to our mission of advancing racial, economic, and social justice.*

— Laura Riley, director,  
Clinical Program

**The East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC)** is the community-based component of our Clinical Program, and trains students to provide legal services and policy advocacy that are at once innovative and responsive to the needs of low-income communities. As a women of color–led organization, EBCLC affirms that uplifting Black and brown women, who serve as the organization’s primary clientele, will lead to more thriving, healthy, and dignified communities. There are eight EBCLC clinics:

**The Clean Slate Clinic** provides legal services at the intersection of criminal, employment, and consumer law, representing clients on post-conviction record-sealing petitions in criminal court and engaging in local and statewide criminal justice reform, particularly as it relates to court debt and the criminalization of homelessness.

**The Community Economic Justice Clinic** uses corporate law to provide technical assistance to organizers in building community resources such as land trusts, cooperatives, and credit unions. It also advances community benefits and policies that build long-term solutions to poverty.

**The Consumer Justice Clinic** provides assistance and representation to low-income Alameda County residents on a variety of consumer issues, including debt-collection defense, student loans, car fraud, predatory lending, and consumer scams.

**The Education Justice Clinic** and the **Youth Defender Clinic** work together to provide holistic representation to youth ensnared at the intersection of the juvenile legal and education systems, representing clients in delinquency, school expulsion, and special education matters.

**The Health and Welfare Clinic** provides critical legal services to individuals at risk of poor health outcomes due to poverty, unsafe housing conditions, discrimination, homelessness, and/or inadequate health coverage.

**The Housing Clinic** is a high-volume litigation practice designed to protect and promote safe, healthy, and affordable housing for low-income tenants through eviction defense and affirmative litigation.

**The Immigration Law Clinic** provides legal services focusing on the most vulnerable populations — people with disabilities and chronic illness, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and youth.

**In 2023, EBCLC staff and clinic students helped achieve the following victories:**

110

young people and families supported through the Education and Youth Justice Program

\$1,200,000

in public benefits secured for clients and their families

710

applications filed for DACA renewals and other immigration relief

260

petitions for criminal record remedies filed

5,100

critical legal services provided



“

*Clinics are questioning whether the institutions they believed in can actually work to protect democracy and justice. We offer an opportunity for students to see that this conservative institution of the law can actually be used in radical ways to disrupt entrenched patterns of oppression and racism.*

— Ty Alper, faculty co-director, Clinical Program



### Pro Bono Perspective

## SERVICE TRIPS TURN SPRING BREAK INTO POWERFUL PRO BONO WORK

Each year, teams of Berkeley Law students skip a spring break vacation and instead devote themselves to a week-long, hands-on project at locations across the country. Students who do these Berkeley Law Alternative Service Trips (BLAST) say it's an intense but invigorating experience, intellectually and personally.



Read more about all BLAST trips

Here are the details of the 2024 Atlanta trip.

Partner organizations: Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) and Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation (AVLF)

The “BLASTlanta” group worked with AVLF’s Safe & Stable Families Project, which serves families affected by domestic violence, and KIND, which offers legal representation to unaccompanied immigrant children. Ahead of the trip, students in this group spent time grappling with the intersecting factors that influence domestic violence and forced migration, and the legal needs of clients impacted by these experiences.

Under the guidance of KIND and AVLF, students helped to ensure clients felt supported and empowered. In their off hours, they learned from one another, sharing their unique professional and personal experiences that shaped their conversations and work.

“

*In law school, it is easy to forget your ‘why’ — the issues or goals that brought you to law school. That week, in community, we were all reminded of that as we learned from the attorneys and our clients the role that legal advocacy plays in shaping people’s lives, hopefully for the better. It was an honor to play a small part in this work with such a wonderful group of advocates.*

— Lorena Ortega-Guerrero ’25

# PRO BONO PROGRAM

Some schools have a pro bono requirement. Berkeley Law has a pro bono culture. Case in point: our 40+ Student-Initiated Legal Services Projects that let you gain client experience beginning as early as your first semester.

These projects are launched and led by students who have identified a legal need, secured supervising attorneys, and enlisted classmates to help meet that need in an underserved community. The projects address issues such as human trafficking, reproductive justice, housing and employment law, refugee assistance and other immigration issues, and criminal justice.

Want to pursue pro bono work outside of the Bay Area? Try BLAST! Our Berkeley Law Alternative Service Trips allow students to spend their spring break serving clients in different regions of the country. Past trips include Alaska, Atlanta, California's Central Valley, Hawai'i, Kentucky, Mississippi, South Texas, and Tijuana, Mexico. Students engage in an intensive week of service on issues ranging from immigrants rights to environmental justice.

Another way students can engage in pro bono legal services is through Call for Necessary Engagement in Community & Timely Response (CNECT). These projects are initiated by our community partner legal services organizations, which identify legal needs students can respond to as they arise throughout the year.

## Some Recent Projects:

- Animal Law and Advocacy
- Arts and Innovation Representation
- Berkeley Immigration Group
- Berkeley Law Anti-Trafficking Project
- Berkeley Law and Organizing Collective
- California Asylum Representation Clinic
- Clean Energy Leaders in Law
- Consumer Protection Public Policy Order
- Community Defense Project
- Contra Costa Reentry Project
- Digital Rights Project
- Disability Rights Project
- Drug Policy, Education, and Decriminalization Project
- East Bay Dreamers Project
- Environmental Conservation Outreach
- Family Defense Project
- Food Justice Project
- Foster Education Project
- Gun Violence Prevention Project
- Homelessness Service Project
- International Human Rights Workshop
- International Refugee Assistance Project
- La Alianza Workers' and Tenants' Rights Clinic
- Legal Automation Workshop
- Legal Obstacles Veterans Encounter
- Name and Gender Change Workshop
- Native American Legal Assistance Project
- Palestine Advocacy Legal Assistance Project
- Police Review Project
- Political and Election Empowerment Project
- Post-Conviction Advocacy Project
- Queer Justice Project
- Reentry Advocacy Project
- Reproductive Justice Project
- Startup Law Initiative
- Survivor Advocacy Project
- Tenants' Rights Workshop
- Workers' Rights Clinic
- Youth Advocacy Project



“

*Coming in, I knew Berkeley had a strong commitment to pro bono and public interest work. But the extensive opportunities that were available to me as a 1L blew me away. Being able to simultaneously develop national reproductive justice legal strategy while helping local families assert their tenant and employment rights has been one of the most meaningful experiences I have ever had.*

— Jordan Hefcart '25

# FIELD PLACEMENT PROGRAM

## Learning to work and working to learn.

Second- and third-year students gain experience, academic credit, and key connections in our Field Placement Program. Students work with supervising attorneys in public interest organizations, government agencies, and judicial chambers in the San Francisco Bay Area, domestically and internationally.

**Civil Field Placements:** These placements offer experiential learning opportunities in many areas, including civil rights, consumer protection, domestic violence, employment, environmental, health, housing, human rights, immigration, poverty, and transgender rights.

**Judicial Externships:** Students conduct full-time or part-time legal work for local, state, or federal judges, in chambers throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond.

**Criminal Field Placements:** Students engage in criminal legal work for district attorney offices, public defender offices, and criminally related nonprofits and government agencies.

**Away Field Placements:** Students receive up to 12 units of academic credit during a semester for legal work with approved NGOs/nonprofits and government agencies across the country and around the world.

**UCDC Law Program:** This semester externship in Washington, D.C., allows students to gain legal experience in person and remotely (for part-time opportunities) with all three federal government branches, regulatory agencies, and advocacy nonprofits. The externship is in conjunction with a course component composed of guest speakers, readings, and topics relevant to the federal government.



*Adriana Hardwicke '24 during her externship at UCDC.*



“

*My semester experiences with a federal judge and a U.S. Attorney's Office provided me with some of the most valuable learning experiences of my law school career — cementing prior classroom instruction through practical application, immersing me in the mechanics of litigation, and providing me with the opportunity to do public service while still a law student.*

— Connor Kennedy '23

### Domestic Examples

#### Public Interest

- American Civil Liberties Union
- Earthjustice
- Electronic Frontier Foundation
- Legal Aid at Work
- Pac-12 Conference
- Transgender Gender-Variant and Intersex Justice Project

#### Government

- California Attorney General's Office
- Federal Trade Commission
- County District Attorney and U.S. Attorney offices
- County, state and federal public defender offices
- San Francisco City Attorney's Office
- Securities and Exchange Commission
- U.S. Department of Justice

#### Courts

- California: Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, and Superior Court
- Federal: U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, and U.S. District Court, Northern District of California
- Administrative Courts: U.S. Department of Justice and Department of Labor



# GO GLOBAL

Berkeley Law students have externed in over 22 states and 30 countries around the world. **They have externed on every continent, except Antarctica.**

Among several options to work internationally is the INHR Program. This full-year program directed by a former U.S. diplomat includes a fall course followed by a spring semester spent in Geneva working as a student legal advisor to a United Nations delegation from a developing country.



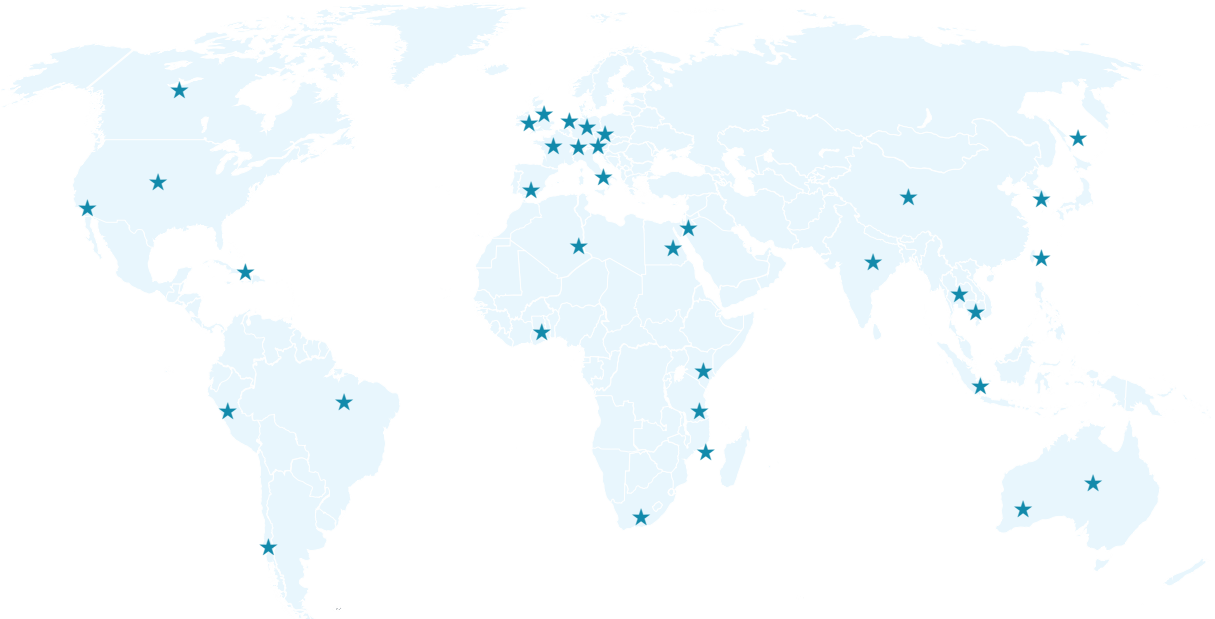
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*Doing a legal services field placement in New York City allowed me to see a new area of law and gain confidence and perspective as I begin my legal career. It was one of the highlights of law school for me and I was especially happy to be doing impactful work back in my home state!*

— Mia Collins '23

*Quincy Blair '23 worked with the nonprofit No Peace Without Justice in Belgium (left). Brock Williams '23 worked with the United Nations Environment Program Law Division in Nairobi, Kenya (right).*

See the stars below for all of the places our students have traveled for field placements.



Learn more about the Field Placement Program

# ADVOCACY COMPETITIONS PROGRAM

Want to build your professional advocacy abilities outside the classroom? Consider our wide variety of advocacy competitions available to students as early as their 1L year. Students develop key skills as they step into the shoes of a lawyer in these hypothetical legal scenarios.

## Internal Competitions

Introductory and advanced opportunities are available. Designed exclusively for Berkeley Law students, these experiences provide a space to hone your skills in the areas of appellate law, negotiations, and trial advocacy.

### Regularly Offered

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- Bales Trial Competition: an introductory tournament designed for 1Ls and focused on criminal law.
- Halloum Business Competition: an advanced transactional tournament that pairs Berkeley Law students with Berkeley Haas MBA students.
- Halloum Negotiation Competition: an introductory tournament designed for 1Ls and focused on a complex business deal.
- McBaine Honors Moot Court Competition: an advanced appellate tournament designed to test and hone students' written and oral appellate advocacy skills.
- Pahlke Internal Trial Competition: an advanced trial tournament for Trial Team members.

## External Competitions

Students who want to expand on their skills can participate in our external competitions program through the student-run Board of Advocates. These teams travel across the country and receive extensive coaching from professors, practitioners, and fellow students. Our students frequently thrive at regional, national, and international events and consistently out-perform other top law schools.

### Recently Attended

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- ABA Representation in Mediation Competition
- ABA Negotiations Competition
- National Sports Law Negotiation Competition
- CLA Environmental Negotiations Competition
- Jeffrey G. Miller Pace National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition
- Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition
- ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition
- National Moot Court Competition
- Roger J. Traynor California Appellate Moot Court Competition
- National Civil Trial Competition
- TYLA National Trial Competition
- AAJ National Student Trial Advocacy Competition
- Top Gun National Mock Trial Competition
- NBTA Tournament of Champions

*Kira Nikolaidis '24 delivers her argument during the final round.*

Photo credit: Philip Pacheco



### Competitions Spotlight

## HOLDING COURT: MCBAINE HONORS MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Celebrating its 60th anniversary, the McBaine Honors Moot Court Competition is a beloved Berkeley Law tradition that generates abundant intensity, spirit, and gratification among students.

The competition aims to hone and test students' written and oral advocacy skills. Following the model of U.S. Supreme Court practice, competitors represent either a petitioner appealing a lower court's decision or a respondent arguing against that appeal. Each year's competition problem is selected from actual appellate decisions, covering real-time issues of significant impact.

Students get the problem early in the fall semester and submit their briefs at the end of the term. While students may consult with both the student directors and the McBaine Academic Director, they receive minimal guidance and are prohibited from getting outside help on their briefs.

“

*It was refreshing to have an experience in law school that felt more like what attorneys actually do. In classes, you learn about the law, but in competitions like McBaine, you actually get to learn what it's like to be a lawyer and discover how to be the best advocate you can be.*

— Kira Nikolaides '24



Read more about the McBaine Honors Moot Court Competition

# ALUMNI & CAREERS

The legal job market is complex and ever-changing. Our expert team is here to help demystify the job search process and provide customized counseling and support to students no matter what their career goals may be.

# 88%

Overall 2023 bar passage for first-time takers

# 94%

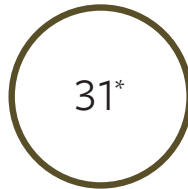
Number of graduates employed nine months after graduation

# \$215K

Median Salary (87% of Salaries Reported)

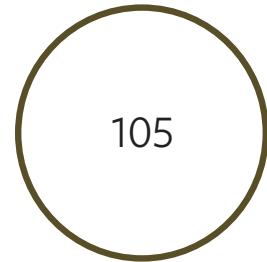
Wherever you go, a Berkeley Law graduate will be nearby. That's because nearly 17,000 alumni live and work in all 50 states and some 107 countries.

## JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS



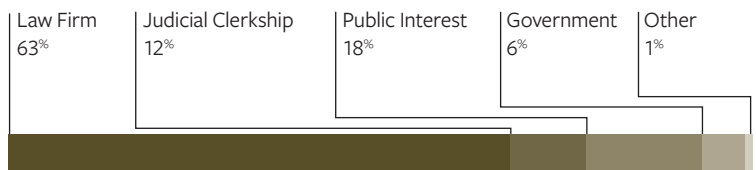
States where Berkeley Law grads clerked in the 2023 term

*\*Includes the District of Columbia and Guam*



Berkeley Law grads who landed federal and state clerkships in the 2023 term

## JOB TYPE



## LAW FIRMS BY SIZE



### Career Development Support

**Customized, one-on-one career counseling** from an expert team of former practicing attorneys.

A team of **three Public Interest/Public Sector Attorney Counselors** to help support students who are interested in working for non-profit organizations, government agencies, public defender and district attorney offices,

plaintiff-side law firms, and other social justice oriented legal positions.

A team of **three Private Sector Attorney Counselors** to support students seeking summer and post-graduate positions in law firms of all sizes and in all markets as well as in-house positions with corporate legal departments.

### A dedicated Director of Judicial Clerkships

to help guide students and alumni through each step of the complex process of applying for post-graduate judicial clerkships.

### On-Campus Interview Programs

featuring job opportunities with a host of legal employers across different sectors and geographical markets.

A **robust online database** of current job postings for students and alumni.

Expert advice on job application materials and **extensive preparation for job interviews.**

**Programs, panels, and workshops** to educate students on different career paths and job search techniques.



# BLAST OFF: NEW FELLOWSHIP LAUNCHES CRIMINAL JUSTICE CAREERS FOR RECENT GRADS

Berkeley Law’s surging criminal justice program got another boost with the recent launch of the Chris Larsen Justice Fellowship. Administered by the school’s Criminal Law & Justice Center, the fellowship will fund new graduates in their first year of public interest work.

“One of the challenges of making change through the law is that it’s slow, methodical work. It takes time,” says Chesa Boudin, the center’s executive director. “I’m really excited that we’re going to launch careers not just by funding their first year, but by empowering them to embark on what will be decades of public interest lawyering.”

The inaugural fellowship class — Class of 2024 members Emily Hunt, Alyssa Meurer, Sandhya Nadadur, and Chloe Pan — will begin work this fall with a sponsoring organization, write mid-year and year-end fellowship reports, and attend a conference. They will receive \$49,500 for a year of work plus \$5,500 for bar exam related costs and another \$5,500 to help defray health care costs.

“I think what we all have to realize is that public safety and criminal justice reform work hand

in hand — they’re really two sides of the same coin,” says Larsen, who in 2012 co-founded Ripple, a provider of enterprise blockchain and crypto solutions. “It’s super important that we make sure we get the best and the brightest into public service work.”

Inside and outside Berkeley Law, each recipient has demonstrated a strong commitment to criminal justice issues and the communities they affect.

“To me, building a better world is not just something that comes about through simply hoping for it or praying for it,” Pan says. “It is affirmatively putting in the work every single day to build the policies ... and the tool kit to become the best possible advocate.”

Pan will join the District of Columbia Office of the Solicitor General, working primarily on the office’s multi-state litigation and amicus practice with a focus on burgeoning Second Amendment issues. She will write appellate briefs in circuit courts and the United States Supreme Court advocating for reasonable gun regulations that uphold public safety.

Shaped by her experiences growing up as the eldest daughter in a low-income, first-generation immigrant family, Pan has wanted to be an attorney since age 12.

Pan became the head of her household in 2018, when her mother was diagnosed with brain cancer, and moved her family with her to Berkeley when law school began to continue supporting them. She served as editor-in-chief of the *California Law Review*, won Berkeley Law’s McBaine Honors Moot Court Competition, and completed five internships while in law school, including at the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division and ACLU Human Rights Program.



“*Seeing so many of my loved ones struggle to access the most basic government services ... made me realize that I wanted to be the advocate I wish my community had. That’s why I’m especially grateful for this fellowship opportunity, which will let me work on a wide range of issues to do just that.*”

— Chloe Pan ’24



Read more about the Chris Larsen Justice Fellowship Recipients

# BERKELEY TO THE BENCH

Berkeley Law graduates work in all corners of the legal profession, including the judiciary at the local, state, and federal levels. Many hire clerks from the school and often return to share their wisdom and experience, both as lawyers and as jurists. Here's a look at two of them.

## U.S. District Court Senior Judge Edward M. Chen '79, Northern District of California

Judge Chen was born and raised in Oakland and is a “double bear,” as he also received his undergraduate degree from UC Berkeley. After graduating Order of the Coif from Berkeley Law in 1979, he clerked for U.S. District Judge Charles Byron Renfrew and at the United States District Court for the Northern District of California and Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge James R. Browning. Chen was an associate at the San Francisco law firm of Coblentz, Cahen, McCabe & Breyer before joining the American Civil Liberties Union as a staff attorney, specializing in language discrimination as well as First Amendment and equality cases.

In April 2001, he was named to an eight-year term as a U.S. Magistrate Judge, then nominated by President Barack Obama to the district court and confirmed in 2011.

“

*In my nearly 20 years on the bench, I may have the opportunity to work with over 200 law clerks from across the state and across the nation, and I can tell you that Berkeley Law students are consistently among the brightest, most committed, passionate, socially-minded and least self-absorbed of all.*

— Judge Chen at the 2020 Berkeley Law Commencement





## U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Ana de Alba '07

Also a “double bear,” de Alba is a Merced native and a child of farm workers who immigrated from Mexico. She spent 11 years at Lang, Richert & Patch litigating employment, personal injury, business, and construction law cases and averaging 300 hours of pro bono work each year and establishing a monthly Workers’ Rights Clinic, as a partnership between her firm, Legal Aid at Work, the Consulate of Mexico in Fresno, and Central California Legal Services.

Then-Gov. Jerry Brown appointed de Alba to the Superior Court of California in Fresno County in 2018. She was nominated and confirmed to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California in 2022 — the first Latina to serve there — and confirmed to the Court of Appeals the following year.

“

*I am helping to pave the way for an entirely new generation of attorneys who will bring a different perspective to the practice of law.*

— Judge de Alba



Photo credits: Brittany Hosea-Small (top) and Philip Pacheco (bottom)

# APPLYING

## Juris Doctor (JD) Program

### First-Year Applicants

The application for each fall term is available online via the LSAC website ([www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org)) from September 1 – February 10. As we employ a rolling review process, you are strongly encouraged to submit a completed application as early as possible, so long as it represents you accurately and fully.

### Binding Early Decision Program (BED)

If you have determined that Berkeley Law is your first-choice law school, you may apply through the Binding Early Decision Program. A different application timeline and deadline apply for those applying to our BED program, and a signed BED Agreement acknowledging all terms and conditions is required with your application for admission. An interview may also be required. If you are admitted, you must enroll at Berkeley Law the following fall. No deposit will be required, but you must withdraw all other law school applications and may not initiate any new applications. There is no application fee to apply to BED. If you are not admitted through BED, your application will be rolled over into Regular Decision. All BED applicants will receive a decision in early December, and if admitted, are automatically awarded \$105,000 in gift aid (distributed as \$35,000 per year for three years).

### Transfer Students

Transfer students come from law schools across the country and make a substantial and welcome contribution to the Berkeley Law community. Applicants are considered for the fall term only.

### Visiting Students

The law school admits a few visiting students who study here for a year but receive their law degrees from their schools of origin. Visiting students admission is available to approximately five students who have completed two years of high-quality work at another law school and have demonstrated a compelling need to spend their third year at Berkeley Law.

### Concurrent Degrees/Combined Degrees

An applicant interested in earning concurrent degrees must gain separate admission to Berkeley Law (using the JD application) and the other participating Berkeley school or department. The latter is accomplished by filing a separate application with the Berkeley Graduate Division. *Examples: JD/MPP at Goldman, JD/MBA at Haas*

An applicant interested in earning combined degrees must gain separate admission to Berkeley Law and the other participating school. *Example: JD/MPP at Harvard Kennedy School*

### Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program

Although it is a part of the law school's academic program, the Jurisprudence and Social Policy (JSP) Program is a separate graduate program with its own admission criteria and procedures. Admissions information is available online.

## 1L APPLICATION CHECKLIST

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- Application submitted online via [lsac.org](http://lsac.org)
- \$75 non-refundable application fee or receipt of an application fee waiver
- 2–4 letters of recommendation submitted through LSAC
- Personal statement (up to four double-spaced pages (recommended three pages))
- Resume (no page limit)
- Engaging with Difference statement
- Short answer questions (optional)
- Other addenda as required (e.g. character & fitness explanation, scholarship essays)
- A copy of your SAT or ACT score report if writing an addendum regarding standardized test scores
- LSAT or GRE score (with supplemental form) taken within the last 5 years and no later than the January 2025 test
- A GMAT (if you meet the criteria to apply without an LSAT or GRE score) and supplemental form
- Credential Assembly Service (CAS) report (i.e., your transcript summary) sent directly from LSAC
- If applying Binding Early Decision, a signed BED agreement

## TRANSFER APPLICATION CHECKLIST

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- Application submitted online via [lsac.org](http://lsac.org) (fee waived)
- Two letters of recommendation from law professors
- Personal statement (2–4 double-spaced pages)
- Resume (no page limit)
- Engaging with Difference statement
- Letter of good standing from your home law school
- First-year law school transcript with both fall and spring grades
- Credential Assembly Service (CAS) report (i.e., your transcript summary) from LSAC
- Other addenda as required (e.g. character & fitness)

**These requirements and recommendations could change. Please check our website for the most up-to-date information.**



# APPLICATION CALENDAR

## 2024

### September

# 01

Binding Early & Regular Decision Applications Open

Application Fee Waiver Requests Open

### October

# 01

FAFSA Opens

# 31

LSAT, GRE, and GMAT (Recommended test date for Early Decision Applicants)

Writing Sample (Recommended for Early Decision Applicants)

### November

# 15

Binding Early Decision Application Deadline

# 30

LSAT, GRE, GMAT (Last score accepted for BLOS applicants)

Writing Sample (Due for Early Decision, BLOS, and Public Interest Scholars Applicants)

### December

# 09

Binding Early Decision Notification

# 15

Deadline to apply for BLOS and Public Interest Scholars

## 2025

### January

# 01

Application Fee Waiver Request Deadline

# 31

LSAT, GRE, GMAT (Last score accepted for regular decision applications)  
Writing Sample (Due for regular application)

### February

# 10

Regular Application Deadline

# TBA

Alumni & Admitted Student Events

### March

# 01

FAFSA Priority Deadline

# TBA

Admitted Students Weekend

# TBA

Alumni & Admitted Students Events

### April

# 15

Admissions Response First Deadline (5 p.m. PDT)  
2L Transfer and 3L Visiting Status Application Opens

# TBA

Alumni & Admitted Students Events

### May

# 15

Admissions Response Final Deadline (5 p.m. PDT)

### June

# 15

2L Transfer and 3L Visiting Status Application Deadline

### August

# TBA

Pre-Orientation Program  
Orientation  
Classes Begin

# HOW WILL YOU FUND YOUR LEGAL EDUCATION?

**Berkeley Law Opportunity Scholarships (BLOS)** are awarded to select students who are the first in their families to earn a B.A. or the equivalent. It provides recipients with full tuition and fees for three years. The deadline to apply is December 15, and you must have taken the LSAT or other accepted standardized tests by the end of November. Additional essay and interview may be required.

**Binding Early Decision Awards** are for applicants admitted through BED. Recipients are guaranteed gift aid in the amount of \$105,000 (\$35,000 per year for three years). Terms and conditions apply, and the deadline to apply is November 15.

**Center Scholars** will receive at least \$10,000 per year in gift aid, be recognized as Center Scholars, and be provided faculty and alumni mentorship, support, and programming. There is no separate application for the Center Scholars programs; recipients are selected based on their original application for admission.

**Continuing Student Scholarships** provide several supplemental scholarships for current JD students. Application timelines are announced to all current students. Award amounts vary.

**Donor-Based Awards** are awarded to incoming and current students. The awards are based on specific eligibility requirements, such as demonstrated financial need and academic focus. Additional essay may be required. Examples include: Pahlke Trial Advocacy Scholarship and Sonsini Strategic Recruitment Fund.

**Gift Aid** is non-loan aid administered by Berkeley Law. To help students plan financially, the majority of gift aid offers are made as three-year awards. Awards are based on a comprehensive review of financial need, merit, or a combination. All students are automatically considered for gift aid based on a holistic review of materials in the original application for admission, but financial need consideration requires supplemental gift aid application after admission.

**Hyundai-Kia Scholarships** are awarded to select students demonstrating academic merit, leadership experience, and an interest in and commitment to the field of law and technology. Additional essay required.

**The Native American Opportunity Plan+** ensures that in-state systemwide tuition and student services fees are fully covered for students who are both California residents and enrolled members in a federally recognized Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native tribe. At Berkeley Law, we provide additional funding for eligible Native American Opportunity Plan students by covering the Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition, making law school fees nearly fully funded.

**Outside scholarships** are available to law students. Each agency has its own scholarship application, criteria, and deadline. Use keywords to search for scholarships for which you may qualify on our financial aid website.

**Public Interest Scholarships** are awarded to select students dedicated to public interest legal work. It provides recipients with full tuition and fees for three years. The deadline to apply is December 15, and you must have taken the LSAT or other accepted standardized tests by the end of November. Additional essay and interview may be required.

**UC Scholarships** are offered by the UC Berkeley Graduate Fellowships Office, which provides several scholarships for graduate students.

## Veterans Educational Benefits

Veterans and their dependents may qualify for tuition waivers. We also provide personalized support through our **Military Promise Program**.

## Loans

Various student loan options are available to Berkeley Law students, which include but are not limited to Federal Unsubsidized Loans, Federal Graduate PLUS Loans, Private Student Loans, UC Emergency Loans, and California DREAM Loans. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is required for federal student loans and California DREAM application for DREAM loans.

## Other support

We are always innovating in an attempt to identify and support outstanding students and those with financial need. New programs may be announced at any time.

## RESOURCES SUPPORTING PUBLIC INTEREST CAREERS

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### Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP)

LRAP provides eligible graduates working in public interest careers with assistance repaying their loans. LRAP is integrated with the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness program (PSLF) and Income-Driven Repayment. Through LRAP, public interest graduates earning up to \$120,000 can get funding to make their student loan payments from Berkeley Law, and after 10 years, can apply to have their remaining loan balance fully forgiven through PSLF.

### Summer Fellowships

**UC President's Public Service Summer Fellowships** provide a stipend in the amount of \$5,500 to \$6,500 to all JD students who are employed in a qualifying position during the summer after their first or second year. Students must complete 25 hours of pro bono work to be eligible to apply.

### Post-Graduate Public Interest Fellowships

**Bridge Fellowship Program** provides short-term financial support while the graduate is searching for permanent public interest positions after taking the bar exam.

### Public Interest Fellowship Program

Participants work in an apprentice role for a full year, during which they are committed to staying in their placement.



# SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

**Berkeley Law & Society Scholars** are students interested in and likely to make a contribution to the fields of U.S. domestic and international policy, such as: environmental and climate law and policy, energy law, health law, constitutional law and regulatory system development, education law and policy, election law, national security law, human rights, military law, or transnational/comparative legal studies.

**Berkeley Builders Fellowship** is awarded to students interested in and likely to make a contribution to the fields of business and corporate law such as: ESG and corporate sustainability, tax law & policy, start-up and venture capital law, competition law, corporate governance, trade law and policy, business dispute resolution, commercial law, real estate, cannabis law, student loan law, consumer protection law, community economic development, and entertainment/media or sports law.

**Berkeley Scholars-in-Law** is intended for students both prepared for, committed to, and demonstrably planning to do at least one of the following three things: (1) Designing, conducting, and publishing scholarly research related to the field of law, (2) Entering legal academia or another academic field in which they will make significant use of their legal training, (3) pursuing a concurrent Berkeley Law JD/JSP or another PhD in addition to their J.D. from Berkeley Law (although not necessarily in a combined or concurrent enrollment plan).

**Berkeley Justice Fellows** are students interested in and likely to make a contribution to the area of social justice, such as: civil rights, criminal justice, Federal Indian or tribal law, racial justice, disability law, plaintiff-side impact litigation, work law, refugee and immigration law & policy, reproductive justice and body autonomy, food insecurity, income inequality, and/or another social justice-related area.

**Berkeley Innovation Scholars** are students interested and experienced in, and likely to make a substantive contribution toward, areas related to the intersection of law, technology, and society. This includes: patent law, cybercrime and cybersecurity law, data protection and privacy law, regulation of emerging technologies, AI law, biotech law, telecommunications law and policy, science and evidence, arts and media law, and other tech-related regulatory and policy areas.

**Leadership Initiative** will provide (1) a platform for identifying and incubating the next generation of transformational leaders and (2) leadership training and resources to all students.

*There is no essay or other required materials for consideration. Your application for admission is your application for these awards. Consideration will be based on the recommendation of your application reviewer, and final selection is made by a Scholarship Committee. The number of recipients may vary; there is no fixed minimum or maximum number. Selection for one of these awards may make you eligible for ancillary programming.*

## 2024–25 ESTIMATED TUITION AND FEES

California Resident	\$63,196
Nonresident	\$75,624*

## 2024–25 ESTIMATED NINE-MONTH ACADEMIC YEAR LIVING EXPENSES

Food & Housing	\$28,428
Books & Supplies	\$1,748
Personal	\$3,170
Transportation	\$3,682

## ESTIMATED TOTAL \*\*

CA Resident	\$100,224
Nonresident	\$112,652

*Fees are set by the UC Regents. Published fees are subject to change at any time and without notice.*

*\* For students who establish California residency during their first year of law school, UC Berkeley offers a notable advantage during years two and three: fees drop from the nonresident rate to the California rate.*

*\*\* At the University of California (UC), health insurance is mandatory for all students, with enrollment in the UC Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) being automatic. The estimated cost of SHIP for the 2024-25 academic year stands at \$6,442. However, students are provided with the flexibility to either retain SHIP or waive enrollment if they possess alternative coverage that meets the specific criteria outlined by the University.*



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*The Berkeley Law Opportunity Scholarship allows me to connect with other first-generation college and law students. These connections have created a lasting support network, and the guidance from other students has made the law school experience feel less daunting and more manageable.*

— Leslie Sepulveda '25



WHERE  
WILL  
YOU GO?

Berkeley  
Law

Kendrick Peterson '24  
is acknowledged for the  
Student Service Prize  
during commencement.



# Berkeley Law

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