

Transcript
Magazine

Fall 2024
Volume 63

Berkeley Law

IN THIS ISSUE

Unique program
helps students
become leaders

Human Rights
Clinic expands
its U.S. agenda

Smaller class
sizes improve
1L experience

New fellowship
vaults criminal
justice careers

Judge Ana de Alba '07 on the
"ganas to succeed" (page 24)



Painting a New
Picture of Leadership

Features

20 **Painting a New Picture of Leadership**

A multipronged initiative aims to help students become strong leaders in all sectors and all levels of legal work.



28 **The Power in Community**

Enduring images from orientation, a rousing basketball and public interest triumph, star students, and more.



36 **Around the World and Also at Home**

The impactful and newly renamed Human Rights Clinic expands its domestic agenda.



Column

2 **From the Dean**

Erwin Chemerinsky calls for the school to help uphold the rule of law and use it to improve people's lives.

Berkeley Law

**Assistant Dean,
Communications**
Alex A.G. Shapiro

**Managing Editor &
Senior Writer,
Communications**
Andrew Cohen

Creative Direction
Laurie Frasier

Original Design & Layout
Arnaud Ghelfi, l'atelier starno

Transcript Magazine
Fall 2024, Volume 63

COVER ILLUSTRATION BY JORDI FERRÁNDIZ
(BASED FROM A PHOTO BY PHILIP PACHECO)



18



16



48



7



66

Sections

3 In Brief

Nuggets from the School Community

- › Smaller class sizes improve 1L experience
- › Guidance for ESG efforts
- › Constitution on the brink?
- › Building an alternative career pipeline
- › Pro bono prowess
- › Pushing for more representative juries
- › Revealing obstacles for deported veterans
- › Mexican lawyer in peril finds haven at Berkeley
- › New law library director turns the page
- › “Voices Carry” podcast amplifies excellence
- › Examining repair through reparations
- › Preserving treasured legal history

12 Forefront

Leadership in Research, Service & Education

- › No coach, no problem for moot court champs
- › 3L blends scholarship with family defense work
- › Setting another school public service record
- › LL.M. students increase pro bono engagement
- › Confronting challenges for Latina law faculty
- › Animal rights — more than a pet project

44 Fast Forward

Powerful Student Action Figures

50 Study Hall

Faculty Honors & Scholarship

56 Advancement

Updates from Development & Alumni Relations

62 Class Notes

All in the Alumni Family

Contributing Writers

Gwyneth K. Shaw
Sarah Weld

Contributing Artist

Jordi Ferrándiz

Contributing Photographers

Jim Block
Brittany Hosea-Small
Tylor Norwood
Philip Pacheco
Darius Riley

Update Your Address

Email: updates@law.berkeley.edu
Phone: 510.642.1832
U.S. Mail: University of California,
Berkeley, School of Law
Development & Alumni Relations
224 Law Building
Berkeley, CA 94720-7200

Visit law.berkeley.edu

X & Instagram: @BerkeleyLaw
Facebook: UC Berkeley Law
TikTok: @ucberkeleylaw

Transcript is published by the
University of California, Berkeley, School
of Law Communications Department.



“Now, more than ever, it is important that Berkeley Law be a force for upholding the rule of law and for using law to make people’s lives better.”

Bringing Leadership to Life

One of the joys of being on an academic calendar is that each year offers the welcome sense of renewal and a new beginning. I am tremendously excited as we start this school year about some of the new things that are happening at Berkeley Law.

For example, after decades of dividing the first-year class into three “supermods,” starting this year we will have four. As a result, every class for our 1L students will be smaller in size (see page 3). Making this happen took an enormous amount of work from many faculty and staff, and I am extremely grateful to them as I think it will greatly enhance the first-year education for all of our incoming students.

I am also very excited about a new leadership training program that we have created under the direction of Adam Sterling ’13, which is featured in this issue of *Transcript* (see page 20). I long have believed that law schools need to do a better job of training the next generation of leaders. This new initiative will help Berkeley Law students develop the skills to be leaders in every area of law and provide a model for other law schools as well.

Part of what makes Berkeley Law distinctive is our public mission — our commitment to using law to make our society and our world better, and training students to do the same throughout their careers. This permeates everything we do.

A critical aspect of this is the far-reaching efforts of our many centers and clinics. This *Transcript* issue describes the pivotal work of one of our terrific clinics: the Human Rights Clinic, formerly the International Human Rights Law Clinic. For more than a quarter century, this clinic has truly made a huge difference across the globe and in the lives of hundreds of students.

It is a difficult time in the United States and across the world. Now, more than ever, it is important that Berkeley Law be a force for upholding the rule of law and for using law to make people’s lives better. I know that this is the commitment of our faculty, staff, and students. It is what makes me so proud to be the dean of Berkeley Law.

As always, I hope you enjoy this *Transcript* issue and its description of some of the amazing things that our remarkable alumni, faculty, staff, and students are achieving across the legal landscape.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erwin". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Erwin Chemerinsky

Dean, Jesse H. Choper Distinguished Professor of Law

Smaller Class Sizes Improve 1L Experience

This fall, Berkeley Law’s 1L students began enjoying smaller sections of their required courses, thanks to a challenging move years in the making.

First-year students had been split into three modules, or “supermods,” with their required fall courses: Civil Procedure, Criminal Law, Contracts, and Torts. Students also have one small mod course to encourage connections between one another and a faculty member.

With 1L cohorts topping 300 in recent years, Dean Erwin Chemerinsky added a fourth supermod to reduce class sizes — which required major shuffling to keep student and faculty schedules reasonable and ensure classroom space for all courses.

Each supermod has 87 or 88 students, down from an average of 114 last year, while small mod, Legal Research and Writing, and Written and Oral Advocacy class sizes have also shrunk. Chemerinsky calls the move “one of the most important changes in the law school during my time as dean ... I think these smaller classes will really matter in the education of our students and their 1L experience.”

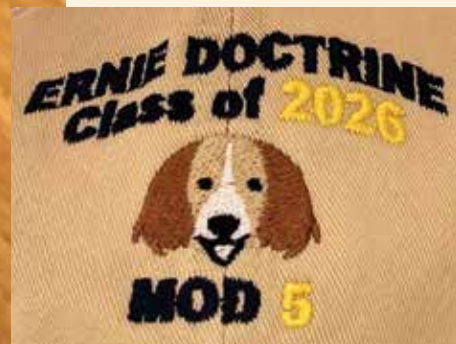
Mods are a critical social connector for students, who often refer to themselves by their mod number. They plan outings and events through the first year and beyond, and some alumni even decades later fondly recall friendships made in their mod.

Last year, students in Professor David Hausman’s Civil Procedure course designed a logo and put it on hats to commemorate their bond with each other, Hausman, and his dog Ernie.

“The great thing about a small class is not just that I (and Ernie) get to know the students, but also that they get to know each other,” Hausman says. “When you know your classmates, you’re less worried about speaking up in class and more able to think about what everyone’s really interested in: the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.”

— Gwyneth K. Shaw

A MOD LOOK:
Students in one mod created memorable swag honoring Professor David Hausman’s dog Ernie.





CONVENER: Berkeley Center for Law and Business Executive Director Angeli Patel '20 helped organize the summit.

Guidance for ESG Efforts

From the inaugural Berkeley

Corporate + Climate Summit to a new online executive education course, Berkeley Law continues to lead practitioners, executives, and policymakers in exploring how to best incorporate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) priorities into long-term business strategy.

At the two-day spring summit, presented by the school's Berkeley Center for Law and Business (BCLB) and Center for Law, Energy & the Environment

along with the American Bar Association, corporate, government, nonprofit, and academic experts discussed strategies for companies to propel a more sustainable economy. Experts discussed internal changes within businesses to address climate concerns — and external push-back against the ESG movement.

"This is the first conference about climate on the corporate side at any law school in the country," said Susan Mac Cormac, who co-chairs Morrison Foerster's ESG

+ Sustainability and Social Enterprise + Impact Investing practices. "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."

Berkeley Law's ESG University course provides key developments and ideas to corporate and legal leaders through two tracks: the 30-hour Sustainable Capitalism in Practice for lawyers, regulators, policy practitioners, and those in media and communications, while the 8-hour Sustainable Capitalism for Directors is aimed at corporate board directors and C-suite executives.

Both self-paced classes incorporate interviews, excerpts of academic papers and industry reports, opinion pieces, and ESG media coverage. They also offer live office hours with BCLB Executive Director Angeli Patel '20 and experts who contributed to the courses.

"Our goal is to not just create learnings for today, but to create concrete learnings that will have payoff for executives and for their companies over the long term," Patel says. — *Andrew Cohen*

Constitution on the Brink?

Berkeley Law Dean Erwin

Chemerinsky is well known for his constitutional analysis, and for his even-keeled approach to it. Which makes the title of his latest book — *No Democracy Lasts Forever: How the Constitution Threatens the United States* —

a bit unnerving.

He argues that America's growing polarization can be traced to the Constitution's fundamental defects and judicial rulings that entrench minority rule instead of democracy. Chemerinsky writes that such measures must be overhauled or replaced entirely in

order to avoid eventual secession, and offers suggestions for both possibilities.

Noting that just 15 of the nearly 12,000 amendments proposed since 1789 have passed, he points to a governing system steadily diminishing in effectiveness, public confidence, and democratic principles. Chemerinsky says a new constitutional convention to

Building an Alternative Career Pipeline

Last spring, Berkeley Law held its first-ever career fair with plaintiff-side firms, the latest step by the school's Career Development Office (CDO) to foster a broader set of career pathways for students.

"The CDO has been working tirelessly to make it easier for students to find, apply, and secure coveted summer and post-grad jobs with nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and plaintiff-side and public interest law firms," says Assistant Dean of Career Development Eric Stern.

The student-led Plaintiffs' Law Association (PLA) and CDO co-hosted the event, which drew more than 60 students and 18 plaintiff-side firms from the Bay Area, Southern California, and beyond.

A lot of attorneys who attended were law school alums — and enthused, says Associate Director for Private Sector Counseling and Programs Leslie Hauser. She adds that many participating firms expressed interest in learning how to recruit Berkeley Law students and that all said they'd never been invited to an event specifically aimed at plaintiff-side firms.

The career fair reflects growing

interest among students in this type of work and the law school's efforts to support it. With around 200 members and a 14-student board, the PLA is connecting with a larger national movement to promote the field as an alternative to large firms and corporate defense work for students interested in litigation.

Lecturer Ted Mermin '96, executive director of the school's Center for Consumer Law & Economic Justice, praised the work of PLA students and CDO leaders to build a program that simply didn't exist before.

"They have opened doors where most students didn't even know there were walls," he says. "All of this effort has generated enormous enthusiasm among students and admiration throughout the Berkeley Law community." — *Gwyneth K. Shaw*

SHOP TALK: Liam Mahagan '24 (left) chats with Sher Edling's Naomi Wheeler '21 at Berkeley Law's first plaintiff-side career fair.

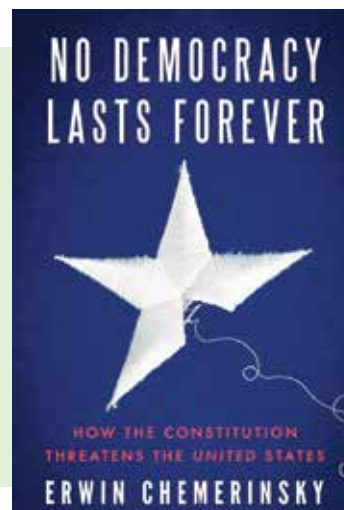


replace the Constitution of 1787 could be a viable avenue, similar to how the Founding Fathers replaced the outdated Articles of Confederation.

A best-selling author of 15 books, Chemerinsky was named the most influential person in U.S. legal education by *National Jurist* in 2014 and 2017.

Top legal scholars describe his

new book as "must reading for anyone who cares about this nation and its future," "a piercing diagnosis of the state of American democracy," "a powerful and profound work of scholarship and reasoning," and "a powerful indictment of the U.S. constitutional system but also a clarifying call to remake our supreme law before it's too late." — *Andrew Cohen*



Pro Bono Prowess

The Class of 2024 displayed Berkeley Law's fervent commitment to pro bono legal work.

35,900

Total pro bono hours worked in law school

143

Led pro bono projects

123

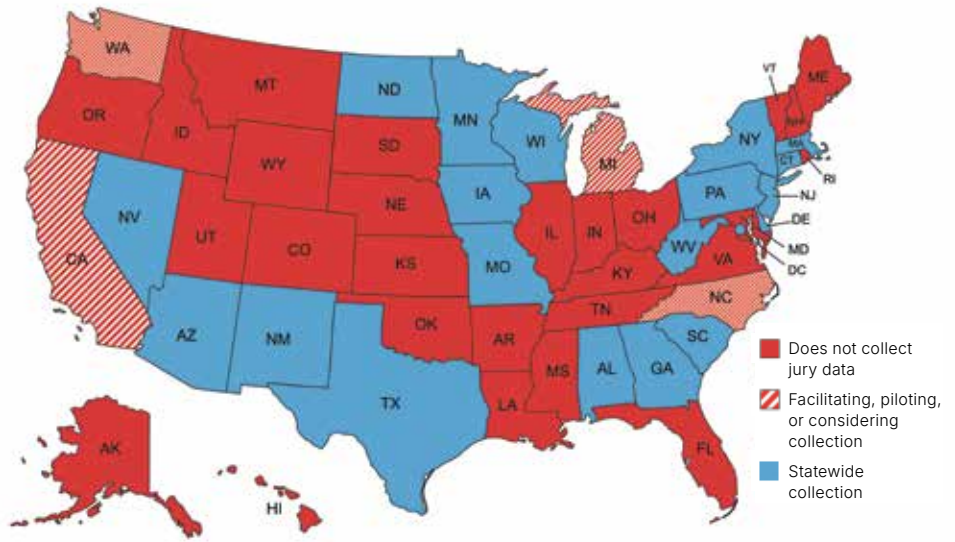
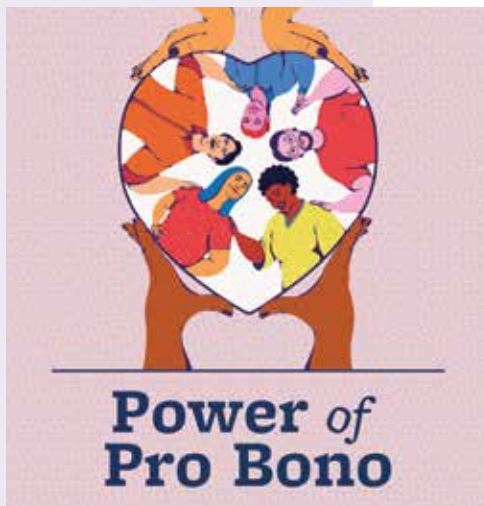
J.D. grads earned Pro Bono Honors

80

LL.M. grads earned Pro Bono Honors

5

Co-founded Student-Initiated Legal Services Projects



Pushing for More Representative Juries

Four years after its revealing report found racial discrimination by prosecutors a consistent feature of jury selection in California, Berkeley Law's Death Penalty Clinic has cataloged the states that gather prospective jurors' self-identified race and ethnicity — and those that don't.

Its follow-up report, *Guess Who's Coming to Jury Duty?*, was fueled by realizing the effectiveness of a 2020 California bill aimed at making juries more representative of state demographics could not be reliably measured.

"We see and hear about changes, but it's anecdotal," says Professor and Clinic Co-Director Elisabeth Semel. "There's no way to know the racial and ethnic composition of California's prospective jurors responding to summonses or entering the courtroom, or the final jury itself."

Semel, students Casey Jang '23, Willy Ramirez '23, and Yara Slaton '23, and Clinical Program paralegal Lauren Havey researched if — and how — other states collect prospective jurors' self-identified race and ethnicity. Nineteen states, Washington, D.C., and federal district courts collect such data from source lists or prospective jurors.

Slaton saw how "wildly inconsistent the practices are in this country, which means defendants are getting wildly different jury experiences." The report proposes that jury summons questionnaires include spaces to identify race, ethnicity, and other demographic data, and that such information be available to the trial court and counsel before jury selection.

Absent this information, the report explains, lawyers and judges often rely — consciously or unconsciously — on stereotypes to identify jurors' race and ethnicity and as a reason to strike them.

Center for Jury Studies Director Paula Hannaford-Agor says the findings will encourage more data collection procedures to help "determine whether reform efforts are having their intended effect and, if not, help identify additional steps."

Cautions Semel, "We cannot be blind to the ways in which racial discrimination — whether explicit or implicit — continues to whitewash jury boxes." — Sarah Weld

FAMILY MAN: Deported U.S. Army veteran Jeff Brown, shown here with his son in Jamaica, is featured in the report.

Revealing Obstacles for Deported Veterans

Despite vast and maddening bureaucratic hurdles, Berkeley Law's Veterans Law Practicum remains committed to clearing a path for deported military veterans to access life-changing services.

Ten current and recent students, many veterans themselves, researched and co-drafted a report detailing myriad barriers these former service members face to medical care and disability benefits from the federal Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

While humanitarian parole lets veterans reenter the U.S. temporarily to gain VA health care services, travel costs are a deterrent and applications are regularly rejected. The VA Foreign Medical Program offers health care services overseas, but only covers treatment for disabilities that it deems to be "service-connected."

The U.S. has deported thousands of veterans, often before they finish their disability compensation applications. Obtaining benefits for an injury sustained during military service generally requires medical evidence, extensive communication with the VA, evaluation by a VA-chosen clinician, and sometimes a hearing — too onerous for many deported veterans to overcome.

Because service traumas greatly increase the likelihood of criminalized behavior, noncitizen veterans face a high risk of deportation. The report notes, "Among those exiled are combat veterans and individuals who served honorably in every branch of the military."

Suggested changes include bolstering VA ability to provide health care outside the U.S., simplifying the disability compensation process, and removing humanitarian parole obstacles.

"I believe that improving the treatment of veterans



is a goal shared across the political spectrum, and immigrant veterans are an absolutely crucial part of that group," says former Navy submarine officer and report co-author Eric Provost '24. "The facilities and funds exist to ensure that immigrant veterans and service members have greater access to naturalization. The Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, and the VA just need to make it a priority." — *Andrew Cohen*



A NEW ROLE: Human rights lawyer Omar Gómez Trejo had to leave Mexico and now works with Berkeley Law's Human Rights Center.

Out of the Darkness

Forced to flee his native Mexico after investigating the disappearance of 43 student protesters, Omar Gómez Trejo recently joined Berkeley Law's Human Rights Center (HRC) through a program that brings threatened international scholars to the Bay Area.

Mexico's government claimed a local gang was responsible for the 2014 abduction. But as special prosecutor of the Ayotzinapa case from 2019 to 2022, Trejo and his team unearthed how the government planted and hid evidence, forced confessions, and disrupted investigation efforts.

After indicting over 100 people — public officials, military leaders, organized crime members, and more — Trejo was forced to resign in September 2022. Soon after, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador began publicly accusing him of trying to spark a rebellion.

"It put me and my family at risk," Trejo says. "That's why I decided to leave Mexico."

Once in the United States, he received a scholarship from an initiative called Practitioners at Risk

and HRC quickly brought him aboard.

"The people at HRC are the best," Trejo says. "They've offered me friendship and training to learn new tools and grow professionally."

This semester, he is developing an inventory of his team's investigative practices, teaching a course on the Ayotzinapa case, and giving guest lectures in other courses.

Ten years have passed since the mass disappearance. While Trejo acknowledges the barriers and complexities involved when a nation must investigate itself — especially in a country where 95% of crimes go unsolved — he remains hopeful.

"The state has powerful tools and can achieve its objectives when used correctly and in accordance with the law," he says. "It's necessary to demilitarize the country and strengthen the civil police. The separation of powers should be respected, but above all the autonomy and independence of prosecutors and judges must be respected." — *Andrew Cohen*



Turning the Page

In her final year at Indiana University — already on track for law school and intending to become a public interest lawyer — Jessica Whytock took a library course on a lark to earn one last credit.

She was hooked. Her passion only grew in law school, where she excelled at anything involving research.

“I worked in the library, and the law librarians encouraged me to consider that as a profession,” Whytock says. “I was able to start library school right away and work at the law school library while doing that. So it worked out perfectly.”

More than 20 years later, Whytock’s enthusiasm has grown through stints at USC and UC Irvine. As Berkeley Law’s new library director, she’s excited to continue innovating in a rapidly changing landscape.

“I really believe in access to information and the importance of making sure people can get their hands on the reliable, authoritative information that they need. But I also really believe in helping with the law school’s mission,” she says. “I love libraries. I love what libraries do in the world. But I also love what they do in law schools — from supporting faculty scholarship to working with students — and I feel very lucky. It’s just what I’m passionate about.”

Whytock adds that she was very happy at Irvine, but Berkeley Law’s reputation, strong students, and exciting faculty made the opportunity to lead here irresistible.

“There’s just no question that Berkeley is at the forefront of so much,” she says. “By being part of this institution, you get to learn and support the important work that folks are doing here. I’m really excited to see what we can do to accelerate some of the really dynamic things that the school is doing.” — *Gwyneth K. Shaw*

LAURIE FRASIER



NEW CHAPTER: Jessica Whytock was recently named Berkeley Law’s library director.

Amplifying Excellence

Want to hear more about the pathbreaking research and exciting advocacy happening here? Now, there’s a new way to dive deep: the podcast “Berkeley Law Voices Carry.”

It’s a showcase for the many ways the school’s faculty, students, and staff are making an impact — in California, across the country, and around the world — and it’s available on Spotify and Apple Podcasts. Here are some highlights:

- **Professor Colleen V. Chien** talking about her work spanning the fields of innovation, intellectual property, and the criminal justice system, particularly her groundbreaking Innovator Diversity Pilots Initiative and Paper Prisons Initiative.
- **Professors Tejas N. Narechania** and **Rebecca Wexler** discussing the challenges of governing artificial intelligence from the regulatory and platform angle as well as its growing impact on the criminal justice system.
- **Dave Jones**, director of the Climate Risk Initiative at our Center for Law, Energy & the Environment (CLEE) and a former California insurance commissioner, analyzing the major threats climate change poses to the insurance industry and the accompanying new risks.
- **Professor Jonah B. Gelbach** describing why scholars are pushing to drop the paywall on the Public Access to Court Electronic Records database — the online repository of more than 1 billion federal court records, commonly referred to as PACER — so more researchers, journalists, and members of the public can analyze what’s going on inside our courthouses.
- CLEE Executive Director **Louise Bedsworth** and **Professors Daniel Farber** and **Sharon Jacobs** examining the future of climate, energy, and environmental policy in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court overturning the 40-year-old *Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council* decision.
 - Center for Consumer Law & Economic Justice Executive Director **Ted Mermin '96** outlining the school’s expanding consumer law offerings, from an array of exciting courses to multiple hands-on opportunities for students. — *Gwyneth K. Shaw*

SCAN FOR MORE





EYEING CHANGE: Alexis Tatum '25 views a PowerPoint slide during a presentation on the reparations movement's history.

Examining Repair Through Reparations

Leaders of the *Berkeley Journal of Black Law & Policy* know the subject can get heated and divisive. But they see reparations, the journal's 30th anniversary symposium subject, as more logical development than wistful wish.

"It's a contentious topic, as are many that involve race," said

Editor in Chief Alexis Tatum '25. "But that's not a reason to shy away from it. It's not that crazy an idea in our legal system to atone for past wrongs. That's what the law is regularly used for."

The symposium included attorneys, scholars, and California Reparations Task Force members

who outlined arguments for reparations and hurdles to achieving them. After holding 16 public meetings and spending over two years studying and developing proposals, last year the task force submitted an 1,100-page report with 115 recommendations that identified five main areas of California-specific harm: incarceration and overpolicing, housing segregation, unjust property taking, health harms, and devaluation of Black businesses.

Task force Chair Kamila Moore outlined the history of the reparations movement. She noted that white households on average own nine times more assets than Black households, California is the nation's sixth most segregated state in schooling, and Black people are highly overrepresented in foster care, juvenile proceedings, and both arrest and conviction rates.

Other topics included the backlash against critical race theory, racial exploitation in copyright law, police violence, and how 30-plus states have enacted rules limiting how racism is taught in schools.

"We're not recommending that California give money to Black Americans, we're recommending that it return money to Black Americans," said task force member Don Tamaki '76. "The cost of not reckoning with what has happened is far more costly than the cost of reparations. Society is paying for this every day in housing, health care, and more."

— *Andrew Cohen*

Preserving Treasured Legal History

In the summer of 2023, some 1,600 pounds of equipment began arriving at Berkeley Law’s Robbins Collection and Research Center, launching an ambitious project to digitize hundreds of manuscripts. The initiative will significantly expand the collection’s digital holdings — and access to its resources.

“This will preserve our rarest and most unique manuscripts for generations to come,” says Professor and Robbins Collection and Research Center Director Laurent Mayali. “The collection was established to promote and encourage comparative study in religious and civil law to solve the legal problems of today.”

More than 350 manuscript volumes — written in Latin, Italian, Greek, Hebrew, English, French, German, and Arabic — have been digitized, with the oldest dating to the 12th century. Comprising almost 200,000 pages, many of these manuscripts are extremely rare texts.

The project will take over a year to complete, and PDF versions will be available for research access by early 2025. The second phase of the project began digitizing all Robbins Collection books printed before



1500 in June.

“The recent global shutdown and the inability to travel for a substantial period had a significant impact on scholars,” says senior reference librarian Jennifer K. Nelson. “The question of access came front and center, motivating us to digitize those items that are unique to our collection.”

Dual overhead cameras, which use a specially designed book-cradle system, help protect the materials. Some manuscripts have burn holes, fragile binding, or extremely delicate paper — all of which require careful handling during the imaging process.

As Robbins Collection and Research Center Assistant Director Emily Best explains, “Our first priority is to ensure the safety and meticulous handling of our manuscripts.”

— Robbins Collection and Research Center staff

GOING DIGITAL: Specially designed equipment is used to carefully digitize scores of old and valued texts.



CAITLIN KELLER

No Coach, No Problem

GOLDEN TRIO:
(From left) Talented
advocates José
Rodríguez, Maripau
Paz, and Adriana
Hardwicke celebrate
their championship
showing in Seattle.

**Student-led team
wins annual
Hispanic National
Bar Association
moot court event**

A self-coached student trio vaulted Berkeley Law to victory at this year's Hispanic National Bar Association's Uvaldo Herrera Moot Court Competition, topping a field of 32 teams in Seattle to win scholarship money and bragging rights.

Adriana Hardwicke '24 and classmate Maripau Paz decided to team up after Hardwicke learned about



the annual contest. Hardwicke had competed on Berkeley's Moot Court Team, Paz had chosen the Trial Team route, and they joined forces with Harvard Law exchange student José Rodriguez to make history.

Because the group wasn't working through the school's Advocacy Competitions Program, they had to raise money for the entry fee and travel costs. The Student Association at Berkeley Law and the La Alianza Law Students Association helped sponsor them, and Dean Erwin Chemerinsky topped off the funding.

"I'm really proud that we didn't have a coach. All the other teams that made it to quarterfinals had someone leading them or telling them if their arguments were good or not," Paz says. "It was a lot of teamwork, but we also made up for not having a coach with a really intense mooting schedule. By the time we got to the competition we had done almost 30 moots, and we felt it wasn't our first time getting questions. I think that made us way more comfortable and ultimately more successful."

The competition's hypothetical problem concerned the constitutionality of a federal firearms statute and the applicability of another statute to the person indicted and convicted. After writing a brief for the respondent's side, the moots began — at least two each week with classmates, Criminal Law & Justice Center Executive Director Chesa Boudin, and various professors listening to their arguments, asking questions, and trying to poke holes in their reasoning.

The contest itself was also grueling, with multiple arguments over the first two days followed by the final argument on the third day — a big difference, Hardwicke says, from moot court competitions she'd done before.

While it was an intense time, the students say their diligent preparation gave them a big advantage. The competition also asks teams to be prepared to argue for either side, further raising the difficulty level.

"Not only did we have a lot of practice beforehand ... we were getting more practice throughout the competition every time we did it," Hardwicke says. "There was a long road to get to the finals."

Hardwicke, Paz, and Rodriguez decided that whoever won their own coin flip would pick whether they argued for the petitioner or the respondent after the competition's coin toss for each round.

"Basically every other team knew what side they wanted to argue because they knew which side they were better at," Rodriguez says. "But we just wanted



ON THE MIC: Earlier in the year, Paz moderated a panel discussion at Berkeley Law's California Racial Justice Act Symposium.

to make sure that each of us got an opportunity to argue."

Hardwicke, Paz, and Rodriguez say they got a lot of nice feedback from lawyers at the event, and from some real-life jurists who judged the competition — a rarity for moot court events and a big part of the contest's appeal, according to the students.

Looking forward, they'd like to see it become a tradition for a Berkeley Law team to compete each year, perhaps as part of the school's formal oral advocacy program and potentially with one or more of them as a coach.

"I hope it continues," Paz says. "I hope the legacy lives on." — *Gwyneth K. Shaw*

"I'm really proud that we didn't have a coach. All the other teams that made it to quarterfinals had someone leading them or telling them if their arguments were good or not."

— Maripau Paz '24

Family Plan

3L Addie Gilson blends scholarship with hands-on advocacy

Addie Gilson '25 was an undergraduate at Princeton when she got her first glimpse of the child welfare system. As a sociology major and a former camp counselor, she felt drawn to an internship with a law firm representing kids in foster care.

It was an eye-opening experience, she says — particularly seeing the experience of the parents.

"In my first week, I witnessed Child Protective Services remove a newborn child from her mother," Gilson says. "Before that day, I had only ever thought of the child welfare system in terms of the injustices

inflicted on children by their parents, not those imposed on families by the state.

"This new perspective captivated me."

She spent the rest of the internship talking with parents as much as she could during home visits and outside courtrooms. Gilson began to understand how the legal standards for child neglect mapped neatly onto the conditions of poverty, then went back to Princeton and turned those conversations into her senior thesis.

In between classes and other activities, she drove to laundromats, soup kitchens, churches, and community centers scattered throughout New Jersey. It was slow work at first, and she wondered whether she could get a statistically significant sample size.

But she kept showing up to wherever the parents wanted to meet — in libraries, fast-food restaurants, or at home — for interviews that often lasted several hours.

After graduation, Gilson worked with a Princeton sociology professor and a graduate student to expand her thesis, ultimately conducting 81 interviews and analyzing over 5,400 pages of transcripts using qualitative data analysis software.

Their article, which explores how kin networks impact parents' experiences in the child welfare system, was recently published in the *Journal of Marriage and Family*. It was no easy task for a full-time law student who also has dedicated a significant amount of time to the Family Defense Project — one of Berkeley Law's 40 Student-Initiated Legal Services Projects — which advocates for low-income parents involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in, dependency court proceedings.

Gilson came out of Princeton thinking she'd pursue academia but was confronted with the sense that as much as she liked research and writing, she wanted a career that would bring her closer to the people whose voices she sought to uplift and defend. After falling in love with the East Bay while working at the Alameda County Public Defender's Office, Berkeley Law's robust public interest offerings made the school feel like a perfect fit.

Now, Gilson is planning for a career in public defense — ideally in both family and criminal defense.

"I'm beyond thrilled that Berkeley Law is continuing to make room for family defense," she says. "This is an area of public interest law, beginning to gain national traction, that desperately needs committed, passionate advocates." — *Gwyneth K. Shaw*

HIGHER GROUND: 3L Addie Gilson scaled some tough obstacles to finish an eye-opening study on kin networks in the child welfare system.



**IN THE CLUB:**

Participant Annabelle Wilmott '22 says she's excited for the program's deep level of training and mentorship.

Seven Up

Berkeley Law lands most selections for California Attorney General Honors Program

Record-setting news continues to roll in for

Berkeley Law students and alums pursuing coveted public service positions, with a school-record seven selections to the California Attorney General Honors Program — more than any other law school.

The selections include 2024 graduates David Beglin, Truman Braslaw, Becky Hunter, Sierra Killian, and Amaya Ramsay-Malone, as well as Brandy Doyle '22 and classmate Annabelle Wilmott. The highly competitive program enables recent law school graduates and newly admitted lawyers who are committed to a career in public service to work with

experts on vital issues in criminal justice, consumer protection, environmental preservation, and more.

"Berkeley Law's public interest counselors played a critical role by helping me prepare my personal statement, answering questions about the application, conducting mock interviews, and providing needed guidance and reassurance," Braslaw says. Lecturer Ted Mermin '96 also "encouraged me to seek public sector work and took time out of his busy schedule to meet with me individually about the Honors Program."

Supporting policies and initiatives that are administered by state agencies, the recipients will work in the Attorney General's Office in either San Francisco or Sacramento — drafting legal pleadings, getting courtroom experience, and receiving hands-on training, career development programming, and mentorship.

Hunter will join the Environment Section; Braslaw and Killian the Health, Education & Welfare Section; Doyle and Wilmott the Civil Rights Enforcement Section; Ramsay-Malone the Land Use & Conservation Section; and Beglin the Consumer Protection Section.

Ramsay-Malone relishes how entry-level attorneys in the office regularly take on substantial roles in important cases, and the prospect of learning quickly from experts in the field about how to effectively litigate and advocate on behalf of California residents.

"I'm a lifelong Californian and have lived all over the state, so I'm excited at the opportunity to serve fellow Californians and hope to bring that unique perspective to my work," she says.

Beglin credits several Berkeley Law experiences for paving his path to the program: doing a field placement semester at the California Department of Justice's Worker Rights and Fair Labor Section, volunteering at the Workers' Rights Clinic, and taking the State and Local Impact Litigation Practicum.

Doyle says she always knew she'd go into public interest law. But she never considered working in government before a recommendation from Berkeley Law Field Placement Program Director Sue Schechter led to a rewarding internship in the Attorney General's Office during her last year of law school, prompting her to explore the Honors Program.

"I also got support and tips from recent Berkeley Law grads; it was a big help to connect with other alumni in the program," Doyle says. "There's so much great work happening, and I was excited to see how the office takes on some of the same problems I'd tackled as an advocate earlier in my career."

— *Andrew Cohen*



International Impact

LL.M. students' pro bono participation grows, paying major dividends

During their full academic year on campus, LL.M. students on our traditional track select courses from the menu offered across all Berkeley Law degree programs — and get involved in a wide variety of activities and opportunities.

More and more, they're gravitating toward the Pro Bono Program, Director Deborah Schlosberg says: 80 LL.M. students graduated in May with Pro Bono Honors for completing at least 25 hours of service work. There's been particular growth in their participation with the 40 Student-Initiated Legal Services Projects and the Berkeley Law Alternative Service Trips, which happen over spring break in locations across the country.

"We're thrilled with the expansion of LL.M. student engagement in the Pro Bono Program," Schlosberg says. "Our commitment to access to justice extends beyond the local community. When our international students adopt our mission and take it forward, both within the United States and in their home countries, we're able to carry forward our public interest mission on a global stage."

As a non-native English speaker coming to an American campus, Mona Tao LL.M. '24 wanted to explore as much of what Berkeley Law had to offer as possible. She joined the student-led La Alianza Workers' and Tenants' Rights Clinic and also worked with Legal Access Alameda, the pro bono arm of the Alameda County Bar Association.

Like many Berkeley Law students, Tao wanted to do pro bono work to get practical experience outside the classroom. She found it paid dividends in other ways, too.

STEPPING UP: 2024 LL.M. graduates Mona Tao and Roger Huang worked with the student-led La Alianza Workers' and Tenants' Rights Clinic.

"Pro bono work often involves interacting with diverse clients from different cultural backgrounds. This experience helped me develop a deeper understanding of cultural differences and communication skills, which I believe is valuable in any legal practice, especially when dealing with clients from varied backgrounds," she says. "Second, pro bono work allowed me to gain practical experience and insights beyond the classroom ... These experiences deepened my understanding of the law in our daily lives."

Roger Huang LL.M. '24 had already done pro bono work at home in China, and found it to be a defining moment for him as a lawyer. He wanted to continue that at Berkeley Law, particularly after talking to student leaders from the Workers' and Tenants' Rights Clinic, who captivated him with stories of assisting clients and said they particularly needed students who spoke Cantonese, Huang's native language.

"Inequality still exists in every aspect of our lives. Uneven allocation and distribution of resources widen the gaps and foster discord among us," he says. "That's precisely why I see pro bono work as a powerful tool for advocacy and a means to foster social equality.

"I firmly believe that all legal practitioners, including lawyers and students, have a responsibility to improve society, and engaging in pro bono activities is a vital way to do just that."
— Gwyneth K. Shaw

An Uphill Climb

Berkeley Law's national workshop confronts challenges for Latina law professors

The silent responses spoke volumes. During the Graciela Olivárez Latinas in the Legal Academy Workshop — held this year at Berkeley Law — former UCLA Law dean Rachel Moran asked: "How many of you are the only Latinas on your faculty?" A number of hands went up. "How many of you are one of two?" A few hands went up. "How many of you are one of three?" A couple hands went up. "Anyone here one of four or more?" No hands went up.

"That's problematic — we're always an outlier because of these demographics of the faculty population. You deal with struggles not being normative

COMMON GROUND: Temple University's Evelyn Rangel-Medina '14 (center) and Rachel López (right) enjoy a light moment with Seattle University's Nazune Menka.



in your own institution," Moran said.

Dozens of Latina law professors from across the country gathered for the two-day event to discuss such challenges and brainstorm strategies for collective and professional development, with leaders of Berkeley Law's Clinical Program helping to coordinate and lead conference panels.

While Latine students make up about 14% of the law student population, diversity in faculty and senior-level leadership positions — especially Latina representation — lags far behind. Latinas comprise less than 2% of tenured and tenure-track law professors and only a handful have served as law school deans.

Panelists described structural problems Latina academics face, which result in career-long challenges, and addressed the need to prod law schools to hire and nurture talented underrepresented faculty — in particular those who bring perspectives historically excluded from the legal academy.

"Who's in the room making faculty hiring and curriculum decisions is really important," said Berkeley Law Professor Victoria Plaut, UC Berkeley's vice provost for the faculty. "Participate in faculty governance to help shape the policies of your institution. It can feel like invisible and uncredited work serving on such committees, and it can be a hard position to be in, yet it has to be done and done well."

Participants described a lack of institutional recognition that faculty priorities should include supporting and mentoring students from underrepresented backgrounds, and how such work is rarely seen as a form of leadership.

They also discussed growing attacks on diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts at universities and elsewhere, and on teaching critical race theory. One participant described needing a police escort to her classroom after receiving threats from a neo-Nazi group for addressing race issues in class. Another was stopped by a campus security officer when returning her robe after her school's commencement; when she asked two white colleagues of a similar age if the same thing happened to them, they said no.

"There are many ways that people subtly let us know they don't want us here," said keynote speaker and U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Ana de Alba '07 (see page 24). "But we didn't get this far to just stop at the door."

— *Andrew Cohen*



More Than a Pet Project



ON THE FARM: (From left) Krishna Desai '25, Abraham Brauner '24, and Taj Uppal '24 have helped Berkeley Law's Animal Legal Defense Fund expand awareness of animal rights issues and their nexus with other social justice concerns.

Animal Legal Defense Fund students push for lasting change

For Taj Uppal '24, kickstarting Berkeley Law's dormant Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) soon after enrolling felt more like a calling than a decision.

"It breaks my heart to contemplate the vastness of animal suffering," he says. "I see animal rights as the moral blindspot of our generation."

Uppal, Abraham Brauner '24, and current group leader Krishna Desai '25 worked vigilantly to broaden awareness of ALDF's robust programming and Plant-Based Berkeley Law campaign, and how animal rights issues connect with other social justice concerns.

One event featured activist and former Mexican slaughterhouse worker Susana Chavez and UC Berkeley School of Journalism Professor Andrés Cediél, whose documentary *Trafficked in America*

chronicles a group of Guatemalan teens who were smuggled into America and forced to work on an Ohio egg farm.

ALDF also connects students to animal law attorneys and careers, and strives to learn from previous social justice efforts, including the women's suffrage and civil rights movements.

"The meat industry's deliberate veil of secrecy includes unconstitutional 'ag gag' laws that prevent people from finding out about their atrocities," Brauner says. "Industry wants to keep this out of sight and out of mind, because they know the vast majority of people would be outraged if they found out."

Desai relishes seeing how animal rights concerns unite people across races, birthplaces, and religions. Unaware of animal law until coming to Berkeley Law, she now finds it "just the kind of radical lawyering I came here wanting to do" and says law school "is about more than just getting the best grades and the gold stars and the big firm job."

An estimated 10 billion animals are slaughtered each year in the United States, 99% of them raised on factory farms. ALDF leaders say America's food system is built around this exploitation — but that when activists discuss it, people often feel personally attacked about their own diets and judged if they're not vegan.

"We need to flip the social norms, expand plant-based nutrition, and put plant-based foods on every shelf of every grocery store," Uppal says. "Only then will we be able to create a world where the default option is also the ethical option."

Toward this end, the group collaborates and co-sponsors events with several student organizations that focus on the environment, migration, labor, and more.

"By teaming up with folks fighting for other causes, we can tackle things from all angles," says Desai, who helped undocumented migrant laborers at Mississippi poultry plants before law school and heard harrowing depictions of grueling labor, jarring deboning and defeathering tasks, and common sexual harassment. "Animal rights doesn't exist in a bubble."

Says Brauner, "The struggle for animal rights is part of the same struggles that so many in the Berkeley Law community care about."

— *Andrew Cohen*



GUIDING THE WAY: Assistant Dean Adam Sterling '13, here teaching his first Leadership Laboratory class of the fall semester, spearheads Berkeley Law's unique leadership program.



Painting a New Picture of Leadership

Berkeley Law's multipronged initiative is designed to help students become effective leaders in all sectors — and all levels — of their future work.

BY ANDREW COHEN



The phrase “Leaders in the Law” evokes some well-grooved images. A gray-haired managing partner in his tailored suit, arms crossed. A star litigator holding court before a rapt jury. A glib sports agent smiling at the press conference for a client’s lucrative NFL contract.

But in crafting its ambitious new leadership program, Berkeley Law wants to paint a much different picture — one that recognizes how leadership skills permeate

all sectors and all levels of legal work. Third-year law firm attorneys frequently oversee a first-year associate, paralegal, and secretary on cases. Young nonprofit lawyers are often asked to enlist support from outside organizations. Judicial clerks regularly take the reins on drafting opinions.

“We designed this program to ensure that our students aren’t just effective lawyers, but effective leaders,” says Adam Sterling ’13, the school’s assistant dean for executive education. “Berkeley Law graduates should be capable of guiding teams, making strategic decisions, and driving organizational

growth. Moreover, they must be able to tackle societal issues with innovative solutions.”

Sterling worked closely with Berkeley Law senior administrators and outside practitioners to develop the initiative’s core components. They include a leadership academy with an inaugural cohort of 11 students selected from the incoming 1L class (see page 26), a leadership certificate available to all students, a growing slate of relevant courses, and a new Certificate of Specialization in AI Law and Regulation for LL.M. students.

Establishing a leadership program has long been a priority for Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, who asked Sterling to oversee its launch in September 2023. The head of Berkeley Law’s prolific executive education program and former executive director of the school’s Berkeley Center for Law and Business, Sterling is steering toward two objectives.

The first, he explains, is to empower students and alumni who are interested in leadership opportunities that go beyond traditional legal roles. The second is to provide all students with the leadership training needed to become successful attorneys — regardless of where they start or finish their careers.

“This program will support our existing leadership offerings, including work from our research centers, clinics, practicums, executive education, field placements, Pro Bono Program, journals, and student groups,” Chemerinsky said. “I’m very excited about it and how it will enhance the learning experience for our students.

“I long have believed that law schools need to do a better job of training the next generation of leaders. This new initiative will help Berkeley Law students develop the skills to become effective leaders in every area of law, and it will provide a model for other law schools as well.”

Curriculum push

Berkeley Law has added two new courses on leadership this year. During the fall semester, Sterling is teaching Leadership Laboratory — designed similarly to a business school entrepreneurship course.

Students identify public or private sector challenges with a nexus to the law, interview key stakeholders connected to the given challenge, and work in teams to develop real-world solutions. Each class includes a mix of lectures and exercises related to leadership as well as opportunities to work on group projects.

In the spring semester, lecturer Rebecca Portnoy will teach Leading People. A required course at Berkeley’s Haas School of Business, it leverages behavioral and social science to provide a framework for leadership and management. Portnoy currently teaches the Haas course and will adapt it for law students.

Also in the spring semester, The Business of the Legal Profession will be taught by Orrick Chair and CEO Mitch Zuklie ’96 and former HP Chief Legal Officer Harvey Anderson. The course will illuminate the fundamentals, disruptors, tools, and attributes needed to become a high-impact professional.

“With more than 60 years of combined experience, Mitch and I want to augment traditional ‘legal’ learning with some of the skills common among the most successful practitioners that derive from behavioral rather than legal mechanics,” Anderson says. “In short, ‘how to not think like a lawyer.’”

By expanding course offerings focused on various aspects of leadership needed across the legal profession, Berkeley Law seeks to cultivate skills that give graduates a beneficial advantage early in their wide-ranging professions.

“Our alums so often end up in leadership positions because they have the skills and the determination to seek out those roles, and people around them recognize those attributes,” says Professor Jonathan D. Glater, the associate dean of J.D. curriculum and teaching. “With this program explicitly focused on preparing students for such opportunities in and adjacent to law, they will be even better prepared to seize them.”

Leadership academy

The new academy is designed for students interested in pursuing an array of leadership roles, from government officials and judges to nonprofit executives and startup founders. Going forward, prospective students will be able to apply for a spot as part of their Berkeley Law application.

With around 10 first-year students each year, chosen in collaboration with the admissions department, the academy will provide scholarship support, special programming, coaching, and mentorship. Last June, the inaugural cohort had a memorable kickoff Zoom meeting with Sterling and Texas Congressman Colin Allred — a 2014 Berkeley Law graduate and former NFL player now running for the U.S. Senate.

Allred described how pivotal Berkeley Law was in his career arc, the importance of meaningful relationships he built there, and how leadership skills are vital throughout all aspects of one’s professional path.

Reflecting the wide-ranging interests of the school’s overall student body, the first academy cohort includes an accomplished documentary filmmaker, a counter-disinformation startup researcher, a nonprofit program manager who helped build micro-libraries in prisons across the U.S., and the founder of a mentorship program for young women in technology.

Many cohort members cite Berkeley Law’s leadership within legal education and across the legal marketplace as a major draw for applying and enrolling.

“I chose Berkeley Law because I want my perspective as a future legal professional to be shaped by a forward-thinking and innovative academic environment,” says Lauren Weiss. “I’m thrilled to pursue opportunities that complement my entrepreneurial background and studies, and I’m excited to join a community of like-minded peers equally passionate about leveraging technology and innovation to address complex legal challenges.”

Academy members also point to the school’s public mission and concerted effort to develop leaders from all backgrounds

— across all areas of legal work — as incentives to choose Berkeley Law.

“I found the culture of collaboration and commitment to public service deeply compatible with what I want from a law education,” says Peter Clune. “It’s an elite institution with a gravity of opportunity and access that doesn’t always pair with that sort of culture.”

Timely AI certificate

Berkeley Law’s innovative new LL.M. Certificate of Specialization in AI Law and Regulation will be available to students in the LL.M. executive track, which is offered over two summers or through remote study combined with one summer on campus. The curriculum for the new certificate was designed in consultation with an advisory group of industry leaders, including Meta Director and Associate General Counsel Nikki Vo, ACLU Technology Civil Liberties Director Nicole Ozer ’03, California State Senate AI Advisor Irene Liu ’06, and Anthropic General Counsel Brian Israel ’09.

Those looking to pivot their career focus to artificial intelligence, or enhance their existing practice, will be able to learn from an industry-endorsed AI foundation focused on building core skills and knowledge in areas including data privacy, intellectual property (IP), licensing, and risk.

Regularly hailed for having the nation’s top IP program, Berkeley Law’s proximity to Silicon Valley helped fuel the new certificate offering as it helps bring in practitioners who are grappling in real time with legal issues introduced by AI and other emerging technologies.

“This is the first-ever law degree with a focus in artificial intelligence,” Sterling says. “Students will learn from faculty, practitioner-lecturers, and guest speakers on key topics such as AI ethics, the history and technology of AI, its public interest implications, and the worldwide efforts to regulate it, such as the 2024 EU AI Act.”

The certificate course list features Law and Governance of Artificial



LEADING LIGHTS: Professor Colleen V. Chien '02 is teaching Law and Governance of Artificial Intelligence, a required course for the new LL.M. Certificate of Specialization in AI Law and Regulation. (Below) Dean Erwin Chemerinsky foresees the new leadership initiative giving students a vital leg up early in their careers.



Intelligence, taught by Professor Colleen V. Chien '02 — one of the 20 most cited IP and cyberlaw scholars in the United States. One focus of her new class will be how AI is transforming the practice of law, and the opportunities AI and automation technologies offer to ameliorate or exacerbate existing inequalities in the practice of law, including the access to justice gap.

"All around us, we see how AI is being used to make crucial decisions in virtually every aspect of our lives," Chien says.

"We use it to determine who gets bail, who gets hired, who gets what medical treatments, and the list goes on. It's important that our students become fluent with AI technologies not only to learn how law and policy are being developed around them, but also how they're being applied, regulated, and governed to help mitigate AI's harms and maximize its benefits."

Other anticipated courses for the certificate include AI Ethics, AI Licensing, Pro-Innovation Risk Analysis for Lawyers,

From the Fields to the Federal Bench

The daughter of Mexican immigrant farm workers, Ana de Alba '07 spent summers toiling in the fields with her parents as early as age 6 — often lacking access to clean water and regularly seeing supervisors harass her mother. When she helped her mother clean houses, she recalls the owners at times following them from room to room, worried they might steal something.

After earning scholarships to UC Berkeley and then Berkeley Law, de Alba returned to California's Central Valley. She represented low-wage and immigrant workers, persuaded her firm to expand its pro bono work, and

became the first Latina partner in its 63-year history.

Named a Fresno County Superior Court judge in 2018, de Alba reached the federal bench in 2022 as the Eastern District of California's first Latina judge. Last year, she joined the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

At a professional lunch event early in her career, uncertain of the table setting protocol, de Alba took another person's bread and felt humiliated by her mistake and the woman's curt reaction. A decade later, she returned to the same event — as its keynote speaker.

Here, de Alba shares her views on leadership in the law:

Looking back at my career's trajectory, leaders I admire have shared two main attributes: confidence and accessibility. They know how to do their job and are patient enough to teach others, humble enough to attribute success to the team, and confident enough to recognize when it's time for someone else to lead.

Not surprisingly, they also share access — to information, to spaces not always available to everyone, to educational opportunities, and to themselves and others as mentors.

Stepping into a leadership role happens quite early in the practice of law. Whether you work in private practice, for

CELEBRATION: Judge de Alba (left) rejoices with the family of a new lawyer (third from left) that she just swore in.

HUMBLE ROOTS: Judge Ana de Alba '07 grew up in a 500-square-foot house with no insulation in Merced County with her parents and three brothers. She slept in a sleeping bag on the floor.



PHILIP PACHECO (SWEARING IN); COURTESY OF ANA DE ALBA '07 (HOME)

AI for the People, and Global Regulation of AI.

"This program will equip participants with in-depth knowledge of the ethical, regulatory, and policy challenges posed by AI," Sterling says. "It will focus on building practice skills to help them strategically advise and capably represent leading law firms and AI companies."

New initiatives

The faculty will consider a proposal for a new leadership certificate that will be available to all students, allowing them to receive recognition for successful completion of a rigorous course of study and extracurricular activities around leadership.



KEEPSAKE: One of many thank-you notes the judge gets from students after school field trips.

the government, or in the public interest, you're often tasked with supervising paralegals, secretaries, community outreach coordinators, or more junior associates. They all look to you for guidance, and the way you interact with them will directly impact their futures.

As a young lawyer, I gained faith in my skills and instincts from senior partners who gave me constructive feedback, supported my ideas, and engaged in open dialogue. They also helped me understand a new world and navigate its, at times, treacherous waters.

My parents didn't go past elementary school. Their employment was field and cannery work, along with some house-cleaning gigs. Luckily, my firm had senior partners who saw my "ganas" (desire) to succeed and opened space for me to grow. I had a child, became an equity shareholder, and started a pro bono and plaintiff-side employment practice.

When I left to become a judge, I wanted to pay it forward.

As a judge on the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the impact a federal clerkship can have on a young attorney's career isn't lost on me. And as a first-generation professional Latina with poor immigrant parents, I know how hard it



INVESTED: Judge de Alba meets often in her Fresno chambers with a diverse roster of clerks and other staff that she works closely with and regularly mentors.

can be to succeed in these spaces. So my approach to hiring law clerks is a bit unconventional as I don't limit my pool to top law schools or students who graduated atop their law school class.

That's not to say grades and rank don't matter, but I look at the applicant as a whole. Are they the first in their families to attend graduate school? Did they have to work during law school to make ends meet or help support their families? Is English their second language? Were their law school choices limited because of circumstances beyond their control?

Once they're hired, I keep an open-door policy and expect the clerks to interact with everyone in chambers daily. This builds confidence in their abilities, improves their communication skills, and

fosters a good working environment.

They also help me host local school field trips to the courthouse. Being in California's Central Valley lets me connect with people who may not otherwise interact with the legal system — and may not think about it as a possible career.

Most of the kids and I share similar traits, and I enjoy telling my story, showing a photo of my childhood house, and reminding them that where they start in life doesn't need to dictate where they end up. I get wonderful feedback from the schools, and many now make it an annual field trip.

By creating these kinds of opportunities for clerks and rural children, I hope to help pave the way for an entirely new generation of attorneys who will bring a different perspective to the practice of law.

In order to earn the certificate, students must take either Leadership Laboratory or Leading People and complete two other elective courses related to leadership or participate in a clinic, practicum, or field placement, and submit a memo summarizing their leadership journey.

Having developed several leadership-focused courses for practitioners through its executive education program, Berkeley Law is eager to ramp up its pragmatic offerings for students. While legal acumen is vital for professional growth, it's not the only piece of the puzzle.

"Developing strong managerial and interpersonal skills is an important part of succeeding in the practice of law, and not just later in one's career," Chemerinsky says.

To propel its new initiative, Berkeley Law aims to raise \$1 million over five years for a student leadership support fund that spurs curriculum development and programming. The funding will also support scholarships for students who express interest in and demonstrate capacity for transformational leadership.

"Over the past century, many of the most important and impactful political, social, and business leaders have been lawyers, and that continues today in government, foreign affairs, philanthropy, corporations, and law firms," says American Airlines Chief Strategy Officer Stephen Johnson '83, who donated to the campaign. "However, that has mostly been fortuitous with brilliant lawyers stepping into the breach and deftly addressing society's most challenging problems.

"Adam's initiative seeks to make that process considerably more deliberate by selecting young lawyers who want to serve society, helping them recognize, foster, and develop their leadership acumen skills, and jump-starting their careers as our next generation's lawyer leaders."



First Class

Berkeley Law's new leadership academy will include annual cohorts of selected incoming 1Ls, chosen in consultation with the admissions team, who want to pursue varying leadership roles. They will receive scholarship support, leadership programming, coaching, and mentorship. Here's a look at the inaugural group:

Peter Clune

- Accomplished documentary filmmaker who has worked on projects that premiered at major film festivals including Sundance, and on projects for Netflix, HBO, Apple TV, PBS, Hulu, Showtime, and more.
- "My favorite projects have shed light on systemic injustice: exploitation and abuse within a polygamous Mormon sect, sexual abuse and manipulation in the entertainment industry, and the U.S. practice of sentencing children to die in prison through juvenile life without parole sentences."

Viktor Dimas

- Worked for a London-based counter-disinformation startup researching methodologies used to manipulate social media users, compiling over 60 data-driven reports.

- "Through the leadership academy, I hope to convert the skills I acquire through my legal education into actionable initiatives, with the support of Berkeley's extensive alumni network. As an international student, I'm particularly interested in grappling with issues that, despite their U.S. origin, have a global impact."

Claire Elliman

- Wrote a prize-winning dissertation on the future of higher education in U.K. prisons, was a paralegal at the New York Legal Aid Society's Parole Revocation Defense Unit, and helped install 500-book collections in U.S. prisons as a program manager at the nonprofit Freedom Reads.
- "I appreciate the additional community that this new leadership initiative will provide, and all the opportunities for

NEW ARRIVALS: (Left to right) Front row: Peter Clune, Sky Karp. Middle row: Rachel Rood-Ojalvo, Sophie Kupetz, Rena Kaur McRoy, Claire Elliman, Michelle Pyke. Back row: Lauren Weiss, Viktor Dimas, Elena Fabian, Arthur Filppu.

growth, both professional and personal, that accompany conversations with leaders in their fields.”

Elena Fabian

- Held firmware engineering and computer science internships, advancing product development for vehicle localization (now in consideration for patenting), and conducted research on individuals’ control over privacy in internet-connected technologies.
- “I chose Berkeley Law because it was collaborative and a leader in intellectual property. Before my final decision, I even had a professor talk me through other tech-law intersections that might interest me and advance my career. I plan to explore privacy, cybersecurity, and internet regulation.”

Arthur Filppu

- Worked as a technology risk analyst at Deloitte & Touche — honing his interest in the intersection of technology and law, legal issues related to AI, and entrepreneurial startups — and taught reading skills at underserved elementary schools in Los Angeles.

- “I’m looking forward to helping make this pioneering leadership program a success now and secure its future. I plan to join the *Berkeley Technology Law Journal* and work closely with the Berkeley Center for Law & Technology and its associated programs and events.”

Sky Karp

- Was a paralegal in the Consumer Protection Division of the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office — where he advanced investigations and litigation related to tenant rights, debt collection, vehicle sales, financial technology, and immigration law — after being a paralegal at the National Immigrant Justice Center.
- “I hope to foster community with other students and create even more opportunities for Berkeley students to use their legal toolkit to support and strengthen social movements.”

Sophie Kupetz

- Developed a high school curriculum on slavery’s history in New England, was a client advocate at a Texas county’s Public Defender’s Office, and worked for a client-centered, mitigation-focused federal criminal defense lawyer in New York.
- “I hope to think critically and creatively about the law with a community of students, faculty, and practitioners who bring their unique and less traditional experiences and lenses to legal work ... and practice ways to use the law’s tools to intervene in the rigid legal system.”

Rena Kaur McRoy

- Spent last year as a legal assistant at an immigration law office in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and during college worked as a sustainability peer educator and as an environmental intern for Washtenaw County.
- “I chose Berkeley Law for its emphasis on public service, the early engagement students have with activities (including journals and the Student-Initiated Legal Services Projects), and

its excellent environmental law offerings. It seems like there’s such a diverse array of passions and experiences.”

Michelle Pyke

- Advanced from intern to senior research manager within three years at Edelman Data & Intelligence in San Francisco and awarded the “Relentless Pursuit of Excellence” for exceptional client services.
- “I’ve always been interested in exploring alternative career paths to better suit my preferences and finding avenues that account for my interdisciplinary education. I’m hoping to continue using this lens looking ahead to my career in the law, and believe Berkeley Law’s new leadership initiative offers an opportunity to do just that.”

Rachel Rood-Ojalvo

- Worked for more than two years at an education nonprofit in Mexico City, helping high school students develop tools to succeed in college, while conducting research for a Harvard sociology project investigating the global history of policing and prison.
- “I hope to combine my background in prison policy and Spanish fluency to pursue crimmigration law (combating the criminalization of immigration). I’m excited about clinical work on immigration, student groups like the Berkeley Immigration Group, and courses like Citizenship and Immigration.”

Lauren Weiss

- Spent two years in London as a software engineering consultant (full-time) and legal editor (part-time), and founded a mentorship program for young women in technology that secured over \$15,000 in seed funding.
- “I hope that participating in this new leadership initiative will give me the confidence and resources to pursue my ongoing passion for community-building initiatives while in law school, including the launch of a dating app for people who want to meet offline.”

Photo Essay

Law School Life
Through the Lens



BRITTANY HOSEA-SMALL



Heartfelt Connection

1L Khiari Neal (right) shared a powerful moment with United States District Court Judge Trina Thompson '86 at the Oath of Professionalism during orientation in August.

"It felt like divine timing and was a full-circle validating experience for me," says Neal, who like Thompson grew up in West Oakland and was a first-generation college student.

In 2017, at age 16, Neal completed Berkeley Law's Center for Youth Development Through Law program. The annual eight-week summer program welcomes 25 to 30 area high school students from disadvantaged backgrounds, who immerse themselves in paid law-related internships and classes at the law school that integrate a pragmatic curriculum focused on critical thinking and communication skills. College advisors and financial aid experts are also brought in, and follow-up mentoring is provided.

Neal is now an alumni board member for the program, which celebrated its 25th anniversary on Sept. 20 with California Supreme Court Justice Kelli Evans speaking at the reception.

"More than 92 percent of our participants have attended higher education," says Nancy Schiff, who directs the center. "We are committed to fostering civic engagement and providing transformative opportunities to local first-generation youth like Khiari, so they can pursue their dreams of a law career and community leadership."



VICTORIOUS

Players, cheerleaders, and supporters celebrate Berkeley Law's impressive performance.

A Winning Event

Amid an electric atmosphere, the inaugural "Order on the Court" basketball game between Berkeley Law and Stanford Law students was a huge success — especially for the home team and its raucous fans packed into Berkeley High School's gym. Highly competitive and collaborative, the game raised

funds to help current and graduating students from both schools pursue public interest law careers and pro bono projects.

Balanced scoring, stellar defense, and boisterous support fueled a 53-43 victory for Berkeley Law, which overcame a 6-foot-10 opponent who played college

BRITTANY HOSEA/SMALL



TENACIOUS D

Daniel deButts '25 and Leila Nasrolahi '24 display the team's relentless defensive pressure.



SPIRIT SQUAD

Metyia Phillips '26 and her cheer teammates performed a halftime routine to a mashup of songs by Travis Scott, GloRilla, Nicki Minaj, Beyonce, and Lil Uzi Vert.

basketball at Texas A&M and Stanford's 32-9 edge in free-throw attempts.

Hannah Naylor '24 initially presented the idea after a friend had informed her about an annual fundraising game between law students from New York University and Columbia. She then successfully

pitched it to leaders of the Student Association at Berkeley Law.

"I thought it would be amazing to bring a similar event to the Bay Area where two great law schools could convene annually for friendly competition and to raise money for public interest work at each school," Naylor says.



SCAN TO SEE THE PHOTO GALLERY

Civility Across the Political Divide

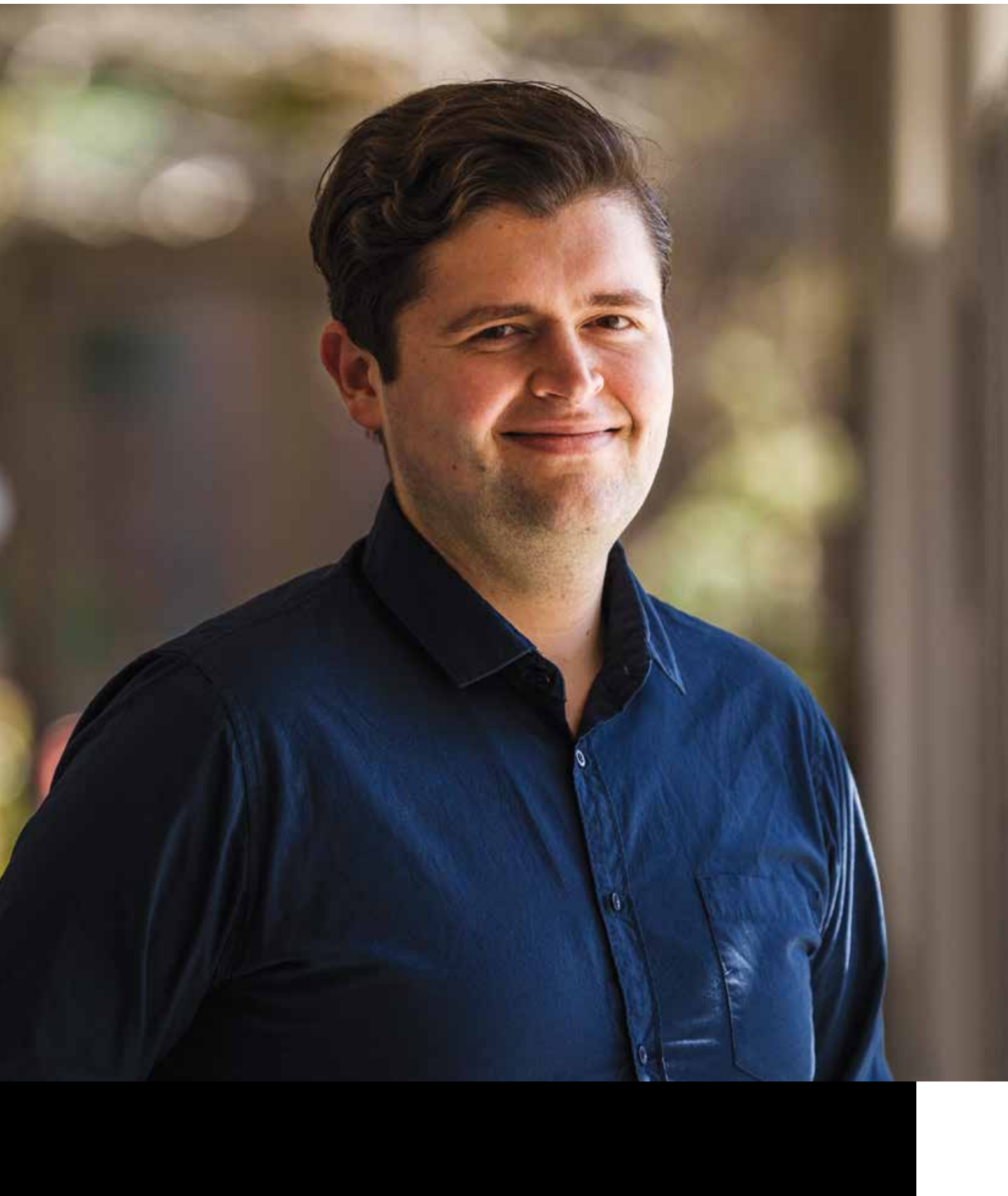
Maguire Radosevic '24 grew up in a Kansas City home where politics and religion were regular dinner table topics. His parents welcomed skepticism and disagreement, and he competed in debate and mock trial in high school. But when he was admitted to Berkeley Law, some in his circle worried that his perspective would not be tolerated.

"Would I make any friends? Would I be shunned if I expressed conservative views? Would I be able to handle a submersion into an environment so different from the one in which I had lived my whole life?"

But Radosevic, who led Berkeley Law's Federalist Society chapter as a 3L, says he could freely exchange ideas. Some students invited him to coffee or lunch so they could learn more about what he believed. Amid rampant talk that America is irretrievably polarized, he found tremendous satisfaction in those discussions.

"I never turned down an opportunity like that," says Radosevic, now clerking for Stephen Clark, chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri. "My friends and I usually ended these conversations still in disagreement, but we also left with an increased level of understanding and respect for each other."





Student Life

Emma Rodríguez '24 was one of several students who displayed their tattoos and discussed their meaning for #BerkeleyLawInk, a segment of our #BerkeleyLawRepresent series shared through the school's social media.

Rodríguez learned that their first tattoo ("She persisted") is shared by their best friend from law school.

"I find designing tattoos and the actual process of getting tattooed to be extremely therapeutic, very cathartic, and joyous," says Rodríguez, a studio art major in college who drew most of their other tattoos.



DARIUS RILEY (RODRIGUEZ)



Bex Grayzel-Ward '26, profiled in our Student Summer Work Series on the Berkeley Law homepage, externed for Judge Julia Ludwig at Austria's Federal Administrative Court in Vienna. A past Fulbright recipient and current Human Rights Center researcher, Grayzel-Ward worked mostly on asylum and data protection cases.

"Given the current global conflict and the continued rise of climate refugees, gaining a deeper understanding of how asylum works in international practice is critical," says Grayzel-Ward, who wants to work in international human rights law. "I am very grateful to have this amazing opportunity."

‘A Thread of Advocacy Around the World’

After a quarter century of pathbreaking international work, the Human Rights Clinic expands its domestic agenda.

By Gwyneth K. Shaw

WHEN BERKELEY LAW HIRED PROFESSOR LAUREL Fletcher for its inaugural in-house clinic, the phrase “human rights” in the United States conjured images of abuses on foreign soil, from brutal regimes in Central and South America to ethnic and religious discrimination in far-flung corners of the globe.

“The original conception of human rights work popularized by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch focused on the foreign policy of the U.S. and other powerful Western states,” Fletcher says. “International advocates put a big emphasis on strengthening international norms and institutions as a way to enforce universal rights.”

Over the past 10 to 15 years, changes in the geopolitical realm, the rise of authoritarianism across the globe, and a fresh perspective on domestic policies have shifted the landscape. Some of the clinic’s students — nearly 500 have participated over 25 years — also have different priorities, and the clinic has evolved to keep pace.

With the International Human Rights Law Clinic’s 25th anniversary just past and Fletcher stepping away from sharing the co-director role with Professor Roxanna Altholz ’99 to take on new challenges (see page 39), the timing seemed right for a

TYLOR NORWOOD



NEW PATHS:
Professors Laurel Fletcher (left) and Roxanna Altholz '99, co-leaders of the International Human Rights Law Clinic for the past six years. Altholz now directs the renamed Human Rights Clinic as Fletcher starts a new clinic.

moniker that resonates with the altered terrain. Moving forward, the Human Rights Clinic will keep its basic mission while expanding its domestic agenda, with Altholz the sole director.

"The clinic has done a lot of work on human rights in the United States, and has started doing more and more work in support of policy advocacy, so the name change is about cementing the direction the clinic has been moving in for quite a while," Altholz says.

She worked in the clinic as a law student, returning in 2005 as a lecturer before becoming co-director in 2018.

"We're removing the words 'international' and 'law' in recognition of our work to address human rights violations in the United States and the range of strategies we use to advance justice," Altholz says. "'Human Rights Clinic' is a more capacious name that reflects the diversity of our partnerships, methods, and projects."

Students and activists are tapping into the erosion of democracy in the United States, Fletcher says, which has changed their perspective on what "human rights" means.

"This resonates differently now, with social movements utilizing them in the United States and forming global networks anchored in the idea of transnational solidarity."

BUILDING BRIDGES

The clinic's roots are in legal work on behalf of immigrants and refugees. From the early 1980s, now-Clinical Professor Emerita Patty Blum supervised students working on asylum cases while also teaching immigration, refugee, and international human rights law. Those early ventures — run out of her office — helped set the table for the 1998 creation of what's now the school's robust Clinical Program.

"I had already been directing refugee and asylum clinics, and I benefited from the expansion of the Clinical Program at Berkeley Law to broaden my clinic's mandate to include international human rights law projects and litigation," says Blum, who retired from the school in 2003. "That moment was a turning point for the law school and ripe for creativity and experimentation."

Once the clinic became official, Blum continued the direct



TEAMING UP: Altholz (left) and Ana Lorena Delgadillo of clinic partner Fundación Para la Justicia (Foundation for Justice) in Mexico.


representation of asylum seekers under its umbrella. In the succeeding years, the clinic engaged in other endeavors with a domestic angle: An innovative two-year study of former prisoners in the U.S. government's detention facility at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. A report and policy work to support anti-trafficking legislation in California. An examination of the human rights impact of unsolved murders in Oakland, which drew national attention and sharpened Altholz's interest in similar projects.

While the clinic's scope will be different, Altholz emphasizes that two of its hallmarks — strong partnerships with organizations outside the law school and a deep commitment to training students while creating a community within their ranks — will remain unchanged. With Fletcher's departure, the clinic will have two supervising attorneys, Radhika Kapoor and Helen Kerwin, working with Altholz.

"Our longstanding partnerships with organizations and people have always informed how and why we do the work," Altholz says.

For example, the clinic has worked for years with Alliance San Diego — run by Executive Director Andrea Guerrero '99, Altholz's law school classmate — on litigation on behalf of the family of Anastasio Hernandez Rojas, who was beaten to death by U.S. Border Patrol agents in 2010.

PURSUEING JUSTICE: Altholz (left) and Alliance San Diego Executive Director Andrea Guerrero '99 (second from left) at the 2022 Inter-American Commission on Human Rights hearing about the death of Anastasio Hernandez Rojas at the hands of the U.S. Border Patrol. At right are his widow, Maria Puga, and Rafael Barriga, a former Mexican border officer who witnessed the attack.



“I think our docket will remain diverse geographically, but the way we relate to human rights violations and the rule of law here at home must evolve to address the situation in the United States.”

— ROXANNA ALTHOLZ '99

Clinic Star Takes New Turn

After 26 years leading critical work at the Human Rights Clinic (formerly the International Human Rights Law Clinic), Professor Laurel Fletcher is leaving — and staying — to start a new Berkeley Law enterprise, the Global Rights Innovation Lab Clinic.

Specifically designed for 1Ls, the clinic will launch in January and operate at the crossroads of human rights and digital technology, creating data-driven tools to support legal advocacy, policy, and social change at home and abroad.

As a supervising attorney, Fletcher spearheaded the Human Rights Clinic's first case in 1998 in support of children of Haitian descent who were denied fundamental rights of nationality and citizenship in the Dominican Republic, then rose to director. She

departs after serving as co-director with former student Roxanna Altholz '99.

The new clinic will delve further into using digital technology to defend human rights activists worldwide.

“Human rights defenders struggle in an increasingly hostile legal and political environment, stigmatized by governments as threats to national security. At risk of arrest or worse, activists are in a reactive posture. I want to help activists use new tools to generate popular support for human rights values and causes. The movement has to advance justice *and* protect advocates,” Fletcher says. “If we don't have human rights activists, we don't have a human rights movement.”

Colleagues praise her dedication to the clinic, human rights, and her students.

“It was obvious Laurel was a star and she proved me right every day,” says Clinical Professor of Law Emerita and clinic founder Patty Blum. “She'll bring her innovation and creativity to the table while bringing out the best in students and working seamlessly with partners.”

Altholz agrees: “Under Laurel's stewardship, the clinic wasn't just a place of learning; it became a place of transformation. She shaped minds, nurtured talents, and inspired hundreds of students — including myself — to believe in the power of justice and the importance of human rights. I know she'll continue to make a difference for our

students and the human rights defenders the new clinic supports.”

Clinic alums still reference her approach to defending human rights and value her mentorship.

“It was eye-opening to see the kind of rigor, razor-sharp analysis, and thoughtfulness that one could bring to legal advocacy. To this day, I benefit from having worked with Laurel's supervision,” says Elise Keppler '01, who leads the Global Justice Center after 20 years at Human Rights Watch.

Mary Dahdouh Ghandour '18, now with the International Refugee Assistance Project, calls Fletcher “a transformative mentor” and says “the way she taught was very accessible for those of us who were first-gen and new to law.”

As for protecting human rights, Fletcher is far from finished.

“I want to see how we can reinvent the human rights report to reach new audiences. What are ways we can use data visualization, artificial intelligence, and digital storytelling?” she says. “I've worked on how technologies have been weaponized against activists. But there's a tremendous opportunity for human rights groups to harness these technologies in ways that protect human rights. That's the kind of experiment and innovation I'm trying to move into and Berkeley is the natural place for that.” — *Sarah Weld*

In 2022, Guerrero and Altholz asked the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to determine whether the U.S. government violated his rights under the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man — the first time an international human rights body examined an extrajudicial killing by U.S. law enforcement — at a hearing that included emotional testimony from Hernandez Rojas’ widow.

In another case, the clinic partnered with Ana Lorena Delgadillo of Mexico’s Fundación Para la Justicia (Foundation for Justice) to represent the families of migrants and others who have been killed or disappeared — often at the hands of government officials acting in complicity with the nation’s drug cartels. Altholz, Fletcher, and clinic students helped Delgadillo file a criminal complaint against the Mexican attorney general’s office for illegal surveillance after she and her organization were spied on by prosecutors as part of an organized-crime investigation.

They also developed a key argument from the international human rights lens: that the government violated not only the rights of the investigation’s targets, but also those of the victims and their families, since resources were diverted from finding the truth about the massacres.

“They gave us a different perspective on how we should defend ourselves,” Delgadillo says. “Especially with the students, it was very inspiring that they didn’t know me but they were putting in so much time and effort.”

FORGING BONDS

Clinic students take a seminar that bridges the gap between theory and practice alongside their hands-on legal work.

Current and former students say their experience became a highlight of law school and that Fletcher, Altholz, and supervising attorneys offered insight, inspiration, and unflagging energy.

A key component of the clinic’s training is having students practice what it means to be strong advocates and work in



SKILL BUILDING: Clinic student Mel Tapia Cortez '25 makes a point to Roberto Reboucas Prates '25 and Clemencia Garcia-Kasimirowski '25.

solidarity with their clients. Across borders and cultures, Fletcher says, the fight for human rights is grounded in a commitment not only to fighting abuses of power but to deploying advocates’ skills to amplify the voices of directly impacted communities.

“That’s one of the promises of the human rights community — you’re welcome here if you want to walk shoulder to shoulder with those fighting for justice,” she says. “You have a place here, at the clinic and in this space.”

When she transferred to Berkeley Law after her 1L year, Elise Keppler '01 had a passion for public interest law and had felt isolated in her legal education. When she met Fletcher and Blum, Keppler knew she’d found her niche.

“From there on, the clinic was really my home, the thing that kept me engaged so I could make it to the law school finish line,” she says. “And Patty and Laurel were giants to me — people who had made it in my dream career and could guide me.”

Keppler spent two decades working in international justice at Human Rights Watch before moving to the Global Justice



FOUNDERS CLUB: Clinical Professor Emerita and clinic founder Patty Blum with Human Rights Center founder and Co-Faculty Director Eric Stover, who helped start the clinic in tandem with the center.



“Professor Altholz would always tell us: Lawyering is a team sport ... That’s why the clinic is always collaborating with other organizations on really important work.”

— JUAN CABRALES ’23

Bringing a Personal Perspective

Juan Cabrales ’23 remembers when he first read about how Anastasio Hernandez Rojas was beaten to death by rogue U.S. Border Patrol agents.

“The article described him as a Mexican immigrant and father of five living in San Diego,” he says. “I realized that same sentence could exactly describe my own dad.”

As a Human Rights Clinic student, Cabrales saw how the clinic and its case partner, Alliance San Diego, worked with Hernandez Rojas’ family in an ongoing effort to hold U.S.

officials accountable for the killing.

“That was really inspiring,” says Cabrales, a child of Mexican immigrants who grew up in San Diego. “It encourages students like me who have very similar experiences.”

His family and friends have their own Border Patrol stories, he adds — many of them negative — and he now encounters similar situations as a federal public defender in the city.

“Those of us that have lived this experience don’t see it as much through a theoretical lens,” Cabrales says. “We see the practical side every day, and that helps inform our advocacy.”

A child of Middle Eastern immigrants, Mary Dahdouh Ghandour ’18 grew up in a family impacted by generations of forced displacement. The 2011 Arab Spring heightened her interest in human rights law, and she applied to Berkeley Law intending to specialize in the field.

Getting involved with the International Refugee Assistance Project as a 1L confirmed her choice of path — and she’s worked there since graduation.

“That was my first hook into this kind of work, and then when I joined the clinic as a 2L I immediately fell in love with it,” says Ghandour, who relished working “with clients who resonated so much of the resilience and strength I saw in my own diasporic community growing up and in my own parents and family.”

Professor and Clinic Director Roxanna Altholz ’99 says students like Cabrales and Ghandour are increasingly common and add enormous value for clients and classmates alike. Women of color have formed the

majority of clinic students over the past few semesters, and the teaching approach is changing, too.

“More and more students are not only thinking of human rights from an intellectual and abstract perspective, but they’re leveraging their own experiences of being survivors and victims to understand and shape human rights advocacy,” Altholz says. “Traditionally, human rights work in the United States has been in Global North–based institutions that tend to be extremely white and privileged.

“We’re very motivated to diversify who sees themselves in the human rights space, and I think the movement is strengthened by including the voices of the most affected.”

Joining the clinic gave Maria Watson ’25 a “palate cleanser” from the individuality of other law school experiences and a community that shared her values. Watson, who recently became an American citizen, traveled to Geneva with the clinic — her first trip outside the United States.

Hernandez Rojas’ case also held special significance for her.

“I remember my parents vividly recounting their violent interactions with Border Patrol, and it felt as if everybody in my community had a story of either being beaten or having near misses with them,” she says.

“For me, this case was very personal. When I talk to my family about it, they are so excited, because if even one person in our community could get justice, that’s accomplishing something that feels impossible.”

— Gwyneth K. Shaw

Center last year. Blum and Fletcher continue to be mentors.

"I knew it would be hard to make a human rights career, but I didn't realize how hard," she says. "They've been instrumental to my professional development at different moments. They had a profound impact on my legal education, and we're still talking over 20 years later."

Juan Cabrales '23 came to Berkeley Law without any human rights experience but was intrigued to see a Latina law professor in a leadership role. He reached out to Altholz before he applied to the clinic, and she was strongly encouraging.

"The opportunity to have mentorship from her directly was one of the things that inspired me to apply," he says. "I was also really attracted by the ability to work on something I had never done before, and knowing that I would be in good hands with those professors and the training we got and the project-based system, which lets you work with your

supervising attorney much more closely."

After graduation, Cabrales returned to his hometown of San Diego to become a federal public defender. He uses skills and knowledge he gained at the clinic every day.

"One of the lessons I took away from the clinic was something Professor Altholz would always tell us: Lawyering is a team sport," he says. "I still keep that mantra with me as a federal public defender. And that's why the clinic is always collaborating with other organizations on really important work.

"It's a sign of humility as well — they're always willing to listen and be informed by those communities, and keep the priorities of those that we're representing or advocating for in our minds."

A NEW LANDSCAPE

Keppler's career move reflects the same sea change that's driving the clinic's revamped mission.

The Global Justice Center uses international law to advance gender equality through two main areas of emphasis: access to abortion as an international right and justice for mass atrocities involving sexual- and gender-based crimes. After the U.S. Supreme Court's 2022 *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision unleashed a crisis on abortion, the organization knew it needed to turn its attention domestically.

Altholz's plan to expand the clinic's domestic footprint has similar potential, she adds.

"For me, to use my international human rights law expertises to fight for reproductive autonomy in the U.S. feels important and valuable," Keppler says. "International law is an underutilized element that can bolster the constellation of pressure points needed to ensure people



BRAINSTORM: Fletcher (right) meets with Jona Boçari '24 and others to plan the curriculum for the new Global Rights Innovation Lab Clinic.

BRITTANY HOSEA-SMALL

Freedom Fighting

The Human Rights Clinic has pursued groundbreaking projects since it was founded over 25 years ago. Here's a snapshot of some of its most significant international and domestic work to date.

2000

"Justice, Accountability and Social Reconstruction: An Interview Study of Bosnian Judges and Prosecutors"

2004

"Hidden Slaves: Forced Labor in the United States"

2005

Inter-American Court of Human Rights judgment in *Yean and Bosico v. Dominican Republic*

2008

"Guantánamo and Its Aftermath: U.S. Detention and Interrogation Practices and Their Impact on Detainees"

2010

"Truth Behind Bars: Colombian Paramilitary Leaders in U.S. Custody"

have abortion access in the U.S. over time.”

Fletcher says there doesn’t need to be tension between human rights work that’s focused abroad or at home.

“I find it helpful to think about the human rights movement as an ecosystem,” she says. “Sometimes there’s a tendency to pick which version of ‘human rights’ we’re going to narrate. But it’s not binary — it’s more like a mosaic.”

In recent years, a larger number of law students have come into the clinic with that mindset already in place, Fletcher and Altholz say. For some, an increased awareness of problems with the criminal justice system, particularly the carceral state, resonated at the same frequency as situations decried abroad.

For others, it’s because their own life experience made domestic culpability for human rights violations plain (see page 41).

Maria Watson ’25 grew up undocumented in Los Angeles and became acutely aware of the capriciousness and unfairness of immigration laws from a young age. In high school and college, she was increasingly interested in international law but couldn’t see a path forward due to her citizenship status.

Watson’s experience made it easy for her to see the parallels between human rights abuses outside the U.S. and major concerns at home.

“When I was younger, I’d think of international human rights work and think about nonprofits and working abroad — my mental image was people from prestigious universities going to another country to save other people,” she says. “And I thought, ‘Why aren’t we discussing domestic problems?’ When I met Professor Altholz, we talked about the work the clinic was doing around immigrant workers, and she was talking about ‘bringing human rights home.’

“That was particularly appealing, because I could see that if we look at the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, there are many violations happening here.”

UNIQUE COMPOSITION

The changing population of students who work in the clinic has made a huge difference, Altholz says. Students of color, particularly women of color, are heavily represented, and

having a critical mass of Spanish speakers means the clinic can staff entire projects that operate only in that language. That’s a big deal in a California school focused on serving the public.

Altholz and Fletcher are also grateful for the extensive institutional support the clinic enjoys, not just in staffing.

“There have been moments where our work has been challenged by political and economic elites, and the law school — Dean Erwin Chemerinsky in particular — defended that work,” Altholz says. “I’ve never felt like the project needs to be filtered through a political lens; we’ve been able to defend human rights where they need defense. I don’t take it for granted.”

The clinic’s new name and reshaped mission reflect what the students and partner organizations are passionate about, she adds: not just exposing human rights violations that occur in the U.S., but leveraging human rights principles and laws to address the deterioration of our democratic institutions.

“At this moment, human rights clinics have exceptional insight into what’s happening in this country,” Altholz says. “I think our docket will remain diverse geographically, but the way we relate to human rights violations and the rule of law here at home must evolve to address the situation in the United States.”

At home or abroad, human rights advocacy is “heavy work,” Cabrales says, and the clinic is a mind-expanding experience and a place to find solace and stay grounded. He’s confident the next chapters will be as dynamic and effective as the first 25 years.

“Their leadership has definitely been tenacious and inspiring in a lot of ways. But what they’ve really been able to do is build a line of communication — a thread of advocacy around the world, to raise the alarm on a lot of things that aren’t being discussed for many different reasons,” he says. “Professor Altholz and Professor Fletcher are both incredibly mindful and compassionate about raising the perspective of people who aren’t getting attention.

“And a quarter century of advocating for that, while building partnerships with communities and organizations, has created a force for good in the world.”

2015

“Access to Justice for Women: India’s Response to Sexual Violence in Conflict and Social Upheaval”

2017

“Dam Violence: The Plan That Killed Berta Cáceres,” an investigation of the killing of a prominent Honduran human rights defender

2020

“Living with Impunity: Unsolved Murders in Oakland and the Human Rights Impact on Victims’ Family Members”

2021

“Who Will Be Left to Defend Human Rights? Persecution of Online Expression in the Gulf and Neighboring Countries”

2022

Family Members of Anastasio Hernandez Rojas v. United States and a hearing with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on a U.S. border killing

2024

Clinic files amicus brief urging Mexico’s Supreme Court to protect asylum seekers’ rights at airports

Jenny Stukenberg '25

New Terrain Brings More Opportunities

Jenny Stukenberg was far from

disgruntled. When her Santa Clara law professors asked how 1L year was going, she'd reply candidly that she felt ecstatic to be there. So why transfer?

"I wanted exposure to a wider array of classes, peers, and professors," says Stukenberg, who transferred to Berkeley as a 2L. "Anything is possible at Berkeley Law. The most difficult part of coming here is picking which opportunities to lean into."

A business intelligence and data science manager at Zillow before law school, Stukenberg also volunteered at immigration nonprofits. Last year, she savored taking First Amendment, Local Government Law, Consumer Financial Regulations, Work Law, and Criminal Trial Practice — where the final exam is conducting a full trial.

"The breadth of my legal knowledge has grown tremendously and I'm excited to go to class every day," Stukenberg says. "There are professors who specialize in anything you can think of, ready and excited to engage with you."

She also worked as a research assistant for Professor Colleen V. Chien, competed in an external moot court competition, and led the student-run Berkeley Anti-Trafficking Project (BATPro).

The group created a community guide explaining the impact of AB 1261 — a California bill affecting those eligible for U, S, or T visas — as well as a

practitioner guide explaining a new Biden Administration rule barring migrants from asylum if they don't request refugee status in another country before entering the United States.

BATPro also created a practitioner guide for Office on Trafficking in Persons letters — official documents that an unaccompanied child who experienced human trafficking can receive — which grants eligibility for certain federal benefits and services.

"Depending on who wins the election in November, our immigration system could be altered significantly," Stukenberg says. "BATPro's role is to explain these changes to practitioners and community members and ensure that everyone is in the best possible position to get trafficking victims the relief they need and are legally entitled to."

While immigration remains a polarizing and politicized issue, Stukenberg believes consensus is feasible to protect children who are brought to the U.S. against their will and exploited for sex or labor. She sees law students as vital for addressing the issue, given the immigration system's complexity and the cost of legal representation.

"Law students are perfect for this because one year ago we knew very little, if anything, about the relevant law. We can take off our law school hats and write about immigration law in a way that non-lawyers can understand," she



GREENER PASTURES: Transfer student Jenny Stukenberg '25 relishes Berkeley Law's abundant options, both in and out of the classroom.

says. "But also, as law students, we have the legal knowledge to write how-to manuals for pro bono attorneys — who may not be immigration specialists — to directly support these victims."

Stukenberg, who worked at the California Office of Legislative Counsel in Sacramento this past summer, plans to pursue a judicial clerkship and then either appellate advocacy or a role in the state legislature.

Whatever the forum, her career goal is to "combat legal systems that perpetuate poverty and create more pathways for everyone to find meaningful employment and a stable, safe, and comfortable place to call home."

— *Andrew Cohen*

"The most difficult part of coming here is picking which opportunities to lean into."



ALL IN: *California Law Review* Editor in Chief Dominick Williams '25 is pushing to expand the prestigious journal's excellence and accessibility.

Dominick Williams '25

Cutting to the Chase

Arguments that lead to law school

often take place in college debate tournaments, philosophy classes, or political student organizations. For Dominick Williams they happened in Lord Tony's, a Sacramento barbershop.

At age 12, he was too young to have an official job. But Tony, the shop's owner, would give him \$20 to sweep hair and clean windows on the weekends.

"The 'Who's greater: Kobe or LeBron?' arguments and the older barbers' magnificent stories were a chorus over the dull hum of their clippers," Williams recalls. "I absorbed their wisdom, experience, and confidence so much that from a young age I sounded persuasive ... Just that bit of exposure over a couple of summers set me on this path."

Williams is now editor in chief of the *California Law Review* (CLR), Berkeley Law's prestigious flagship student journal, after serving as associate editor. During his 1L year, he became editor in

chief of the *Berkeley Journal of Black Law & Policy* and an associate editor of the *Berkeley Technology Law Journal*.

While career goals motivate many who pursue such lofty positions, Williams had other incentives.

"I sought to learn the language of power," he says. "The law is gatekept, empowering the few at the expense of the rest. As the first in my family to go to law school, I came to Berkeley to learn the law so I could empower those around me."

Williams works to expand the CLR's accessibility to potential readers and members while keeping its excellence front and center — a delicate balance he works to strike with intention and care.

Navigating tricky terrain in leadership roles is nothing new. In various positions with the UC Student Association during his undergrad days at Berkeley, he authored a state budget proposal that secured \$22.5 million in funding to

student-initiated opportunity programs. In addition, he worked to expand the recruitment and retention of underrepresented students at UC campuses, increase higher education funding for impoverished students and their families, reinstitute undocumented student services, and voice students' legislative priorities.

Later a legislative assistant for California's Secretary of State and the State Assembly, Williams was also a legislative analyst for then-Assemblymember Shirley Weber and interned for both Congresswoman Barbara Lee and the Supreme Court of California.

Last spring, he led the *Berkeley Journal of Black Law & Policy* in organizing a compelling conference on reparations (see page 10). Noting that momentum for reparations to African Americans in California is at an all-time high, he remains "clear-eyed that this is a controversial topic" but says, "that is exactly why the discussion must be had."

A summer associate at Morrison Foerster in San Francisco last summer, Williams has received several scholarships for his achievements. Just before he left for law school, he paid another visit to Lord Tony's.

"Tony was proud to see that I graduated from college and was intent on becoming a lawyer," Williams says. "Seeing him and the barbershop that was home away from home reminded me of my own dedication and perseverance, and reinforced why I'm a zealous advocate." — *Andrew Cohen*

"As the first in my family to go to law school, I came to Berkeley to learn the law so I could empower those around me."

Amber Frank '26 Leaning Into a Bright Horizon

Amber Frank chose Berkeley Law

largely because of its burgeoning Indigenous community and academic offerings. But even she is surprised at the huge, and immediate, payoff.

As a 1L, Frank got involved with the school's Native American Law Students Association (NALSA) chapter and the student-led Native American Legal Assistance Project. A Ho-Chunk Nation citizen, she spent her spring break in Alaska on a Berkeley Law Alternative Service Trip working with the First Alaskans Institute, an Alaska Native advocacy organization.

At the same time, she's helped grow the school's resources for Indigenous students and scholars, through events organized by NALSA and the new Center for Indigenous Law and Justice and attending interviews with prospective faculty members.

"Berkeley Law felt like a place where I could thrive, study outside, join organizations and journals, be among incredibly driven and brilliant peers, and — perhaps most importantly — have the

support of a strong Indigenous community to lean on," Frank says.

She's done extensive pro bono legal research, relishing the chance to affect tribal legal issues, and calls the Alaska trip "one of the highlights I never could have predicted."

Frank attended the Federal Bar Association's Indian Law Conference

TYLOR NORWOOD

"Berkeley Law felt like a place where I could thrive, study outside, join organizations and journals, be among incredibly driven and brilliant peers, and have the support of a strong Indigenous community to lean on."

last spring with a number of classmates, reuniting with several friends she made before her 1L year during the two-month Pre-Law Summer Institute for American Indians and Alaska Natives, run by the American Indian Law Center.

At the conference, she was named 1L of the Year by the national NALSA group, and she's co-leading the local

chapter this year.

"That was a surprise, but what made it so special was that our NALSA chapter was one of the most represented, with 15 members and some of my best friends, including five 1Ls attending," Frank says.

She's also on the student-run journal *Ecology Law Quarterly* and the Faculty

Appointment Committee, and is vice chair of programs on the American Bar Association's Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources Public Land and Resources Committee. Frank was one of 12 Udall Interns at the U.S. Department of the Interior last summer, working in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs — a priceless opportunity to dig into the legal, structural, and regulatory challenges of federal Indian policy up close.

Over the rest of her law school career, Frank wants to learn more about water and natural resource law, Indian gaming, and cultural property law, and to advance her civil litigation skills. She's grateful for the impact of her mentors, including the late activist Dennis Banks, who spurred her to expand her academic horizons to include courses in history and Native American Studies and pursue a master's degree in Indigenous Peoples Law.

"While I studied the often-upsetting history of federal Indian policy, seeing Pueblo and Ho-Chunk women represented in Congress, and Deb Haaland's elevation from congresswoman to Secretary of the Interior, was extremely impactful and emotional and inspired me to apply to law school," says Frank, who got to meet Haaland and U.S. Rep. Sharice Davids, another hero, while in D.C. "During the next couple years, I aspire to obtain the tools to strengthen the legal framework in favor of tribal self-determination, self-governance, and Native nation rebuilding."

— Gwyneth K. Shaw

EARLY INFLUENCE: Amber Frank '26 was named national 1L of the year by the Native American Law Students Association.



Research Spotlight:

Exploring the Legacy of Eugenics

These days, it's a rare scientist who would admit to working in eugenics. The word conjures historical horrors: mass sterilization of people judged unfit to reproduce, state anti-miscegenation laws, and Germany's justification for the Holocaust.

But to Berkeley Law Professor Osagie K. Obasogie, the discredited theory that selective breeding can — and should — be used to improve the human race lives on in hidden but insidious ways. He wants to bring those ideas in science and medicine out of hiding to prevent a repetition of the past.

"Few people today will call themselves eugenicists," says Obasogie, who also holds a joint appointment at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health and the UC Berkeley/UCSF Joint Medical Program. "However, it's not uncommon for mainstream scientists to embrace some of the ideas, ideologies, and practices that would be eminently familiar to a eugenicist of the past."

Reproductive technologies that purport to help parents select embryos with particular traits concerning hair or eye color, or create children who might excel at music or sports, might align with eugenic thinking in ways that people might not immediately realize, Obasogie says. He believes such technology must be scrutinized from both a scientific and ethical perspective to avoid the terrible racism and classism that defined eugenics from its founding.

"This idea has been around for a very long time," he says. "It's been incredibly harmful and we have to maintain our historical commitment to resisting this way of thinking."

Toward that end, Obasogie has teamed up with the *Los Angeles Review of Books* in launching a two-year

project called "Legacies of Eugenics." Its goal is to spark a national conversation on the history of eugenics and the ways it still shapes various aspects of science, medicine, and technology.

Experts from the humanities, medicine, health, social sciences, and other disciplines will contribute a variety of eugenics-related essays to the series, which is supported by the university's School of Public Health and Othering & Belonging Institute, among others.

Articles will explore the entanglement of eugenics in statistics, the role of eugenics in the founding of Stanford University, researchers' quest for genes that are associated with high intelligence, and more.

Obasogie's introductory essay argues that eugenics thinking did not end in the last century, as many believe.

"Eugenics stood for the idea that a person's abilities and social position were innate traits determined by their biological and genetic makeup, and the same traits would be passed on to their children," he writes. "Everything from intelligence to poverty to criminality to general morality was thought to be inherited."

"In the late 19th century, when race science was all the rage, eugenics extended the conversation on scientific racism by providing not only a seemingly objective way to understand the achievements of wealthy whites across generations but also an explanation for why poor or disabled people and racial minorities seemed stuck, unable to break what appeared to be inescapable cycles of destitution. In short, biology was thought to be destiny."

— UC Berkeley School of Public Health



Honors Spotlight:

Repeatedly Tapped for Their Expertise

Across their wide-ranging areas of focus, Berkeley Law faculty members continue to be selected for prominent roles and honored for their seminal contributions.

RISING LEADER: Assistant Clinical Professor Stephanie Campos-Bui '14, who co-directs the law school's Policy Advocacy Clinic, won the 2024 Thomas I. Yamashita Prize from Foundations for Change, which honors an emerging social change activist/scholar in California who bridges the academy and the community to transform our social landscape. Campos-Bui guides law and public policy students in addressing systemic racial, economic, and social injustice through various nonlitigation efforts.

VALUED VOICE: Professor Khiara M. Bridges, a leading scholar on race, class, and reproductive rights, was named this year's Frank R. Lautenberg Award winner by the Rutgers School of Public Health and served as its graduation speaker. The school's most prestigious award honors those who have made major contributions to public health through program development, advocacy, and capacity building that fuels research, education, and service opportunities.

JUSTICE IN SCIENCE: Human Rights Center Faculty Director Eric Stover won the American Association for the Advancement of Science Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility. His renowned work merges pioneering science and technology to hold to account perpetrators of atrocities and advance justice for their victims, including forensic investigations of mass graves. Stover also co-founded a group that won the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize for striving to ban landmines.



CORPORATE WISDOM: *Corporate Practice Commentator* named an article by Professors Steven Davidoff Solomon and Adam Badawi and Berkeley Center for Law and Business Senior Fellow Matthew Cain one of the top 10 corporate and securities articles of 2023 — the eighth such honor for Solomon and second for Badawi. Their *Journal of Law and Economics* piece on changes in Delaware disclosure requirements for fairness opinions in tender offers assesses the impact of voluntary versus mandatory disclosure.

DEMOCRACY DUTY: Professor Emily Rong Zhang is one of the first recipients of Public Agenda's Democracy Renewal Project grants, which fund studies to fuel universal access to elections. Zhang will help expand an Alliance for Safety and Justice text messaging initiative to enhance political participation among people with criminal records and their families, analyzing whether such outreach from reliable messengers can build trust among a historically under-represented voting constituency.

BOOKING ACCOLADES: Professor Dylan Penningroth's book *Before the Movement: The Hidden History of Black Civil Rights* keeps racking up prizes: The Organization of American Historians' Ellis W. Hawley Prize (best book in U.S. politics and institutions), the Merle Curti Award (best book in American social history), the Langum Foundation's David J. Langum Sr. Prize in American Legal History, and the Law & Society Association's J. Willard Hurst Book Prize (best book in socio-legal history).



Scholarship Spotlight:

Taking on Vital Issues With Clarity and Care

Copyright's impact on political campaigns. The influence of sustainability concerns on corporate governance. AI's potential to increase health care inequities. When it comes to pressing societal issues, Berkeley Law professors routinely provide important insights, revelations, and guides to potential solutions.

Here's a quick snapshot of a dozen recent articles that exemplify our faculty's prolific and meaningful scholarship.



REBECCA WEXLER

**Law Enforcement
Privilege**

Michigan Law Review

The law enforcement privilege doctrine allows police and prosecutors to rely on results of secret investigative methods while withholding information from the defense about how such methods work. Arguing that this risks perpetuating unconstitutional conduct and enabling wrongful convictions, Wexler urges courts to evaluate the marginal risk of leaking posed by in-court disclosure to help detect mistaken, exaggerated, pretextual, or fraudulent claims to the privilege.



JONATHAN S. GOULD

**Cost-Benefit Analysis
in Polarized Times**

Administrative Law Review

Even amid rising polarization, presidential administrations of both parties have used regulatory cost-benefit analysis for decades. Gould

explores the factors driving this by examining the parties' policy agendas and the structure of administrative law. He says the persistence of cost-benefit analysis should not mask the conflicts between the parties over how the method operates in practice. Conflicts will persist as long as the parties continue to maintain sharply divergent regulatory agendas.



**COLLEEN V. CHIEN
WITH MIRIAM KIM**

**Generative AI and
Legal Aid: Results
From a Field Study
and 100 Use Cases to
Bridge the Access
to Justice Gap**

*Loyola of Los Angeles Law
Review*

The authors probe how AI can help millions of low-income Americans who lack adequate assistance for 90% of their civil legal problems. A novel field study of lawyers and a companion survey of legal aid professionals suggest that generative AI tools can significantly reduce the justice gap when introduced properly. Participants' experiences support viewing such tools as augmenting rather than threatening lawyers' work, with potential to dramatically increase service coverage.



JOSÉ ARGUETA FUNES

The Civilization Canon: Common Law, Legislation, and the Case of Hawaiian Adoption

UCLA Law Review

Noting that American legal scholarship largely ignores how empire may shape statutory interpretation, Argueta Funes highlights how legislation and the common law should be studied in their given socio-historical contexts. Examining debates over the meaning of 19th century Hawaiian adoption and descent statutes, he reveals how “imperial anxieties” fueling the push to assimilate Hawaiians to Anglo-American culture shaped how statutes were interpreted.



PAMELA SAMUELSON

Did the Solicitor General Hijack the *Warhol v. Goldsmith* Case?

Columbia Journal of Law & the Arts

In last year’s case assessing whether Andy Warhol’s 16

visual art works based on a 1981 photo of the music star Prince constituted fair use or infringement, the Office of the Solicitor General’s *amicus curiae* brief greatly narrowed the case’s scope before the U.S. Supreme Court. Finding the office’s influence “especially troubling given that the U.S. government did not have a meaningful federal interest at stake in the litigation,” Samuelson assesses its motivations and the implications of the Court’s decision for fair use analyses.



STAVROS GADINIS WITH AMELIA MIAZAD '02

The ESG Information System

Seattle University Law Review

With investors and consumers increasingly pushing companies to factor environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors into their decisions, the business world is seeing more reports touting sustainability credentials. Amid growing greenwashing and accountability concerns, the authors say the ESG information system is modeled on key corporate governance innovations of the last 50 years and reflects a logical evolution of this governance system rather than a threat to it.



JONATHAN D. GLATER

The Elision of Causation in the 2023 Affirmative Action Case

Journal of College and University Law

In finding consideration of race in college admissions unconstitutional, the U.S. Supreme Court did not address a vital aspect of standing doctrine: whether the practice complained of caused the harm alleged. Glater explores the ruling, places it in a pattern of decisions favoring plaintiffs challenging affirmative action efforts, explains why the failure to establish causation is problematic, and notes some undesirable implications of the Court’s reasoning and analysis.



MANISHA PADI WITH GRACE CHOI

Inclusive Occupational Licensing

California Law Review

Occupational licensing is widely seen as too inefficient,

costly, and hurtful to employment opportunities, consumers, and competition. Amid a growing push to limit or repeal licensing regimes, the authors argue that solving these problems lies not in less licensing but more. They use various examples to illustrate how such licensing can effectively bolster workers’ labor market power and diversify a wide range of industries, including those where workers are less educated, lower income, and more vulnerable.



JONAH B. GELBACH WITH NORA FREEMAN ENGSTROM, DAVID FREEMAN ENGSTROM, AUSTIN PETERS & AARON SCHAFFER-NEITZ

Secrecy by Stipulation

Duke Law Journal

For decades, stipulated protective orders (SPOs) — which require keeping discovery information confidential — have hidden deadly product defects and pervasive abuse from the public. Studying whether the “good cause” requirement for such orders is followed, the authors undertook the first comprehensive accounting of SPOs in federal civil litigation. They found they’re more prevalent than thought, and granted so often that a large share of federal judges have never rejected one.



MARK GERGEN

Equity’s System of Open-Ended Wrongs With Limited Remedies

Texas A&M Law Review

This paper excavates the law of equitable wrongs and their limited remedies, which do not include compensatory damages. Equitable wrongs include duress, taking advantage of someone’s mistake (aka constructive fraud), undue influence, and unconscionability. Gergen argues that these doctrines can be open-ended substantively because of their limited remedies. He also argues that the doctrines have largely retained their traditional form and function in modern U.S. law.



MOLLY VAN HOUWELING

Private-Law Attorneys General

Minnesota Law Review

Van Houweling explains how both copyright and patent

owners, granted rights designed to spark investments in works of knowledge and technology, can be understood as “private attorneys general” authorized to bring lawsuits that serve public interests as well as their own. Demonstrating how these rights take the form of private property rights, she assesses the benefits and risks involved — including potential threats *private-law* attorneys general pose to balanced IP law.



TEJAS N. NARECHANIA

Hamilton’s Copyright and the Election of 1800

Wisconsin Law Review

Copyright is deeply enmeshed in electoral campaigns, from candidates using it to obscure their prior policy statements to local governments using it to protect incumbents by hiding public meeting recordings. Using the story of Alexander Hamilton’s secret, copyrighted pamphlet that was aimed at unseating John Adams atop the Federalist Party (before it got leaked to the opposition), Narechania says public governance interests in political speech should take precedence over copyright’s restraints.

Teaching Spotlight:

Prized Faculty Duo Honored for Classroom Prowess

Two Berkeley Law faculty members were honored last spring 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 latter recognizes a small group of faculty — five this year — from across the university for “sustained excellence in teaching.” Professors must be nominated for the award, submit some course materials, and are observed by multiple former winners. Holmquist is the 18th law school professor to be recognized and fourth to receive a campus-wide award in the last five years.

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

Now faculty director of the school’s Experiential Education Program, Holmquist came to Berkeley Law in 2008 to bolster its Academic Support Program, which provides advising and skills training for law students during their first and most rigorous academic year.

The faculty speaker at the 2014 graduation and the 2017 Rutter Award winner, she teaches Constitutional Law as well as Estates and Trusts, but has also built out a sub-curriculum focused on helping students develop the skills and emotional resilience to be good lawyers and happy people.

“She teaches more than traditional doctrine,” says Traelon Rodgers ’24, who took courses with Holmquist and worked as her teaching assistant. “She goes the extra mile with both assignments and

CLASS ACT: Kristen Holmquist is one of five UC Berkeley professors recognized with a 2024 Distinguished Teaching Award.

supplemental classes that help students understand what to expect on law school exams, how to pass the bar, and how to be a happy and healthy practitioner. As if being a great professor isn't enough, she is a wonderful advisor and boss."

The Rutter Award has been given annually to a law professor since 1995. At the award ceremony, Kelsey Lutgen '24 and Cameron Washington '25 offered eloquent praise for Davis' commitment to students.

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

Davis joined the faculty in 2018, regularly teaches Federal Courts and Torts, and is the faculty director of the Center for Indigenous Law and Justice, which launched last fall. A renowned Indian Law scholar, he



teaches courses in the field, is the faculty supervisor for the student-led Native American Legal Assistance Project, and helped students revive Berkeley Law's Native American Law Students Association (NALSA) chapter.

Lutgen spent a lot of time with Davis: He was her Federal Indian Law professor, advised her independent study project as a 3L, and worked extensively with her through NALSA.

"Professor Davis brings a level of compassion, empathy, and humility to the classroom that is uncommon among law school professors," she says. "Among the many other responsibilities he juggles as an academic, an appellate advocate, and a father, his commitment to the classroom demonstrates that he takes teaching and mentorship very seriously." — *Gwyneth K. Shaw*

SHINING BRIGHTLY: Seth Davis is all smiles after the spring Rutter Award ceremony.

BRITTANY HOSEA-SMALL (HOLMQUIST); TYLOR NORWOOD (DAVIS)





New Fellowship Launches Criminal Justice Careers for Recent Grads

Berkeley Law's surging criminal justice program got another recent boost with the creation of the Chris Larsen Justice Fellowship. Administered by the school's Criminal Law & Justice Center, it funds new graduates in their first year of public interest work.

"I'm really excited that we're going to launch people's careers not just by funding their first year, but by empowering them to embark on what will be decades of public interest lawyering," says Chesa Boudin, the center's executive director.

The inaugural fellows — Class of 2024 members Emily Hunt, Alyssa

Meurer, Sandhya Nadadur, and Chloe Pan — began work this fall with a sponsoring organization. They'll also write mid-year and year-end fellowship reports, attend a conference, and receive \$49,500 for a year of work, \$5,500 for bar exam-related costs, and \$5,500 to help defray health care costs.



FIRST FELLOWS: (From left) Standouts Emily Hunt '24, Alyssa Meurer '24, Sandhya Nadadur '24, and Chloe Pan '24 form the inaugural Chris Larsen Justice Fellowship cohort.

“The Larsen Fellowship reflects the critical need for criminal justice reform — which is recognized all along the political spectrum — and the challenge new graduates often have in breaking into the public interest job market,” says Professor Andrea Roth, the Barry Tarlow Chair in Criminal Justice. “This is an exciting addition to the center’s offerings and to Berkeley Law’s criminal law program more broadly.”

Larsen co-founded Ripple, which provides enterprise blockchain and crypto solutions.

“Public safety and criminal justice reform work hand in hand — they’re really two sides of the same coin,” he says. “It’s super important that we make sure we get the best and the brightest into public service work.”

Each recipient has demonstrated deep commitment to criminal justice issues and the communities they affect.

Hunt, who did more than 250 hours of pro bono work while at Berkeley Law, will be a California Racial Justice Act attorney at the Solano County Public Defender’s Office. Passed in 2020, the law prohibits bias that is based on race,

ethnicity, or national origin in charges, convictions, and sentences — but it is underutilized due to lack of public defender resources.

“I’m excited to work with data and statisticians to demonstrate what racial disparities exist and bring those claims on behalf of criminal defendants,” Hunt says.

Meurer will join the Uptown People’s Law Center in Chicago, helping incarcerated people understand their legal rights. She has interned with several nonprofits and helped Berkeley Law’s Policy Advocacy Clinic promote criminal legal reforms in Mississippi and Arkansas.

“I’m hoping to create a resource hub for incarcerated individuals who have legal questions,” and for prisoners’ rights attorneys across Illinois “to help them understand some of the procedural barriers to filing a lawsuit and how they can win relief in the courts,” Meurer says.

Nadadur will help Dolores Street Community Services in San Francisco serve survivors of trafficking and intimate partner violence who are facing

deportation because of crimes they committed as a result of their traumatic experiences. She has worked at the California Immigrant Policy Center and clerked with the Federal Public Defender in California’s Central District.

“My particular project will utilize newly operative language from two California statutes to expand the types of post-conviction relief they can offer,” she says.

Pan joins the District of Columbia Office of the Solicitor General, focusing mainly on its multistate litigation and amicus practice and writing federal appellate briefs advocating for gun regulations that uphold public safety.

“Seeing so many of my loved ones struggle to access the most basic government services ... made me realize I wanted to be the advocate I wish my community had,” says Pan, who was editor in chief of the *California Law Review* and won Berkeley Law’s McBaine Honors Moot Court Competition. “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.” — *Andrew Cohen*



SAGE COUNSEL: Retired judge Patricia Lucas '79 (center) holds court with mentees (left to right) Gabby Cirelli '24, Lucia Lopez-Rosas '25, Claire Davidson '26, and Jenny Chen '25.

Mentoring Maven Gives Back

Patricia Lucas '79 didn't have any professional role models when she decided to try law school. Part of her family's first generation to attend college, she'd worked as a file clerk in a law firm but didn't really know what to expect.

"When I look back, I knew so little about law when I showed up on the steps at Berkeley Law," she says. "But I got very lucky. It really was an amazing place."

She thrived, and law school paved the way for a distinguished career: first as a litigator in San Francisco, then Silicon Valley, followed by two decades as a Santa Clara County Superior Court judge until her retirement from the bench last year. She recently joined the JAMS dispute resolution firm.

Lucas wanted to give back to the school that meant so much to her, but living in San Jose made it difficult to get to Berkeley more than occasionally. So she signed up for the Alumni Guide program, launched by the Development &

Alumni Relations Office in 2020 to keep students and alums connected during the pandemic. It proved so successful that it's become a permanent fixture.

The program matches alums with incoming students over the summer before their 1L year, then asks them to touch base again six weeks into the fall semester and do a final check-in at the start of spring semester. Lucas has been a particularly stellar and extremely involved mentor, says Director of Alumni Engagement Erin Dineen, who runs the program.

Not only has Lucas stayed in touch with her four mentees after their 1L year, she's also fostered relationships between Jenny Chen '25, Gabby Cirelli '24,

Claire Davidson '26, and Lucia Lopez-Rosas '25.

"With dinners, coffees, and museum visits, Judge Lucas takes the time to get to know me and my goals and tailors her perspective to my needs," Davidson says. "I know that throughout my time at Berkeley Law and beyond, I can and will continue to learn from Judge Lucas. She's the best, and I'm so grateful Berkeley Law connected us."

Being an Alumni Guide has been hugely rewarding, Lucas says, particularly as she's built the bonds between students at different stages in their law school careers.

"When this opportunity came up, it appealed to me because it was something I could do long-distance and also because it was so direct and one-on-one with students," she explains. "Then I got assigned to fabulous people — and once we were connected, it just took off."

She recommends the program to any alum looking to get involved.

"It's a joy, because they're really wonderful folks, very engaged, very bright, and very appreciative," she says. "This is just the best deal, because it's a modest commitment and there's a great return."
— Gwyneth K. Shaw

Honored Quartet Sings Praise for Their Alma Mater

Kenton King '87 called it “a remarkable place that opened up many doors.” Tam Ma '11 said it made her feel like “a kid in the candy store.” For Professor Eric Rakowski, working here is “a lot less like holding down a job than exercising a privilege.” Ann Brick '75 marveled at “the professors who made all the difference.”

Berkeley Law still resonates strongly for the four honorees at its annual Alumni Awards and Donor Celebration. King received the Citation Award, Ma the Young Alumni Award, Rakowski the Faculty Lifetime Achievement Award, and Brick the Judge D. Lowell and Barbara Jensen Public Service Award.

“The larger Berkeley community continues to grow and be a source of support for me, all of us here, and future generations,” said King, a Skadden partner and former global co-head of the firm’s corporate transactions practice.

Rated among the last decade’s top 10 lawyers by *The Daily Journal*, he appears regularly on best attorney lists while maintaining an active pro

bono practice. A Berkeley Center for Law and Business board member since 2006, King is also serving his second stint on the Berkeley Law Alumni Association board of directors.

As a first-generation college student at UC Berkeley, Ma found “so many ways to get engaged in the communities I cared about.” She brought that ethos to Berkeley Law, and then to improving California’s health care policy in various roles — now as associate vice president for health policy and regulatory affairs at University of California Health — America’s largest public academic health care system.

An active volunteer and mentor in several organizations, Ma is also on the alumni association board. Working to start an alumni regional chapter in

Sacramento, she pointed to some Sacramento-area grads and said, “Yes, you just got voluntold” to help with this effort.

A Berkeley Law professor for 34 years and an expert on tax law as well as estates and trusts issues, Rakowski once directed the school’s Kadish Center for Morality, Law & Public Affairs. Berkeley Law’s 2010 Rutter Award for Teaching Distinction winner, he was elected to the prestigious American Law Institute and is the editor of *Estate Planning & California Probate Reporter*.

“What strikes me is how astonishing our students have been from the time I came here,” he said. “They’re intelligent, challenging, inquisitive, and ambitious ... This is also an almost uniquely collaborative faculty. My colleagues are inventive, good-humored, and supportive rather than competitive, so it’s been a joy for me.”

Brick recalled the impact of learning First Amendment law from Professors Robert Cole and Jesse Choper. Howard Rice’s first female partner, she eventually left to spend the next 19 years as an ACLU of Northern California staff attorney and produced leading legal work on many civil liberties cases — including *Flores v. Morgan Hill Unified School District*, which requires schools that learn LGBT students are being harassed to take meaningful steps to protect them.

Another past alumni association board member, Brick urged the crowd to use their law degrees for good.

“You can do public interest law and still be at a private law firm,” she said. “The enormous generosity of lawyers in private practice here in the Bay Area, they’re the ones who make it possible for public interest organizations to do so much of the work they do.” — *Andrew Cohen*

FOUR SCORE: (From left) Tam Ma '11, Kenton King '87, Ann Brick '75, and Professor Eric Rakowski were honored at Berkeley Law’s annual Alumni Awards and Donor Celebration.



Planning a Lasting Legacy

When Glenn Gottlieb '78 chose Berkeley Law over Stanford, the vibrancy of the school and the campus drew him in — and his student experience exceeded his high expectations.

"In class, I heard people say things and think things that I never would have come up with," he says. "It was such an intellectually stimulating environment, not just because of the incredible faculty that we had then, and that I know we have now, but also the student body. It was an energizing group of people to be around."

Gottlieb also credits the imprimatur of his degree for opening the doors to his stellar career: After starting at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher in Los Angeles, he did

stints at Wyle Laboratories and the medical device manufacturer MiniMed before opening his own mediation firm 20 years ago.

"There's no question that it was because I had the Berkeley Law pedigree and carried that with me to other places that gave me other pedigrees," he says. "Berkeley Law speaks very loudly."

As a prolific fundraiser in Southern California, particularly for Jewish organizations, Gottlieb was familiar with the idea of estate gifts. When he began



IMPACT STATEMENT:
A significant estate gift from mediator Glenn Gottlieb '78 will be allocated to support student scholarships.

thinking seriously about his own philanthropic legacy, Berkeley Law was an obvious choice.

Gottlieb's substantial gift will be directed to scholarships, which was important to him as a beneficiary of his era's more affordable tuition.

"I basically started at ground zero when I graduated, but I didn't have any debt," he says. "I know it's not like that now."

Like Gottlieb, Linda Slider '85 is supporting financial aid, making a substantial bequest to the Berkeley Law Opportunity Scholarship — a three-year, full tuition scholarship for selected first-generation college graduates.

"My own studies at Berkeley Law would have been financially impossible if Berkeley hadn't waived my tuition fees and costs," Slider says. "Even back in the comparatively low-cost educational world of the 1980s, scholarships and fee waivers were critical.

"It's a privilege to be able to repay the generosity shown to me when I was a young, poor student by helping to keep Berkeley affordable for the next generation."

Gottlieb encourages other alums to give back to the school that gave them so much.

"There's a saying that the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago and the second best time is today," he says. "I'm planting my tree." — *Gwyneth K. Shaw*

Gifts of Distinction

Forrest Greenberg '47 cherished community all his life, from his family to his hometown to his temple — and Berkeley Law, to which he made a \$2.5 million IRA gift.

Greenberg, who died in 2016, was a legal giant in Stockton, helped launch the city's Legal Aid office, and served as San Joaquin County Bar Association president.

While a law student, the bombing of Pearl Harbor prompted him to report for active duty the very next day. He returned to Berkeley Law after serving as a naval officer in the Pacific and started a Stockton firm that is now run by his son and grandson.

Joan "Dollie" Lavine '69, who practiced law in Los Angeles and died in 2020, made a \$5 million bequest in part to honor her father, 1919 Berkeley Law grad Morris Lavine. After serving in World War I and working as a newspaper reporter and screenwriter, he became a prominent defense attorney.

Lavine's clients included Bugsy Siegel associate Mickey Cohen and Tomoya Kawakita, a California native convicted of treason in the United States after serving as an interpreter for American prisoners of war in Japan. He also made 18 arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court and represented the petitioners in the seminal 1967 *Chapman v. California* case.

Rising to the Challenge

They live nearly 400 miles away from each other, graduated eight years apart, and focus on different legal work. But Andrea Saunders Rifenbark '03 and James Purvis '11 share a strong common interest — bringing their firm's Berkeley Law alumni together to support the school.

Co-captains at Cox, Castle & Nicholson for the school's annual Alumni Workplace Challenge, Rifenbark and Purvis helped achieve 100% giving among the firm's 15 Berkeley Law grads.

A partner and transactional attorney who focuses on real estate investment, development, and finance, Rifenbark has been a captain since 2021.

"I was interested in taking on the role after many years of participating in the Alumni Workplace Challenge and being involved in the on-campus interviewing program and the New Students/Alumni Guide Program," she says. "I enjoy being able to give back to a school that has provided me with so many personal and career opportunities."

While Rifenbark's engagement helps her bridge the distance between Los Angeles and Berkeley, Purvis lives near the school and still spends time on campus. Senior counsel in the firm's San Francisco office and specializing in land use and environmental law and litigation, he was a first-time captain this year.

"I was happy to transition into the role and participate," Purvis says. "I've enjoyed being able to coordinate with other

Berkeley Law alums and to help give back to a school that continues to play a large role in my personal and professional life. The Berkeley Law alums at our firm are a great group of people."

Other firms that achieved 100% giving were Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger (19 alums) led by co-captains Caitlin Brown '17 and Osa Wolf '97; Walkup, Melodia, Kelly & Schoenberger (three alums) led by captain Spencer Pahlke '07; and Lane Powell (three alums) led by captain Lisa Poplawski '11.

Formerly called Partners in Leadership, the friendly fundraising competition running from May 1 through June 30 had 79 alums serving as captains at 65 participating workplaces this year. Guided by Steering Committee Co-Chairs David Zaplosky '88 (Amazon.com, Inc.), Michael Charlson '85 (Vinson & Elkins), Anna Remis '07 (Sidley Austin), Theresa Lee '03 (Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman), and Kurt Kurzenhauser '19 (Skadden), the campaign had 34% overall giving and raised nearly \$900,000.

Rifenbark and Purvis communicated regularly and divided up responsibilities for outreach and follow-up in pursuit of their 100% giving goal. Working with the school's Development & Alumni Relations team, they provided updates about Berkeley Law's achievements, challenges, events, and ways to participate at the school.

"It definitely helps us all feel more connected to Berkeley Law," Rifenbark says. "And it's encouraging to work with a great community of people who are dedicated to helping support the school."

— *Andrew Cohen*



CO-CAPTAINS: Andrea Saunders Rifenbark '03 (left) and James Purvis '11 led Cox, Castle & Nicholson's perfect showing in the Berkeley Law Alumni Workplace Challenge.

Your Classmates Want to Hear From You!

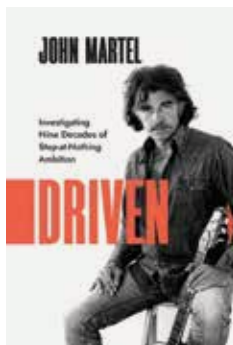
Contact Us

By Email

classnotes@law.berkeley.edu

By Mail

University of California, Berkeley
School of Law
Development & Alumni Relations
224 Law Building
Berkeley, CA 94720-7200



1959

John Martel published his memoir — *Driven: Investigating Nine Decades of Stop-at-Nothing Ambition* — which he wrote through speech-to-text due to Parkinson's Disease. A founding member of Farella

Braun + Martel, he represented Robert Mondavi in the Mondavi family feud, helped prosecute the Menendez brothers, and tried 100 cases as a litigator. John also led a double life as singer-songwriter Joe Silverhound (recording albums and performing live), wrote five legal thrillers, and in his 60s set an age group record in the 100-meter hurdles at the 1997 Masters Track and Field National Championship.

1973

Bill Capps, a partner at Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell, was named one of the 500 most influential people in the Los Angeles business community by the *Los Angeles Business Journal* for the sixth consecutive year.

Leigh Steinberg, who has represented eight overall No. 1 NFL draft picks, 64 first-round picks, and 12 Hall of Fame players, hosted a three-day sports agent academy with

PowerTeam International CEO Bill Walsh in Las Vegas. The event featured exercises focused on public speaking skills, recruiting, negotiation, and more.

1975

Eva Paterson was honored by the American Bar Association's Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice with its Thurgood Marshall Award at a celebration honoring her longtime career advancing civil rights. Co-founder and former president of the Equal Justice Society, she previously worked for the Legal Aid Society of Alameda County and co-founded A Safe Place, a shelter for battered women in Oakland.

1978

Stuart N. Brotman writes that he has joined classmates Stephen Bundy, Elizabeth Cabraser, Holly Fujie, and Hiroshi Motomura as an elected member of the American Law Institute. He is a professor of journalism,

media law, enterprise, and leadership at the University of Tennessee.

1979

Cliff Gilbert-Lurie was honored with *Variety's* Power of Law Award at a reception in Beverly Hills. A senior partner at Ziffren Brittenham who regularly represents A-list clients and appears on best entertainment lawyer lists, Cliff was hailed for his professional achievements and philanthropic impact.

1980

Kelvin Filer, a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge, received the Far West Regional Citation Award from the national sorority Phi Delta Kappa's Beta Phi Chapter. The ceremony program called his life "a testament to the transformative power of education, resilience, and community involvement."

1985

Ruth Greenberg, who has spent her career

defending the indigent accused and indigent convicted, reports that after over 10 years of litigation, she and her team persuaded Massachusetts to become the first state to forbid any sentence of life without parole for anyone under the age of 21.

Peter Reich received UCLA's campus-wide Distinguished Teaching Award in the non-senate faculty category. He teaches at UCLA School of Law as a continuing lecturer, primarily focusing on international LL.M. and M.L.S. students.



1986

Steve Sue wrote and produced the documentary "Shaka, a Story of

Norma J. Williams '77

The Real Deal in Real Estate Law

Norma J. Williams grew up in New York City and went to college in Connecticut, so coming west to Berkeley Law was a sea change — and made such an impact she's still in California decades later.

"I loved the weather, the West Coast flora, and just generally being outdoors as much as possible," she says. "Berkeley Law also opened my eyes to all of what the practice of law could be."

Her business law courses had a similar draw, with one area particularly standing out.

"I liked real estate law better than the other business law classes, many of which seemed very abstract," Williams says. "John Hetland's Real Estate Finance class cemented my desire to go into real estate law. It was intricate, detailed, math-like, and rules-based. I also liked that California's real estate finance law was so different from that of other states."

Her favorite course became her livelihood. She started out at large law firms and at a bank, and has headed Williams & Associates in Los Angeles since 2003, with a focus on representing institutional clients in commercial real estate transactions.

"I like having my own practice because I can choose my clients and work colleagues, and generally have more creativity and independence," she says. "I also have a broad base of colleagues in my own practice and in the city, state, and around the country through my involvement in honorary real estate bar associations and other networking. I work on many transactions that require the use of other attorneys and have a network of people with whom I've had working relationships for many years."

"I consider this accordion-like ability to be a great asset."

Williams enjoys the administrative side of practice and running a business she can adapt to her life. Close friends consider her to be a



workaholic, she adds, but she feels she's struck the right balance between her professional and family lives.

Another having-your-own-firm highlight: the chance to contribute to the larger profession. Williams does a lot of speaking and writing on commercial real estate legal topics, including a newsletter she has published since 2015, and serves on local nonprofit boards.

"I enjoy educating people. If I hadn't been an attorney, I would have been a teacher," she says.

She's also racked up the accolades, including the Los Angeles County Bar Association Real Property Section's 2023 Outstanding Real Estate Lawyer Award and the first California Lawyers Association Solo and Small Firms Section Excellence in Practice Award in 2019. In addition, she has been on *Los Angeles* magazine's SoCal Super Lawyers list every year since 2006.

Williams also notes that her practice has included mission-based clients who address a public purpose, such as job creation or expansion into new areas.

"I think this type of involvement is important, because it puts you in contact with issues and causes that are broader than your immediate focus and introduces you to people who you might not otherwise meet." — *Gwyneth K. Shaw*

Luis Li '91

Embracing the Adventure — in and out of Court

Big-firm burnout may be a common topic, but don't expect Luis Li to fuel that fire.

In one stretch of his remarkable career, he handled cases involving foreign governments, museum curators, college sports regulations, and horse racing. A thriving litigation partner at Wilson Sonsini in Los Angeles, he's currently representing a major video-sharing platform on several privacy issues.

"Strong relationships with colleagues and clients," he says of the secret to staying motivated. "Working with people I admire and having their trust and support gives me the energy and incentive to develop as a lawyer, even through the most difficult stretches."

So does nourishing his life outside of work. When his daughter Sofia played youth soccer, Li routinely stepped off an international flight and headed straight to the field — luggage in tow — to cheer her on. He also summited Denali and raced in two of the world's most challenging multistage mountain bike races.

"Adventure racing tests your physical, mental, and emotional resilience," Li says. "And no matter how strong you are, you can't succeed by yourself — you need to work seamlessly with teammates to overcome obstacles and support each other through the toughest of moments. It's like litigating, but in the wilderness."

A three-time *California Lawyer* Attorney of the Year honoree, Li has played a leading role in many high-stakes, high-profile trials. He famously gained a complete trial victory representing Vanessa Bryant, the widow of NBA star Kobe Bryant, in a federal civil rights trial against Los Angeles County while dozens of reporters and sketch artists in the courtroom posted real-time updates and captured each gesture.

"Every action faced intense examination," Li recalls. "But trial lawyers thrive in stress. In

cross-examining a sheriff, I took calculated risks that ultimately paid off. When I sat down, Vanessa leaned in and whispered, 'That was your 81-point game!' in reference to Kobe's iconic 81-point game against Toronto in 2006. I'll treasure that compliment forever."

Li also steered a successful defense of Deepwater Horizon owner Transocean arising from the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, and helped the Norton Simon Museum win a long-running dispute over ownership of two paintings by Lucas Cranach the Elder. He is regularly recognized in Chambers USA, with clients calling him "spectacular in court with a limitless pool of skills" and "just outstanding on his feet in front of a jury."

Li credits his 10 years in the public sector, including seven as an assistant United States attorney, for powering his litigation success.

"The most important thing I learned was that accountability rests on my shoulders — accepting responsibility for my decisions and facing any consequences head-on," he says. "Embracing accountability is not just a matter of personal integrity; it's also essential for earning professional credibility in the eyes of the court, your colleagues, and your clients. I'm deeply grateful and consider myself incredibly fortunate to pursue my calling. It truly feels like I was meant to do this work." — *Andrew Cohen*



Aloha" about the origin and impact of Hawai'i's famed Shaka gesture, wrote a bill to make it the official state gesture — recently signed into law — and successfully lobbied for a Hawai'i Shaka license plate. "I now realize that the Socratic method, moot court, cite checking, and clerkships gave me the skills necessary to beat the odds as I testified at committee hearings and politicked the bill in the halls of the legislature," Steve says. "Thank you, Berkeley Law, for giving me the skills to effect positive change in the world."

1994

Catherine Atkin was named to Reuters' Trailblazing Women in Climate list for her leading role in pushing through California's Corporate Climate Data Accountability Act, which mandates that large companies disclose their full carbon footprints. Director and co-founder of Carbon Accountable, Catherine was the main legal and technical advisor for the bill as it advanced through California's legislature.

1995

Laura Franco joined the global law firm Mintz in its intellectual property practice group in San Francisco. An internationally recognized trademark practitioner whose work encompasses trademark prosecution, brand enforcement and protection, and IP licensing, she represents businesses from startups to Fortune 500 companies across a wide variety of industries.

1996

Christine Kurek has launched Kurek Dispute Resolution. After nearly 30 years of representing both plaintiffs and defendants in litigation and earning a certification in mediation from Pepperdine University's Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, she decided to focus exclusively on providing mediation services across California.

1997

Jennifer Madden received the UC Berkeley Campanile Excellence in Achievement Award. An Alameda County Superior Court judge and former prosecutor,

she has worked to protect girls at risk of being forced into sex trafficking, mentored young lawyers and Berkeley Law students, and strived to diversify the legal profession.

1998

Gina Shishima, Norton Rose Fulbright's U.S. chief strategy and operations partner, received a 2024 American Bar Association Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award. She has co-chaired the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association's Women's Leadership Network, and serves on the Center for Women in Law's executive committee as well as the Asian Americans Advancing Justice's board of directors.

2002

Katie Race Brin was appointed chief data privacy officer at the World Bank. Based in Washington, D.C., Katie leads the global data protection program for the bank, which has offices in over 130 countries and on-the-ground projects worldwide striving to end extreme poverty and boost prosperity on a livable planet.

2005

Karimah Lamar was promoted to shareholder at Littler and selected for the 2024 Leadership Council on Legal Diversity Fellows and Pathfinders program. The professional development program focuses on foundational leadership and relationship building, and offers training from legal profession leaders and experts in learning and development and professional coaching.

2007

Christina Hioureas helped Sierra Leone obtain an International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea advisory opinion on states' legal obligations concerning climate change under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea. Global co-chair of Foley Hoag's international litigation and arbitration department, Christina says the opinion confirms nations' obligation "to take effective action to regulate anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions."

Deepika Shukla was nominated to a judgeship on the Massachusetts

Superior Court. She currently works as an assistant U.S. attorney and chief of the Springfield branch office of the U.S. Attorney's Office for Massachusetts, where she supervises all federal criminal cases in the western part of the state. Deepika is also an adjunct professor at Western New England School of Law.

2008

Deana Sobel Lederman published the picture book *Morgan* about a young girl who dreams of working at the very place she was named after, the Morgan Library & Museum in New York. Morgan's Aunt Laurel is an educator at the museum, but when a royal family visits from the other side of the world and Laurel isn't there, it's up to Morgan and her scavenger hunt to save the day.

Dan Pollak, a lawyer for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, received a gold medal for leadership from the U.S. Department of Commerce. The honor recognized the stellar work that his team did with the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and industry to improve protections for threatened and endangered aquatic species from the effects of agricultural pesticides.

2011

Jordan Bergsten joined Boies Schiller Flexner as a partner in its Washington, D.C. office. An experienced intellectual property litigator, he's represented an array of high-profile corporate clients and worked on a team that has litigated patents in telecom, online streaming, semiconductors, medical devices, and other crucial technologies.

Jerome Price was recently appointed to a judgeship on the Sacramento County Superior Court. He previously served as first assistant federal defender in the Eastern District of California's Office of the Federal Defender, and clerked for Judge Damon J. Keith on the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Sarah Rich wrapped up 10 years as a litigator and policy advocate at the Southern Poverty Law Center's

In Memoriam

Chris E. Rockas '55	Robert R. Kelley '72
Thomas A. McCampbell '56	Peter Eric Pollaczek '73
Richard B. Melbye '58	John L. Boudett '74
Charles M. Gianola '59	Richard R. Fimmel '74
Miles Harvey '59	John Birmingham '76
Henry J. Ullerich '59	E. Linton Joaquin '76
Marvin B. Ellenberg '60	Stephen Kotz '76
Eldon R. Hugie '60	Winifred I. Li '76
Richard R. Patsey '60	Sue Ann Levin Schiff '76
John M. Anderson '61	Ruth M. Simon '76
Robert J. Anspach '61	Jack H. Glazer '77
Dix Boring '61	Kathryn H. Tschopik '77
Ralph K. Hekman '61	Chailendu K. Pegues '79
George L. Marchand '61	Donald T. Ramsey '79
Keith F. Sparks '61	David Coyne '81
Frederick H. Ebey '62	Keith L. Pope '81
Richard G. D. King '62	Colin P. Kopes-Kerr '83
Kenneth Kofman '62	Jay W. Connolly '84
David Ream '62	Helen Smith '89
R. Keith Dinsmoor '63	David A. Priebe '90
Paul N. Halvonik '63	Linzey O. Scott III '92
John M. Powers '63	Robert A. Holland '93
Joan M. Sautter '64	Bronwyn G. Brady '98
David A. Schricker '64	—
Charles A. Bell '65	Trudy L. Ausfahl
Daniel M. Gottlieb '65	Diana Richardson Bradley
Stephen A. Lind '65	Christopher F. Edley Jr.
James C. Snell '65	Leonore Foorman
Larry B. Bent '66	K. Bruce Friedman
Richard T. Flynn '66	Peggy E. Hartz
William L. Hoese '66	Frank L. Hope Jr.
Joseph W. Hungate '66	Roger Q. Landers Jr.
Peter D. Kossoris '66	Arlee S. Maier
Rodolfo Montejano '66	James S. Marinos
J. George Seka '66	Patricia Mahoney Martin
Alan L. Fox '67	Callie Tilden McLelland
Donald R. Meyer '67	Sharon S. Kellum Neuman
Robert E. Murphy '67	Jeannette Ogburn
James T. Sherren Jr. '67	Linda O. Polsby
Stephen D. Silbert '67	Judith M. Porter
Levi J. Smith Jr. '67	Albert Shaw
John M. Cohan '69	Ruth J. Simmons
Ellyn A. Hershman '71	Jerome H. Skolnick
William E. Rundstrom '71	Roger D. Troxell
William E. Dopkins III '72	Cynthia Wu Wilcox



Remembering Dean Edley

Christopher Edley Jr., Berkeley Law's dean from 2004 to 2013 and a renowned figure in administrative law, education policy, and civil rights, died unexpectedly on May 10 at age 71.

Colleagues note that he made an enormous impact at the school — hiring exceptional faculty, leading the building of the South Addition, dramatically increasing support for student public interest grants, and creating many impactful research centers.

"Chris and I were law school classmates. He has been a dear friend and provided me with invaluable wisdom and support," Dean Erwin Chemerinsky says. "I know I speak for all of us in saying how terribly much we will miss him."

Edley spent 23 years as a Harvard Law School professor, served in major White House policy and budget positions under Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, and held senior positions in five presidential campaigns.

"Chris Edley had a brilliant mind and a kind, good heart that he put to use to build a better, fairer, more just America ... he always believed that law and policy are ultimately about people," Clinton said in a statement.

Edley also taught at Berkeley Law, co-chaired the National Commission on Education Equity and Excellence, and served as the UC Berkeley School of Education's interim dean from 2021 to 2023. He was a board member with several social justice-focused nonprofits and a fellow at numerous prominent organizations.

Professor Molly Van Houweling calls him "a relentless force for good in the world," and praises "the good he accomplished directly and the good that he empowered other people to do."

Berkeley Law held a memorial service for Edley on Aug. 27. — *Andrew Cohen*

Immigrant Justice project in July. Still based in Atlanta, she is now at Democracy Forward as its senior strategic oversight attorney, working in the short term on election planning and over the longer term on pro-democracy advocacy and strategic planning.

Greg Sperla has been elevated to partner at DLA Piper. A litigator and regulatory attorney protecting clients in complex litigation and compliance matters, he focuses on the science of consumer products of all types, particularly food, drugs, and cosmetics, and is experienced in domestic and global regulation of consumer goods and disputes.

2014

Alex S. Li published "Unifying Outer Space: Creating a Cohesive Structure Surrounding Mining on the Moon" in the *Arizona State Law Journal* (55 Ariz. St. L.J. 1165 (2024)). His article explores the fragmented legal terrain that can impact resource mining on the moon, and proposes creating a unifying authority that can catalyze the development of a vibrant lunar mining industry.

Mark Kahn '00

A Baller Move to Help Keep Baseball in Oakland

It's a career shift some may find perplexing.

But for Mark Kahn, transitioning from high-level tech lawyer to jack-of-all-trades Oakland Ballers employee has been exhilarating.

Kahn is an investor, legal counsel, and public address announcer for the Ballers, which recently finished its first season in the Pioneer League, a Major League Baseball partner whose teams aren't affiliated with specific MLB organizations. The Ballers are striving to rekindle the East Bay's passion for baseball amid the Oakland Athletics' recent floundering and upcoming departure after 57 seasons.

When Kahn read about the Ballers' impending arrival and contacted CEO Paul Freedman about investing, the team was outsourcing various legal needs. He offered to help and soon found himself handling myriad tasks — from working with the city of Oakland to refurbish the Ballers' stadium to navigating player and vendor contracts to finalizing insurance policies.

"We started from zero. If you stood on Raimondi Field in early March, you would've seen a run-down, unplayable baseball field," Kahn says. "Three months later, we were playing professional games on that field with all the stadium infrastructure built up around it. Working with the city, the community, our organization, and all our partners has been deeply satisfying. And we're only just beginning."

A longtime baseball enthusiast and former San Francisco Little League president, Kahn managed ticket operations for the Athletics before law school. After graduating he was an associate at both Fenwick & West and Orrick, did a federal judicial clerkship, and joined a San Francisco litigation boutique firm before shifting to in-house roles in 2006.

Kahn worked at tech companies of various shapes and sizes for nearly 15 years. He was deputy general counsel at WhatsApp and

general counsel at Segment, where he helped shepherd its \$3.2 billion sale to Twilio.

"While I've worked at bigger companies, I've been happiest at startups," Kahn says. "But I've never worked at a startup like this: super early-stage, tangible, and very visible to the public ... I love seeing the effect the team's efforts, and my personal efforts, have on the community."

Kahn leans into the all-hands-on-deck nature of minor league baseball — he made six trips to Home Depot over two days in the sprint to ready the stadium — and relishes seeing the Ballers' on-field product and game-day atmosphere help fill the void left by the Athletics leaving.

"This sport has a long history here that goes back decades and no one can just up and leave with that legacy," he says. "We're fundamentally a group of fans who want to not only preserve Oakland's baseball legacy, but revitalize it as a key cultural touchstone for the area.

"We want to deliver a joyful, community-focused experience that unites people, celebrating the East Bay's love for sports as a unifying force. You don't have to be a baseball fan to be a Baller, you just have to love Oakland." — *Andrew Cohen*





Smita Rajmohan

was appointed by the State Bar of California to the Consulting Group on the Establishment of a Legal Specialization in Privacy Law, which is tasked with drafting appropriate privacy specialization certification standards for all attorneys in the state. Senior counsel at Autodesk and co-head of its artificial intelligence and

machine learning practice group, Smita — chair of mentorships for the Berkeley Law Alumni Association — is also busy fighting AI-fueled election disinformation as part of the Technology and Scholars Advisory Council for the California Initiative on Technology and Democracy.

2016

Matt Rice was named Tennessee’s solicitor general, which serves as the state’s top appellate attorney.

Matt clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and worked at Williams & Connolly in Washington, D.C., before joining the solicitor general’s office in 2022. He’ll manage all litigation in appeals courts and oversee all published opinions by the attorney general.

2017

Timothy Hsieh (LL.M.) was promoted from assistant professor to associate professor at the Oklahoma City University School of Law. He did a summer

clerkship with Timothy DeGiusti, chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma, and will be a visiting law professor at National Taiwan University College of Law during the spring semester.

2019

Rachna Vyas was sworn in as an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Rhode Island and will serve in the office’s civil division, focusing on complex white collar work with an emphasis on health care fraud cases related to the

opioid crisis. She had worked as an associate with Verill Dana and also with Choate, Hall & Stewart.

2020

Savannah Carnes, a trial lawyer at Reichman Jorgensen Lehman Feldberg in Washington, D.C., was on the trial team for one of the largest verdicts in Illinois history. She argued evidentiary objections and jury instructions in the case, which resulted in Amazon being ordered to pay \$525 million stemming from a dispute over data storage patents.

Timely Tech Events

Highlights for the 2024-25 academic year



THE YUAN GLOBAL TALKS ON GENERATIVE AI AND HUMAN CREATIVITY

STEINBERG SERIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF STUDENT ATHLETES

17TH ANNUAL BCLT PRIVACY LECTURE: DATA PRIVACY ON TRIAL OR THE PRIVACY FORUM

28TH ANNUAL BTLJ-BCLT SPRING SYMPOSIUM: AI GOVERNANCE



A woman with long dark hair, wearing a vibrant red, long-sleeved, form-fitting dress and black pointed-toe shoes, stands in a fabric store. She is smiling and has her right arm raised, touching a roll of purple fabric on a shelf. The store is filled with various colored fabrics on shelves and hanging from the ceiling. The lighting is bright, and the overall atmosphere is professional and stylish.

Parting
Shot

True Colors

Deshna Desai LL.M. '24, whose research on the psychological factors that draw consumers to luxury clothing items was published in the *Fashion & Law Journal*, explores fabrics at a store in Oakland.

A Global View

Berkeley Law's "Borderlines" podcast, featuring the world's top international law experts, just launched a special series with over half the judges and advocates general at the Court of Justice of the European Union. Europe's highest court ensures that EU law is applied the same way in all member countries, and settles about 800 legal disputes a year.

Berkeley Law Professor Katerina Linos (right) co-hosts the series, helping researchers, journalists, and students learn more about EU law and the court — and shining a light on those upholding its authority and mission.



You can follow "Borderlines" on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or wherever you get your podcasts.

Learn more:

law.berkeley.edu/borderlines

