

# UC Berkeley Law

How can we balance  
the promise with  
potential harms?

CAN WE  
TRUST  
IT  
?

CAN IT  
ADDRESS  
SYSTEMIC  
INEQUALITY?

HOW  
DO WE  
DEFINE  
IT?

How should we  
regulate it?

Can it integrate due  
process and equal protection?

WILL IT  
REPLACE  
LAWYERS?

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# UC Berkeley Law

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**ON THE COVER:** (Left to right) Jamile Cruzes Moysés Simão LL.M. '25, Pranav Ramakrishnan LL.M. '25, Juliette Draper '26, Bani Sapra '25, Chau Le '26, and Nicole Bloomfield LL.M. '24 are exploring the frontiers of AI with UC Berkeley Law's faculty and clinical offerings. Photo by Brittany Hosea-Small.



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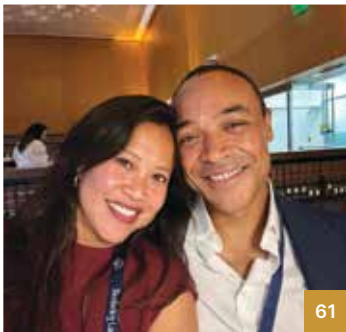
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“All government officials, regardless of their party or ideology, must obey the Constitution and laws.”

## Upholding the Rule of Law

**As a law school, we have a special responsibility for the rule of law in our society and in the world.** A commitment to the rule of law is nonpartisan. All government officials, regardless of their party or ideology, must obey the Constitution and laws. Indeed, the very core of the rule of law is that no one is above the law. Now, more than ever, UC Berkeley Law must be a force for upholding the rule of law and for using law to make people’s lives better.

I have spent a great deal of time thinking about how as a law school we can respond to events that are occurring in Washington that are clearly in violation of the law: firing agency heads, inspectors general, and civil service employees in violation of federal statutes; closing agencies created by federal statutes; refusing to spend money appropriated by federal law; threatening to revoke visas for those who express particular views; and planning to move United States prisoners and detainees to El Salvador.

Part of our response is to hold a series of programs, in conjunction with our new Edley Center on Law & Democracy, to educate our students and our community. One of those events took place a week after the November election as to what the Trump administration will mean for the law, with six professors speaking to a packed lecture hall.

This semester, we are having a series of programs focused on specific issues: the environment, immigration, federal workers, reproductive justice, DEI, and others. We’ll be hiring an executive director and have begun raising funds for the center, which I see as a core part of our efforts going forward.

Also, it is very important to provide information to those in our community who might be affected by new policies. For example, we have provided detailed information about what students and their families can do in response to actions of the Immigrations and Customs Enforcement agency.

We also are working hard to assist our students and alumni who have lost their jobs as a result of the federal hiring freeze and reductions in workforce. For rising second- and third-year students who lost their summer jobs, we will create additional Edley Grants, including to work within the law school.

We have initiated a new series, “It’s the Law,” of two-minute videos to educate people about the legal issues that are arising. Our clinics and pro bono projects are involved in many of these issues.

It is a difficult time for many in our community and thus we must do all we can to help one another. We so welcome your support for these efforts.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erwin".

**Erwin Chemerinsky**

Dean, Jesse H. Choper Distinguished Professor of Law





**TALENTED TRIO:**  
(From left) Hudheifa Aden from Somalia, Agbor Tabe from Cameroon, and Getachew Gayzibayso from Ethiopia.

# Bringing Berkeley Back Home to Africa

**The first Mastercard Foundation Scholars in** UC Berkeley Law's LL.M. Program, Hudheifa Aden, Getachew Gayzibayso, and Agbor Tabe share a common goal: bringing back key skills to make a greater difference in their home continent.

UC Berkeley's Center for African Studies partners with the highly competitive program, which awards full scholarships, living expenses, a laptop, and round-trip flights to graduate students from across Africa.

Aden was a presidential advisor in one of Somalia's regional states, advised on multinational transactions, and hosted the premier Africa-focused business show "BBC Money Daily," interviewing presidents, ministers, corporate titans, and other policymakers.

"The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program represents a commitment to building the future of Africa," he says. "I was particularly drawn to the way Berkeley fosters collaboration across disciplines, providing students with a diverse and intellectually stimulating environment."

Gayzibayso was named his university's most outstanding student and received the second best result

on the National Ethiopian Law Schools' Exit Exam. He has been a researcher for the Ethiopian Lawyers Association and Ethiopian Human Rights Council, taught law courses, and advised multinational companies at one of Ethiopia's leading firms.

"I've enjoyed the intellectually challenging, stimulating, and engaging nature of Berkeley's LL.M. Program," he says. "Every encounter has provoked me to reflect on the role the law could play in shaping the makeup of society and stimulating forces of change."

For Tabe, participating in an advocacy campaign to protect biodiversity and Indigenous land rights in Cameroon's Ebo Forest — and learning about Vision 2035, a national strategic initiative to make Cameroon a developed country — sparked his interest in law.

"Protecting the environment was only mentioned in passing, with no clear plan of how to achieve development without mitigating the environmental harm it will cause," he says. "This played a major role in my pursuing an LL.M. degree at Berkeley with a concentration in environmental law." — *Andrew Cohen*



**IN THEIR CORNER:** Former U.S. Army Reserve captain Caity Lynch '25 relishes advocating for fellow veterans.

## A Journey of Trauma, Reflection, and Service

**In many respects, Caity Lynch '25** made it look easy.

As a U.S. Army Reserve engineer officer, she was promoted to captain early, selected for company command, and led 153 soldiers to construct vital

infrastructure across four locations in Afghanistan — enabling an increase of over 1,200 NATO forces there and earning her a Bronze Star. Of the 18 captains in her brigade, Lynch was rated the top captain and best commander.

At UC Berkeley Law, she led the pro bono project Legal Obstacles Veterans Encounter (LOVE), co-authored a report on veteran deportation, won a California Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Women Veterans Trailblazer Award, and received a gender justice award while clerking for Equal Rights Advocates.

But Lynch credits facing her vulnerability — as a crime victim in high school who later suffered Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in the military — for successes leading to a prestigious Skadden Fellowship, which funds exceptional young attorneys for two years of public interest work.

“As a survivor in law school, I finally found answers,” she says. “From Criminal Procedure and Evidence classes to survivor advocacy in Family Law and

understanding power through Constitutional Law, combined with care from compassionate therapists, I forgave myself. I finally, truly understood that what happened wasn't my fault.”

This fall, Lynch will work as a Skadden Fellow at Swords to Plowshares to expand VA housing, health care, and disability compensation for veterans with less than honorable discharges — often at risk of or experiencing homelessness — through new regulations that recognize trauma and discrimination as causes of unjust dismissal and subsequent VA ineligibility.

Calling her work in Afghanistan “nothing short of harrowing,” she says facing her PTSD head-on and helping others proved critical. At LOVE, she aided veterans at risk of or experiencing homelessness gain access to VA benefits including health care and disability compensation.

“Having received military and VA care myself, the work was personal,” she says. “Interviewing veterans, it even seemed arbitrary which one of us worked alongside an attorney and which veteran needed help from one.”  
— *Andrew Cohen*

## B-CLE'S A-Plus Program

**As tech advancement accelerates faster than ever,** our B-CLE platform — free to the whole legal community — helps lawyers keep up with shifting issues, laws, and regulations while earning Continuing Legal Education credits for focused online sessions with top experts. Since 2022, B-CLE has created more than 600 programs and delivered over 17,000 hours of advanced training material and CLE credit to just under 4,000 subscribers. Learn more at [bcle.law.berkeley.edu](http://bcle.law.berkeley.edu)



BRITTANY HOSEA-SMALL (LYNCH)





## Trophy Time

**Extending its recent run of advocacy competition** success, UC Berkeley Law won the annual National Civil Trial Competition in November. Competing in Los Angeles, 3Ls William Clark, Melissa Molloy, and Angela Ma and 2L Rachel Talkington bested 15 top teams from law schools around the country.

Veterans of the school’s Trial Team, the students worked with coaches Patrick Johnson ’19 and James Perry ’11 to prepare for the competition — which involved a fictitious case centered on a nurse’s request for a service animal as a workplace accommodation to manage general anxiety disorder under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Contestants performed opening statements, direct and cross-examinations of expert and lay witnesses, closing arguments, and objections, and the Berkeley students’ prior competitive experience and painstaking preparation delivered huge dividends.

“I don’t think there was a single thing that really surprised us,” Molloy says. “Almost every team that we competed against got visibly frustrated and surprised about things, and we just never had that happen to us.”

Ma credits the team’s coaches for being “so clearly invested in us as trial advocates.”

Clark won the Best Advocate award for both the

preliminary and the final rounds. Judges called him “incredibly likeable” and said he gave one of the best closing arguments they’d ever seen.

Part of the school’s Advocacy Competitions Program, the Trial Team has soared in recent years under head coach Spencer Pahlke ’07 and Natalie Winters ’18, who directs the overall program.

“I think this win demonstrates that not only is this specific team a tremendous force to be reckoned with, but also Berkeley Law’s trial advocacy program,” Perry says. — *Gwyneth K. Shaw*

**VICTORY ROW:**  
(From left) Rachel Talkington ’26, William Clark ’25, coach James Perry ’11, Melissa Molloy ’25, and Angela Ma ’25.

## Global Expertise

**Distinguished alum Joan Donoghue ’81, a judge** on the International Court of Justice in The Hague from 2010 to 2024 and its president during her last three years, is teaching Global Dispute Resolution this semester.

The course covers key differences between the field’s civil law and common law traditions and the contrasting perspectives that stem from each — which Donoghue says reveal themselves in almost every international case — in order to enhance students’ ability to engage with the field of international adjudication and arbitration.



**IN THE KNOW:**  
Former International Court of Justice president Joan Donoghue ’81.

# Program Offers Plenty to Chew On

**The lineup reads like an all-star roster of legal** department leaders at major organizations, from Instacart to Asana to the San Francisco Giants. A jewel in UC Berkeley Law's trove of business offerings, the Leadership Lunch Series gives students valuable insights on in-house lawyering.

Presented by the Berkeley Center for Law and Business and *Berkeley Business Law Journal*, the series features expert professors interviewing chief legal officers, general counsels, and other giants at prominent companies — and ample time for student questions.

Having these guests share their unconventional paths “broadens our students’ vision of what a legal

career can be,” says Angeli Patel ’20, the center’s executive director.

The series also showcases standout business law alumni, including Microsoft General Counsel Jonathan Palmer ’93 and Zendesk Chief Legal Officer Shana Simmons ’09.

Palmer oversees litigation, trade, employment matters, corporate governance, and internal investigations at Microsoft. He discussed the challenge of navigating a patchwork regulatory landscape, technology advancements, and rapid expansion.

“Being the head of litigation at a company is a great job if you’re interested in learning new things literally every day,” Palmer said when interviewed by Professor Stavros Gadinis. “You’re working with different parts of the company all the time, which I really like.”

Simmons, interviewed by Professor Frank Partnoy, manages a team of about 100 at Zendesk — a customer ticketing platform that leverages generative AI and has over 1.8 billion tickets in its system. A former senior counsel at Google, she urged students to connect rather than compete.

“Spend time making relationships with each other,” Simmons said. “You’re each other’s future clients and colleagues. You’re going to school with some of the best future lawyers nationwide, so later in your work when you have a tax question or an IP question, you’ll want to call these people.”

— *Andrew Cohen*

TYLOR NORWOOD (RAMASWAMY); LAURIE FRASIER (MEHTA)



**BUSINESS SAVVY:** Waymo Chief Legal Officer Amar Mehta answers a question during his Leadership Lunch Series talk.

**FULL HOUSE:** A packed crowd of students listens to Andreessen Horowitz Chief Legal Officer Jai Ramaswamy.



# The Write Stuff on Work and Business

Two of UC Berkeley Law’s research centers are providing students with new valuable writing opportunities and sharing their insights with the larger community.

Our Center for Law and Work, which confronts employment and labor issues affecting vulnerable worker populations, recently launched a new Student Scholarship Series that enables students to write original pieces on topics shaping workers’ rights. The debut entry, written by David Beglin ’24, assesses a pending California Supreme Court case and argues for a functional rather than formalistic approach to determine contract enforceability under the unconscionability doctrine.

“Through this series, students from our vibrant law school community provide their insights and analysis of labor and employment law topics they have taken a deep interest in exploring with the center,” says Executive Director Christina Chung. “We are privileged to share their stellar work.”

In collaboration with the *Berkeley Business Law*



**CATALYST:** David Beglin ’24 penned the first piece in the Center for Law and Work’s Student Scholarship Series.

*Journal*, the Berkeley Center for Law and Business publishes *The Network*, a student-run blog with topical postings relevant to professionals, academics, policymakers, and general readers discussing new developments in finance, business, regulation, and entrepreneurship. The blog also provides a forum for online dialogue about the impact of law and regulation on business and the economy.

Some recent posts feature Zachary Griggy ’27 addressing changes to California’s ballot design in response to corporated-backed measures, Shneur Gansburg ’27 examining cybersecurity risks posed by law firms increasingly using artificial intelligence, Dora Najm LL.M. ’25 probing the relationship between tech giants and corporate immigration practices, and Aimilia Kechagia LL.M. ’25 discussing the resurgence of antitrust enforcement amid Big Tech’s growing power. — *Andrew Cohen*

# Making Consumer Protection Strides

Led by our surging Center for Consumer Law & Economic Justice, UC Berkeley Law continues to set the national pace for consumer-focused work among U.S. law schools. Here are a few highlights from the past year:

■ **12 amicus briefs filed**, including briefs the U.S. Supreme Court and California Supreme Court relied on in recent unanimous victories for consumers

■ **5 conferences hosted** in a single semester, including the first Consumer Justice/Climate Justice Summit

■ **20-plus courses** offered in consumer law and economic justice, believed to be more than any other law school

■ **Visits from the leaders** of the Federal Trade Commission, its Bureau of Consumer Protection, and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau



**SPREADING THE WORD:** Center Executive Director Ted Mermin ’96 speaks to students and faculty at Florida State University.

■ **Launched a new** project to connect law students interested in state-level policy work with professionals in Sacramento doing that work, with the ultimate goal of developing a thriving externship program and expanding career opportunities for students

■ **Expanded the Consumer Law Advocates, Scholars, and Students Network** that the center co-founded, holding four convenings with students and allies, hosting law-student focused events at conferences and law schools across the country, and opening new chapters at seven law schools

# Calling Out Artistic Suppression

**Continuing a strong partnership,** students from our Arts & Innovation Representation project helped the Artistic Freedom Initiative (AFI) produce another eye-opening report on challenges to freedom of expression.

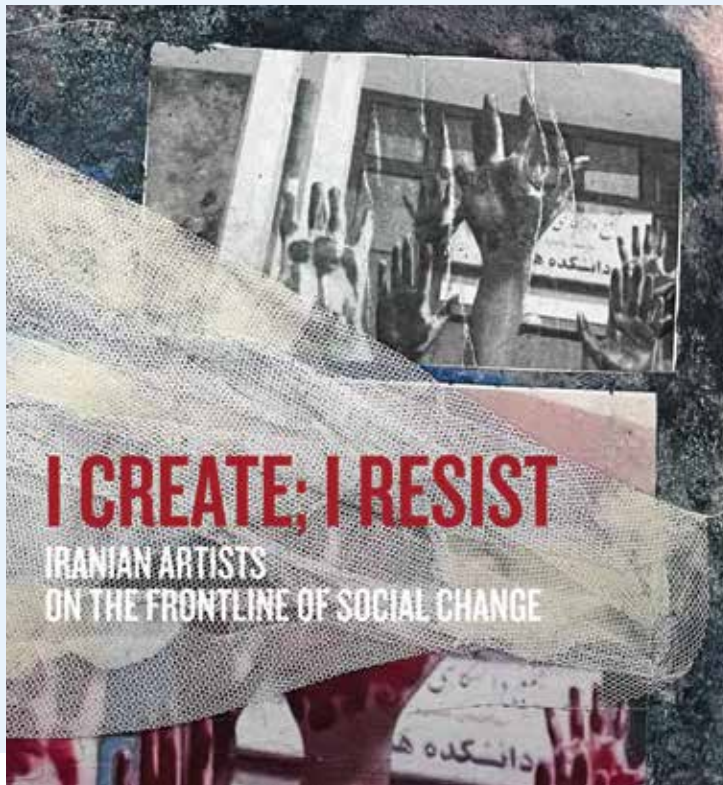
*I Create; I Resist: Iranian Artists on the Frontline of Social Change*, about artists' role in Iran's Woman, Life, Freedom

movement, the attacks they endured, and the subsequent crackdown on artistic freedom, sparked media attention from the Atlantic Council, the *Art Newspaper*, and other major outlets. Students Ayesha Asad '26, Yasameen Joualee '26, Joanna Ong '25, and Alexandra Pell '26 provided valuable research for the report.

The report highlights the profound role artists played in amplifying the message of the movement and describes the Iran government's attacks on Iranian artists, including work bans, arbitrary arrests, prosecution, torture, restrictions on mobility, and transnational repression. Led by immigration and human rights attorneys, AFI facilitates pro bono immigration representation and resettlement assistance for international artists at risk.

"In particular, the students helped us to identify several cases of artists that have been arbitrarily arrested under laws related to national security," says Johanna Bankston, AFI senior officer for research and policy. "We are so thankful for the excellent work that the student researchers did on this report. We couldn't have done it without them."

Previous Arts & Innovation Representation project students helped AFI produce major reports on artistic repression in Hungary and Afghanistan. — *Andrew Cohen*



**JOINT EFFORT:** Students from UC Berkeley Law's Arts & Innovation Representation project played a key role in developing a report on artistic suppression in Iran.

## Federal Court Visit

**The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit**, America's most important court for intellectual property issues, recently heard case arguments at the law school as part of its national jurisdiction and statutory requirement to enable citizens to see the court function outside of Washington,

D.C. Students were able to observe a federal court in action, ask questions after the arguments, and meet with the judges following the session.

**Q&A:** Judges Timothy Dyk (left) and Kara Stoll answer some student questions after hearing cases at UC Berkeley Law.



LAURIE FRASIER (BOTTOM)





## Screen Time

### LAST FALL, THE EAST BAY COMMUNITY LAW

Center's inspiring work and women of color-centered legal services were hailed on NBC's "The Kelly Clarkson Show." Executive Director Zoë Polk (left) appeared on the show with board members Sandra Johnson (second from left, also a former client) and Jocelyn Gomez '24 (second from right, a former EBCLC student).

The center, which trains more than 100 law students each year, was honored as an "amazing community changemaker" for its wide-ranging and impactful work. "The East Bay Community Law Center believes that your race and gender should not determine whether you are treated fairly in our legal system," Polk said. "We aim to level the playing field for our clients."



### ALUMS AND FORMER SKADDEN CORPORATE LAWYERS JAHAN

Shahryar '16 (left) and Tanis Sweis '17 recently starred on a Reese Witherspoon-produced docuseries showcasing female company founders and their entrepreneurial journeys.

Airing on the Roku Channel, "Side Hustlers" chronicles their background from immigrant families to legal practice to entrepreneurial success as co-founders of Brune Kitchen, which makes vegan and gluten-free cookies with organic ingredients. Their website message calls Brune Kitchen "our way of spreading happiness, one bite at a time."



### PROFESSORS OF LEGAL WRITING

Robin Allan (left) and Urmila R. Taylor teamed up on the CBS game show "Lingo," based on the popular game Wordle, hosted by RuPaul. Contestants get the first letter of a five-letter word and must guess the rest to complete their card.

After a CBS producer messaged Taylor on LinkedIn saying, "You seem like you would like word games and being on TV," she enlisted Allan and they auditioned on Zoom four times — then got the call to fly to Manchester, England, where the show is produced. Despite some detailed clothing color and pattern restrictions, they had a great experience and remain friends with their "opponents," two Midwest educators who later came west to visit them.



# Fueling the Pipeline

## UC Berkeley Law leads national effort to expand the law school applicant pool

**It didn't look like a stereotypical image of potential** law school applicants — which was exactly the point.

Years in the making, the Preparing for Law School project held a recent launch event at UC Berkeley Law with dozens of prospective law students from underrepresented backgrounds in attendance. Admissions leaders from three area law schools explained the application process, current law students shared tips on how to navigate the environment, and the night ended with a networking mixer.

While 50% of UC Berkeley Law's first-year class identify as students of color, a 2024 national survey conducted by the American Bar Association showed

that 78% of practicing attorneys are white. This new initiative aims to help change that.

"We identified a problem with access to law school resources and wanted to demystify the process and create a more equitable pathway to the legal profession," says Kristin Theis-Alvarez, UC Berkeley Law's chief administrative officer and senior assistant dean — and former dean of admissions — who has played a key role in driving the project.

It provides a free, asynchronous, self-paced, multi-media web-based program intended to reach law school candidates with limited access to quality advising resources. The modules include downloadable tools, advice on law school finances, and professional guidance through videos, podcasts, reading materials, and reflection assignments.

They shed light on law school's first-year curriculum, academic support, technology, case reading, stress management, opportunities for experience



**INSIDE SCOOP:** Filmore Thomas IV '26 shares some insights at the Preparing for Law School project launch event as Nina Zhang '25 (center) and UC Davis Law student Harman Gakhali listen in.

outside of class, and the courts system. UC Berkeley Law Dean Erwin Chemerinsky also leads a mock Constitutional Law class on the limits of presidential powers.

“Law school — how do I apply, what will I learn, and is it really what I want? — can be such a black box for folks without lawyers in their worlds,” says Professor Kristen Holmquist, closely involved in developing the project. “I’m incredibly proud of the work Berkeley Law has done to pull back the curtain a bit, to give applicants the kind of information they need to succeed. Whether these students matriculate with us, go on to law school elsewhere, or even decide not to go to law school at all, they’ll be better positioned to make good decisions for themselves.”

Launch event host Bria Watson, UC Berkeley Law’s associate director of J.D. admissions for outreach and recruitment, told the gathering that the project aims to help people from underrepresented groups “in understanding the application process, how to apply strategically, how to make law school affordable, and how lawyers who came from those backgrounds are using their law degrees to make change across many fields.”

More than 175 people have registered for the program.

The student panel discussed coming to law school from various backgrounds — Navy service, plant biology, software engineering, firefighting — and how law school provides many outlets to gain vital experience and leadership opportunities.

“You’ll be able to make tangible change in people’s lives even before graduating,” said Filmore Thomas IV '26.

Classmate Abby Neal noted, “You increasingly realize what you can do and what you’re capable of, and you realize that those impostor syndrome voices don’t need to be listened to.” — *Andrew Cohen*



**WISE COUNSEL:** Berkeley Center for Consumer Law & Economic Justice Legal Director David Nahmias '18 is also supervising attorney for the student-led Consumer Protection Public Policy Order pro bono project.

# Legal Leadership

## Faculty help bolster the school’s thriving pro bono culture

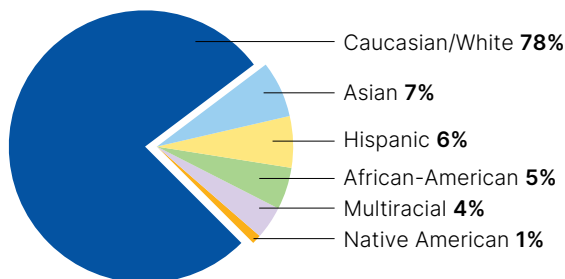
**UC Berkeley Law’s stellar faculty members are** renowned across the globe for their scholarship and treasured in the classroom for their teaching and mentoring.

Many feel called to do even more, and lend their field expertise, research chops, and analytical skills to unpaid legal work. From writing *amicus curiae* briefs to overseeing student projects and organizations to courtroom work, these professors are helping extend the school’s influence far beyond its walls — and legal academia.

“Our faculty’s engagement in pro bono work tells our students that their law degree comes with a responsibility to provide access to our legal system,” Pro Bono Program Director Deborah Schlosberg says. “This model of commitment to service is powerful and an integral component of our pro bono culture.”

That culture includes a smorgasbord of options for students, including more than 40 Student-Initiated Legal Services Projects (SLPS) supervised by faculty or outside lawyers. In the 2023-24 academic year, students logged more than 10,500 hours of pro bono work.

## Lawyers by Race & Ethnicity 2024



AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION NATIONAL POPULATION SURVEY

BRITTANY HOSEA-SMALL

There's no tracking for faculty, but a broad swath of professors, adjunct faculty, and staff, from Dean Erwin Chemerinsky to Berkeley Center for Consumer Law & Economic Justice Legal Director David Nahmias '18, engage in pro bono efforts.

"Lawyers, law professors, and law students have the duty to use their expertise to help individuals and causes that cannot afford legal representation. Indeed, the rules of professional ethics make clear that this is an obligation of lawyers," Chemerinsky says. "I am so proud of the extensive pro bono work done by our faculty and students. It makes a huge difference in people's lives."

Professor David B. Oppenheimer, who helped bolster the nascent SLPS program when he was director of the school's professional skills program, says pro bono work is second nature for him.

"Our faculty's engagement in pro bono work tells our students that their law degree comes with a responsibility to provide access to our legal system."

— Pro Bono Program Director Deborah Schlosberg

"I do it because it's at the heart of what it means to be a lawyer, and in addition to being somebody who teaches and writes, I am a lawyer," he says.

His recent pro bono work spans a wide range of topics, legal skills, and even countries. He was the counsel of record for an amicus brief filed with the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of law school deans — including Chemerinsky — in the 2022 college admissions affirmative action cases against the University of North Carolina and Harvard.

Almost all of the SLPS are supervised by outside attorneys at nonprofit law offices, public defender offices, and one small law firm. But Professor Eric Biber oversees Environmental Conservation Outreach (ECO), which aims to get students engaged in complex issues of environmental law.

Biber — whose expertise spans environmental law, natural resources law, energy law, land-use law, federal Indian law, administrative law, and property — began his legal career at Earthjustice, a public interest nonprofit. Advising and supervising ECO is a significant amount of work but well worth it, he says, since it complements his research and teaching, connects him to his early days as a litigator, and keeps him up to date with what's happening in the legal advocacy sector.

"It's rewarding because you get to engage with the students in what they're training to do: be lawyers," Biber says. — Gwyneth K. Shaw



**TEAMING UP:** 1Ls Sarah Goodman (left) and Layla Khaled Yousef work with Professor David B. Oppenheimer on a pro bono project involving the U.N. Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

BRITTANY HOSEA-SMALL



# Democracy Under the Microscope

## The new Edley Center confronts crucial issues facing America

With annual global ratings showing America's democracy in steady decline and surveys citing plummeting public faith in its governing system, UC Berkeley Law's newest research center is confronting some of the nation's foundational challenges.

Launched in August, the Christopher Edley Jr. Center on Law & Democracy aims to probe underlying causes and train students to effectively safeguard our political system. It's named after Edley, UC Berkeley Law's dean from 2004 to 2013, who served in major White House positions under two administrations and worked extensively to improve government and democracy.

The center's debut program leading up to the election — a five-part speaker series on American democracy and its intersection with the press and social media, elections and the courts, presidential power, and judicial power — drew packed crowds.

"We wanted to provide a forum for serious thinking about democracy and its future at a time when democracy has felt more precarious than it has in many decades past," says Professor Jonathan S. Gould, the center's co-faculty director with Professor Daniel A. Farber.

The fifth event featured Chemerinsky and California Supreme Court Justice Goodwin Liu discussing the role of federal courts — particularly the U.S. Supreme Court — in protecting democracy. With longer life expectancies, Supreme Court nominees joining the Court at younger ages, and justices increasingly making "values-based decisions," their appointments loom more impactful than ever.

A former UC Berkeley Law professor, Liu highlighted a rise in judicial intervention over the past two decades as originalism gains traction as a form of constitutional interpretation, predicting the court's direction will make centrist judges an antiquated presence.



**ON THE COURT:** California Supreme Court Justice Goodwin Liu, a former UC Berkeley Law professor, discusses shifting judicial norms.

"For the time being, it's unlikely that there will be more Stephen Breyers, Anthony Kennedys, Sandra Day O'Connors, or Merrick Garlands nominated for the Court," Liu said, citing jurists known for their moderate and institutional tendencies.

At the event on presidential power, Farber and fellow Berkeley Law professors Sharon Jacobs and John Yoo discussed the executive branch's growing role in shaping policy and federal agencies.

Yoo said using criminal prosecution to drive President Donald Trump out of the election failed and will likely create a problematic precedent, pointing to South Korea and Brazil as examples of frequent presidential prosecutions causing instability. "I worry it's going to cause deeper harm to the presidency and our system because I don't think it'll be a one-off," he said.

Jacobs sounded an alarm about waning federal agency authority, citing various executive branch tactics that she said "can be used to tie up agencies in a systematic way ... creating a scenario for death by a thousand cuts."

Farber discussed Congress' reduced role in creating policy, and a shift "from where the goal was for administrative agencies to carry out their statutory missions to a mindset that agencies should carry out the President's policies ... Concentrating that level of power in one individual, we ought to be uncomfortable with that in a country that prizes the rule of law."

The center, which will hire an executive director, presented programs after the election that probed critical issues such as immigration, federal workers, climate, and reproductive justice. — *Andrew Cohen*



# Closing the Corporate Gender Gap

## Women in Business Law Emerging Leaders Program builds confidence and community

**Angeli Patel '20 had read about it, heard about it,** and talked about it. But as a young attorney, seeing firsthand the gulf between women and men in corporate workplace settings — from empowerment to confidence to leadership roles — was particularly maddening.

When she became executive director of the Berkeley Center for Law and Business (BCLB) in January 2023, Patel set out to confront that by creating the Women in Business Law Emerging Leaders Program.

“I wanted to intercept this gap early in the law school experience and show women students that they belong in the business world just as much as anyone else — and they can shape it,” Patel says.

Berkeley Law’s competitive program selected 18 students in its first cohort last year and 19 this year. Students develop their networks and career strategy through site visits to major companies such as Google and Lyft, discussions with general counsels, events with top firms, coaching sessions, resume reviews, networking receptions, and more.



**FIELD TRIP:** Students in the first program cohort join staff from the Berkeley Center for Law and Business and Google during a visit to Google's headquarters last year.

Johnsenia Brooks '26, who co-founded a social events curation brand before law school, eagerly applied to the program. She praises how it fosters community, connects students with opportunities in the larger business law field, and instills more confidence to pursue them.

"It was the perfect chance for me to learn firsthand from companies whose products I use in my everyday life," she says. "I was really excited at the fact that the Emerging Leaders Program is for women and led by women. You become more confident getting to talk to boss women and learning how they've navigated their careers."

Patel and BCLB Program Coordinator Lenique Frazier tailor workshops to help students learn how to make the most of their first year, prepare them for exams, teach them to effectively use LinkedIn and other networking tools, and highlight how best to interact with business law professionals.

They work to forge a community foundation and build on it with pragmatic programming that illuminates the vocabulary of business professionals, brings them into corporate spaces to help them visualize their futures there, and teaches them about business law's "soft skills."

"A disproportionate amount of women take themselves out of the running in these spaces simply because they don't feel qualified enough, compared to men who will often shoot their shot even with minimal qualifications," Patel says. "This is a symptom of what I call a confidence gap that can only be solved through empowerment and mindset shift."

Alejandra Zamora '26, who worked exclusively in the public sector before law school, joined the program to learn more about business law. She's now considering pursuing an in-house attorney position at a company.

"The Emerging Leaders Program opened my eyes to new opportunities and spaces that I would not have envisioned myself in before," Zamora says. "We need more programs like this because we need to build community and seek mentorship from successful women."

Going forward, Patel hopes to expand the initiative's reach — from resources to cohort sizes to collaborations with more area companies.

"For us, success is when students realize they are the masters of their own fate and creators of their own future," she says. — *Andrew Cohen*

# New Hire Brings Fresh Perspective

## Standout Alina Ball to lead the nascent Social Enterprise Clinic

**Joining the UC Berkeley Law faculty is a homecoming for**

Alina Ball, the school's latest hire. An East Bay native, she'll lead the new Social Enterprise Clinic in the growing Clinical Program.

"This is an opportunity to build on the work that I've been doing over the last decade," says Ball, who ran a similar clinic at UC Law San Francisco. "Now, I can really take that to a deeper level by being at a law school that not only financially supports the clinic work but also provides opportunity for collaboration across the university."

UC Berkeley Law Dean Erwin Chemerinsky says he's delighted by Ball's arrival.

"Alina is a very experienced and nationally renowned clinical professor who will strengthen our Clinical Program by creating an economic development clinic focused on helping small businesses," he says. "She's a terrific hire and I very much look forward to being her colleague."



**READY TO START:** Alina Ball, who joined the faculty in January, will guide a clinic focused on social enterprise and economic development.

Ball's career as a clinical professor sprung from her passion for two distinct areas: transactional law and racial justice. She went to UCLA Law knowing she wanted to do transactional work in economically marginalized communities.

"Lawyers have been doing this type of work for a really long time, but there wasn't a how-to guide of how to be a transactional social justice lawyer," she says.

Ball worked at Morrison & Foerster in San Francisco and Washington, D.C., focusing on representing private and public companies in debt, equity, and M&A transactions. She then got a teaching fellowship at Georgetown Law, where she also earned an LL.M.

"I realized this is the sweet spot of the technical skills that I wanted to use and the ability to work within the communities where I'm most inspired," Ball says.

Students in the Social Enterprise Clinic will work as outside counsel for local businesses with a social or environmental mission, assisting with corporate governance, regulatory compliance, formation issues, and contract drafting. It's one of three new clinics on the horizon, including the first family defense clinic on the West Coast.

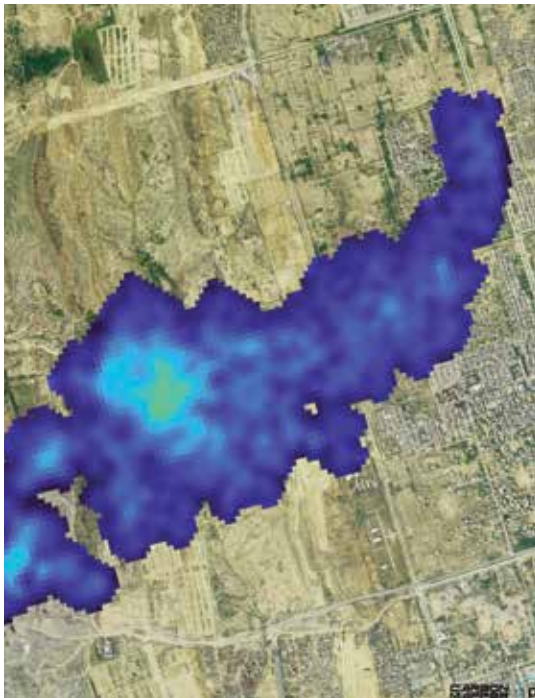
"We are thrilled that Alina Ball is joining the Clinical Program to found and lead the Social Enterprise Clinic," says Clinical Program Director Laura Riley. "The clinic's focus on racial and economic justice and commitment to providing legal representation to social enterprises will benefit both communities and students interested in thinking critically about the relationships among law, business, and racial equity."

Ball says she's excited to be part of the process of continuing to enhance the program — including making additional hires — and working alongside faculty whose research converges with her interests, including the law school's growing consumer law group.

"Berkeley is consistently listed as one of the strongest clinical programs in the country, and it was exciting to me both that the leadership of the law school was investing in it and thinking strategically about how to grow the program and stay innovative," she says. "There's a demonstrated commitment to hiring cutting-edge voices, including scholars of color and scholars who center economic justice, and that was exciting to me." — *Gwyneth K. Shaw*

# A Timely Breakthrough

**TROUBLE SPOT:** A satellite captures a methane plume exceeding two miles from a landfill in Pakistan last fall.



**UC Berkeley Law center helps launch satellite idea to track methane emissions**

**Our Center for Law, Energy & the Environment (CLEE)** is playing a major role in groundbreaking research on emissions of methane — a powerful greenhouse gas responsible for about a third of global warming — which has been onerous to track.

In August 2024, NASA partner Carbon Mapper launched the satellite Tanager-1 to detect and quantify methane emissions with unprecedented accuracy. In tandem with MethaneSAT, launched by the Environmental Defense Fund, the satellites will provide real-time data on moderate to large



emission leaks, addressing a major gap in methane monitoring and reporting.

CLEE Project Climate Director Ken Alex pitched the satellite idea when he was a senior policy adviser for then-California Gov. Jerry Brown, catalyzed collaboration between key stakeholders, and helped secure philanthropic funding to bring San Francisco-based satellite company Planet Labs on board.

“The satellites — there will be a few of them over the next few years — can cover much of the earth and identify methane emissions almost anywhere in the world,” Alex says. “Because methane is colorless and odorless, facilities often don’t know that they have a leak, which the satellite can detect.”

The satellite and its teammates will make a major impact on the Subnational Methane Action Coalition, which CLEE founded, and has jurisdictions around the world to help accelerate action to reduce methane emissions.

“We will be integrating satellite data into that effort, which will help with methane inventories, leak detection, and measuring progress,” Alex says.

CLEE is also working with the UC Berkeley School of Engineering to better understand methane emissions from landfills and will incorporate satellite data in that effort.

While many methane sources such as landfills and oil extraction sites are well known, around 20% of emissions come from unidentified or underreported sources. These new satellites will help close that gap by providing precise, almost real-time data that can help target leaks and mitigate them.

Data gathered from Carbon Mapper will be used to shape California’s climate policies and support global efforts to combat methane emissions. Carbon Mapper and the Environmental Defense Fund will make the methane data publicly available, allowing state and local governments, nongovernmental organizations, and the general public to access the information — ideally enhancing accountability and encouraging action from companies and jurisdictions to reduce their emissions.

CLEE will play a major role in using the data, working with partners to verify the accuracy of satellite readings and match them with ground-level detection records in order to guide more effective methane mitigation strategies.

Alex notes that the project is just one of CLEE’s ongoing contributions to shaping climate policy by leveraging cutting-edge science to reduce one of the most potent greenhouse gasses driving global warming.



The center’s projects also aim to help expand the infrastructure for electric vehicles in underserved communities, improve community benefit agreements associated with green infrastructure projects, determine faster and cheaper options for transmission lines, and work with libraries to create place-based resources about climate change.

“The breadth of our work matches the challenges of climate change,” Alex says. “This satellite is a welcome addition to our toolbox.”

— Gwyneth K. Shaw & Judith Katz

**GLOBAL TRACKER:** Imaging from the satellite will support the center’s efforts to reduce methane emissions worldwide.

# Deep Learning

Across the legal terrain, UC Berkeley Law's scholars, students, and programs are at the vanguard on AI.

**BY GWYNETH K. SHAW**

ILLUSTRATIONS BY RYAN OLBRYSH

**L**ike a slew of innovations that preceded it — from the telegraph to nanotechnology — artificial intelligence is both changing a wide swath of our landscape and raising an equally broad set of concerns.

At UC Berkeley Law, a Silicon Valley neighbor long renowned for its top technology law programs, faculty, students, research centers, and executive and Continuing Legal Education platforms are meeting the challenges head on. From different corners of the legal and policy world, they're positioned to understand and explain the latest AI offerings and highlight places where guardrails are needed — and where a hands-off approach would be smarter.

This summer, the school will begin offering a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree with an AI focus — the first of its kind at an American law school. The AI Law and Regulation certificate is open for application from LL.M. students interested in the executive track program, which is completed over two summers or through remote study combined with one summer on campus.

"At Berkeley Law, we are committed to leading the way in legal education by anticipating the future needs of our profession. Our AI-focused degree program is a testament to our







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dedication to preparing our students for the challenges and opportunities presented by emerging technologies,” Dean Erwin Chemerinsky says. “This program underscores our commitment to innovation and excellence, ensuring our graduates are at the forefront of the legal landscape.”

The certificate is just one of several ways practitioners can add AI understanding to their professional toolkit. Berkeley Law’s Executive Education program offers an annual AI Institute that takes participants from the basics of the technology to the regulator big picture as well as Generative AI for the Legal Profession, a self-paced course that opened registration for its second cohort in February.

At the Berkeley Center for Law & Technology (BCLT) — long the epicenter of the school’s tech program — the AI, Platforms, and Society Center aims to build community among practitioners while supporting research and training. A partnership with CITRIS Policy Lab at the Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society and the Banatao Institute (CITRIS), which draws from expertise on the UC campuses at Berkeley, Davis, Merced, and Santa Cruz, the BCLT program works with UC Berkeley’s Goldman School of Public Policy, School of Information, and College of Engineering.

The center also hosts AI-related events, which are available on its innovative B-CLE platform (see page 4). So does the Berkeley Center for Law and Business, through webinars and in-person talks with expert corporate and startup leaders.

## Drilling down

Many of BCLT’s 20 faculty co-directors have AI issues on their scholarship agenda, including Kenneth A. Bamberger, Colleen V. Chien ’02, Sonia Katyal, Deirdre Mulligan, Tejas N. Narechania, Brandie Nonnecke, Andrea Roth, Pamela Samuelson, Catherine Crump, Jennifer M. Urban ’00, Erik Stallman ’03, and Rebecca Wexler. Their expertise spans the full spectrum of AI-adjacent questions, including privacy concerns, intellectual property and competition issues, and the implications for the criminal justice system.

“The most important potential benefit of AI is harnessing the power of the vast amount of information we have about our world, in ways that we’ve been stymied from doing because of scale and complexity, to answer questions and generate ideas,” says Urban, the director of policy initiatives at the school’s Samuelson Law, Technology & Public Policy Clinic.

“The potential drawbacks stem from the risk that we fail to develop and deploy AI technology in service of those benefits, but instead take shortcuts that destroy public trust and cause unnecessary damage. A big use of automation already, for example, is automated decision-making,” she explains. “Unfortunately, some automated systems have been prone to bias and mistakes — even when making critically important decisions like benefits allocations, healthcare coverage, and employment decisions.

“Ultimately, any decision-making system requires trust. We risk creating — or not interrupting — incentives that nudge the development of the technology away from publicly beneficial uses and toward untrustworthy results.”

The clinic also affords students the opportunity to get hands-on experience in developing and influencing AI policy (see page 25), says Stallman, the assistant director.

“Artificial intelligence is raising new questions or resurrecting old ones in every field of law and technology,” he says. “In the Samuelson Clinic, students are weighing in on those questions and also confronting how AI is influencing the way we practice law.”

One of the more pressing issues at the moment, Samuelson says, is even agreeing on precisely what constitutes AI. A pioneer in digital copyright law, intellectual property, cyberlaw, and information policy, she spoke to Europe’s Digital Agenda Conference at the University of Bergen last fall about the United States’ perspective on the current landscape.

“If you have a technology that’s well-defined, and everybody knows what it is and what it isn’t, that’s

**DUE DILIGENCE:** Professor Jennifer M. Urban ’00, director of policy initiatives at the Samuelson Law, Technology & Public Policy Clinic, urges resisting shortcuts in developing AI guidelines.



**VALUED VOICE:** Professor Tejas N. Narechania's work on AI and machine learning led to an invitation to the White House to comment on then-President Joe Biden's policies.

one thing," she says. "But nobody has a good definition for what artificial intelligence is, and today, the hype around that term means that people are calling pretty much every software system AI, and it's just not."

Some companies are genuinely building and refining large language models and other neural networks that could profoundly change the creative sector and reorient a host of business models. Others are just jumping on a next-new-thing bandwagon that only recently held out non-fungible tokens (NFTs) and cryptocurrency and blockchain as world-altering innovations, Samuelson says.

"Not so long ago, there was this sense that they were going to sweep away everything and we need a whole new body of regulations for them. But no, they turned out to be kind of marginal phenomena," she adds. "I don't think that AI systems are marginal phenomena, but I don't think they're one thing, either."

In her European presentation, Samuelson said copyright law is the only U.S. law on the books that could "bring AI to its knees." Multiple cases are pending in courts across the country from heavy hitters in the creative world, including *The New York Times* and Getty Images, alleging that scraping those companies' original works to train generative models that then create new visual and text-based works violates the copyright laws.

AI companies often argue that their tactics constitute a "fair use" under the current federal copyright laws — a question that's been well-litigated in cases involving music samples and online books, to give just two examples. But Samuelson says a sweeping judgment about AI seems unlikely.

Narechania, whose work on AI and machine learning led to an invitation to the White House to comment on then-President Joe Biden's policies, says the competition angle raises other big questions.

"If you look at the companies playing in this space, there are fewer and fewer of them, they tend to be more concentrated, they tend to be overlapping. And that has implications for both competition and innovation," he says. "AI appears



to us as a magic technology. You go to ChatGPT in your browser, type something in, get a response, it's fun. But once you peek under the hood and look at what the technology stack looks like underneath it, you see a funnel that narrows pretty quickly. There are lots and lots of applications, but a bunch of them are all sitting on top of GPT — that is, there is only one model of language.

"And that funnel, that lack of competition below the application layer, has problems. What is the quality going to be of these models, to the extent we're worried about bias or discrimination or risk? What's the data that are input into these models? Who's getting it? Where is it coming from?"

Multiple providers could help improve these systems through market competition, Narechania adds. If that's not possible, regulations might be necessary to ensure the public gets a real benefit out of the technology.

## Eyes everywhere

Just 20 years ago, the notion of catching a criminal suspect using publicly-mounted cameras and facial recognition technology felt like an outlandish plot point of a "24" episode. These days, with almost ubiquitous surveillance in many urban areas and rapidly developing capabilities, it's a key advantage of AI.

But serious questions remain about the accuracy of information officials are using to arrest and convict people —

## Berkeley Law Voices Carry

### Listen to Professors Tejas N.

Narechania and Rebecca Wexler talk about the challenges of AI on the "Berkeley Law Voices Carry" podcast at [law.berkeley.edu/aipod](http://law.berkeley.edu/aipod)





and those concerns go far beyond cameras. Large language models trained on a limited diet of text, images, or characteristics could reproduce bias, for example, or spit out a result that's not fully grounded in the factual evidence.

Wexler, who studies data, technology, and secrecy in the criminal justice system, says AI raises genuine concerns. But many of them are related to a broader lack of transparency about tech-aided evidence, she explains, or even expert testimony from human beings.

"AI is, in a way, an opportunity, and it's shining a spotlight on these issues that are relevant to AI but not necessarily unique to AI," she says.

Wexler has written about how some software vendors use contract law protections to avoid peer review of their applications. That means police, prosecutors, judges, and juries are relying on results from devices and programs that haven't been independently vetted to see if they're returning accurate results.

AI is increasing that reliance, she says, and what Wexler calls its "shiny mystery" might sway jurors to defer the kind of skepticism they might have for a human expert. So when a police officer gets on the witness stand and describes the result they got from a device, they're recounting the button they pushed — not the way the machine produced evidence.

Roth, who's been writing about the evidentiary issues raised by machines for nearly a decade, points out that courts have ruled there's no Sixth Amendment right to cross-examine a software developer.

In a recent webinar about new technologies and tools in the

criminal system, she told the audience that few rules govern the assertions of automated systems, and offered advice for lawyers in thinking about how to use those outputs.

"If you want the source code, you're going to have to explain why you need it, and you may need to talk to an expert about that," Roth said. "If this program could talk, and you could submit them to a deposition, what would you ask the program about their assumptions, or the hypotheticals that they considered?"

Other scholars are exploring whether AI can be harnessed to improve the legal system. Chien, whose Law and Governance of Artificial Intelligence course will be the backbone of the LL.M. certificate program, has a forthcoming article that proposes using ChatGPT-style applications to improve access to the court system for low-income people.

With evictions, record expungement, and immigration, for example, a chatbot might help those who have difficulty finding or affording an attorney get the right legal advice or match up with a pro bono practitioner, she and her co-authors write. She also co-authored the first field study of legal aid attorneys using AI to improve service delivery.

"Generative AI technologies hold great potential for addressing systematic inequalities like the justice gap, but fulfilling this potential won't happen organically," Chien says. "More attention to the potential benefits, like reducing the cost of legal services for the underserved and not just the harms of AI, could have big payoffs."

The safety risks are what grab most people's attention,

Samuelson adds, particularly lawmakers. More than 700 bills seeking to rein in AI are floating around state legislatures, including in California.

"The AI systems are powerful, and they're often not explainable, and they make predictions, and they yield other kinds of outputs that will affect people's lives," she says. "There's a lot of worry about discrimination, misinformation, and privacy violations."

But the European Union's generally proactive model of regulation may create a two-tiered system that stifles access to innovation and works against the very goal it's reaching for. It's probably a misguided notion to think that big U.S. tech companies like Apple and Meta will agree to comply with new rules from Brussels, leaving smaller companies and European customers out in the cold.

**COMMON GROUND:** Professor Pamela Samuelson, who's been studying the boundaries of innovation for decades, says agreeing on precisely what constitutes AI is a pressing issue.



Various forms of AI carry different risk profiles, Samuelson says, and applications for aviation, hospital record-keeping, and job recruiting shouldn't get the same regulatory treatment. A nudge might be more effective than a hard standard, she argues.

"The people who are developing these systems are not trying

to deploy them to destroy us all. They think they have some beneficial uses," Samuelson says. "Then the question is, how do you balance the benefits of advanced technologies against the harms that they might do? And I think rather than mandating that everyone has to have a kill switch, we could do something more targeted."

## Peak Performer

### Berkeley Center for Law & Technology

Executive Director Wayne Stacy has been immersed in the development of American tech law for decades, aiding and monitoring the evolution of everything from patent rules to artificial intelligence.

As a top patent litigator and leader of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's West Coast branch, in the classroom, and most recently leading UC Berkeley Law's technology hub, Stacy's been positioned at the intersection of innovation and this country's legal and governmental principles.

But what if a country didn't have that history to rely on — not just regarding longstanding principles guaranteeing freedom of speech and assembly, but also questions about where a resource-limited nation should invest as it tries to keep up with innovation's breakneck pace?

Stacy got to find out in December, when he visited Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu, Nepal, as a Fulbright Specialist, part of a U.S. Department of State program. Over just 30 days, he helped the law faculty at Tribhuvan — which oversees Nepal's public legal-education system — build out a brand-new tech law curriculum for all of the country's public law schools, including the burgeoning AI sector.

While the workload was heavy — Nepal has six-day work weeks — Stacy did see some of the country. He visited Mount Everest's base camp



and, having grown up farming himself, toured the countryside to see how agriculture works there and "get a feel for where technology is still irrelevant."

He calls the experience fascinating for multiple reasons: The chance to observe another culture closely and understand its internal and external political pressures; to discuss which legal topics best fit their current and future needs; and to reflect on how countries that are just developing technology sectors should use rules and regulations formed in places, like the European Union and the U.S., that have worked on the topics for many years.

Master's of Law (LL.M.) students in Nepal — wedged between twin technology powerhouses China and India — needed a framework for understanding and developing tech law. Tribhuvan was the linchpin for the curriculum development since the government, universities, and judiciary are stocked with its graduates, Stacy explains.

"It came down to not telling them how

**PRIZED GUEST:** Berkeley Center for Law & Technology Executive Director Wayne Stacy (center) with officials at Kathmandu University, where he spoke during his 30-day stay in Nepal.

to do things, but making it clear that this is how the world has designed these programs, from privacy to AI," he says. "A lot of countries are developing these laws from scratch because they're just now facing these tech issues, and just adopting regulatory approaches wholesale from other nations is not always going to work."

Because the curriculum will be used for many years, he adds, there's room for growth and change in the class structure as the technology sector evolves. Stacy plans to stay involved and hopes to bring some of the ideas and comparisons generated during the process back home.

"They're facing many problems that we first faced 10 to 20 years ago," he says. "Now they can look at what the rest of the world has done and is doing," he says. — Gwyneth K. Shaw





## A front-row seat to innovation

In addition to the new LL.M. program, UC Berkeley Law students interested in AI have a wide variety of options — at the law school and across campus.

2L Juliette Draper worked with Chien on a project about proposed reforms to California's driver's license suspension policies and used ChatGPT to summarize the various bills in play. The program dramatically increased her efficiency, she says, quickly producing 30 paragraphs about the legislation.

"I think it's incredibly exciting to be in this period of time where artificial intelligence, technology, energy law, and policy at large is really important, because AI and technology intersect with everything that we do," Draper says. "It's cool to think how if you're interested in any topic — from reproductive rights and healthcare to immigration reform — AI presents a lot of unique challenges, but it also offers unique tools that can help us in those areas."

Pranav Ramakrishnan LL.M. '25 worked with Chien on a project focused on AI governance, examining how LL.M.s evaluate resumes in relation to criminal history and race and exploring algorithmic bias in hiring.

To gain a broader perspective, he took a fall semester course at UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business with Matthew Rappaport, general partner of the venture capital fund Future Frontier Capital and co-founder of the school's Deep Tech Innovation Lab. The unique cross-disciplinary course put law, business, and engineering students together to absorb the full spectrum of what tech-related businesses need.

"I was fascinated by this, because I got to interact with great engineers and great business minds," he says. "The engineers got to learn a little bit of law, and I got to explore business and engineering more deeply."

3L Bani Sapra worked with ACLU California Action as a Samuelson Clinic student on a comment aimed at Gov. Gavin Newsom's 2023

**TROUBLESHOOTING:** Professor Colleen V. Chien '02 (top) is bridging the worlds of law and computer science to address various problems with access to the justice system for lower-income people.

**DOOR OPENER:** Samuelson Law, Technology & Public Policy Clinic Assistant Director and Clinical Professor Erik Stallman '03 helps students gain experience in working to shape AI policy.





executive order on generative AI. She says that while the tech sector is bullish on the many potential applications and benefits, it's still new and there is much more to develop. Ultimately, AI may reshape the practice of law, she adds.

"In the same way that Google changed the way we research, AI has the potential to change the way we do discovery and

trials, and we can already see law firms exploring how to adopt those methods," Sapra says. "But my work at the clinic really taught me that these sorts of innovations need to be embraced with great caution, and you need to constantly check to make sure it's creating the outcomes we're expecting."

## Generating Good AI Policy

### Both Bani Sapra '25 and Nicole

Bloomfield LL.M. '24 came to UC Berkeley Law because of its vaunted technology law program, and both saw the Samuelson Law, Technology & Public Policy Clinic as an ideal place to put legal theories into practice.

They also had seen enough in their prior careers — Sapra as a tech journalist in the Bay Area and the Middle East, Bloomfield while studying law in the United Kingdom — to have serious reservations about artificial intelligence on a variety of levels.

So when ACLU California Action approached clinic Director Catherine Crump about crafting a comment on Gov. Gavin Newsom's 2023 executive order on generative AI, Sapra and Bloomfield wanted to get involved.

"Since we were working with a civil rights advocate, we knew right off the bat that we'd be recommending to the governor's office that state agencies stay away from some uses entirely, such as facial or biometric surveillance and predictive policing," Sapra says.

Even though the executive order was addressed specifically to generative AI, Sapra notes that they looked at California's existing regulations and saw "while there aren't any guidelines for AI in general, many of the state's automated systems lack those sort of guardrails — we realized quickly that

these guidelines shouldn't just address gen AI but automated systems at large."

That suggestion is one of four in the ACLU's comment. Others include a decision-making standard that incorporates community input and an AI impact assessment, and a prohibition of buying or using technologies that "pose an unacceptable risk to vulnerable communities," such as facial recognition or emotion-detection software. The comment also asks the governor's office to help local agencies that comply with the state guidelines.

Both Sapra and Bloomfield were struck by the risk of an AI-aided program unintentionally doing harm. The stories that make headlines tend to highlight overt mistakes, like a facial recognition system that identifies the wrong person. But what about places where AI expands and intensifies existing inequality and biases?

"When we were researching for this and expanding our definition of generative AI and automated systems in general, I became hyper-aware of how these systems could have an impact on the allocation of resources, or how you're hired at a job," Bloomfield says. "AI can help to alleviate some of the stress on underfunded and under-resourced public services, but at the same time it removes the human element and leaves room for bias that can't easily be scrutinized.

"It was really interesting, because it affects so many facets of life that people wouldn't be aware of."

After comparing how the federal government, other states, and nations worldwide have grappled with these issues, Sapra and Bloomfield saw the difficulty of spreading good policies



**OFFERING ADVICE:** Bani Sapra '25 (top) and Nicole Bloomfield LL.M. '24 helped research a comment on an executive order about generative AI while enrolled in the Samuelson Law, Technology & Public Policy Clinic.

among fragmented governments.

"A lot of the use cases we're concerned about involve local agencies implementing them that aren't necessarily going to be bound by what the state says they should do," Bloomfield says. "For me, it seems important to find avenues that aren't necessarily legal regulation to be able to have maximum impact across the board."

— Gwyneth K. Shaw



# Photo Essay

Law School Life  
Through the Lens

## A Sense of Humanity

**Kaela Allen '26** immediately immersed herself in activities far beyond her first-year coursework when she came to UC Berkeley Law, particularly through the Pro Bono Program. She got involved with the student-led Foster Education Project, joined the *Berkeley Journal of Black Law & Policy*, and traveled to Atlanta over spring break for one of the Berkeley Law Alternative Service Trips. This year, she has taken on a leadership role in all three groups, including co-editor-in-chief of the journal.

Allen was a legislative extern at the Pacific Juvenile Defender Center through the school's Call for Necessary Engagement in Community & Timely Response initiative, interned at the East Bay Community Law Center as an Equal Justice America fellow, and will do movement lawyering and immigration work this summer at Just Futures Law.

*"How can we make new laws to make sure that our youth are actually being set up to succeed in the world they're going to inherit? I would love to see leadership repainted as those who think collaboratively and are truly thinking about what is the best outcome we could have for those that we're serving."*

CORDUROY MEDIA



*Painting a New Picture  
of Leadership.  
#BerkeleyLawLeads*





BRITANY HOSEA-SMALL



**Marcos A. Romero '24 (right) and Cecilia Almaraz '24** officially become attorneys during UC Berkeley Law's annual Swearing-In Ceremony for alumni who passed the most recent California Bar Exam.

Photo  
Essay

# Bright Futures

**Daniel Warner '26, a student in the UCDC Law Program,** is externing this semester in the U.S. Department of Justice's National Security Cyber Section, part of the agency's National Security Division, after interning with the U.S. Department of Defense last summer.

Eager to gain "a better understanding of the tools the government uses to disrupt and respond to malicious activity by hostile nation-state adversaries," he quickly got to conduct legal research, lead meetings, and review indictments and warrants.

A full-semester externship program in Washington, D.C., the UCDC Law Program combines a weekly seminar-style course with a full-time placement for law students from UC Berkeley, UCLA, UC Davis, UC Irvine, and UC Law San Francisco. They learn how federal statutes, regulations, and policies are made, changed, and understood, and get contact with all three government branches, independent regulatory agencies, and advocacy nonprofits.





# Community Building

**Current LL.M. students celebrated Cal's dramatic 24-21 football victory over Stanford, in which the Bears rallied from a 14-point second-half deficit to clinch a bowl bid and beat their rival for the fourth straight year.**

Members of UC Berkeley Law's traditional track LL.M. class and some friends rushed the field after the game. Gabriela Sabogal LL.M. '25 says she and her classmates "felt grateful to be in one of the best universities in the world surrounded by incredible human beings, and we took

this picture to immortalize what an amazing experience it is to attend UC Berkeley School of Law."

Sabogal relished "the incredible opportunity to dive deeper into business law as an editor for the *Berkeley Business Law Journal* and work on pro bono projects with the Queer Justice Project that are especially important to me. Above all, I am grateful for the friendships I've made this semester and I look forward to continuing to learn and grow alongside such talented and inspiring individuals."



COURTESY OF GABRIELA SABOGAL LL.M. '25





**Our Law Students of African Descent** chapter teamed with several other student organizations and the Career Development Office to hold the school's largest Diversity Placement Night ever.

This powerful collaboration for many first-generation UC Berkeley Law students and those from underrepresented backgrounds brought together over 120 1Ls — including

(from left) Noel George, Michael John, and Nailah Edmead — and more than 30 leading firms for networking and one-on-one mock interviews, providing invaluable experience and connections.

LSAD is committed to ensuring that all students have the opportunity to succeed, and to building a more inclusive legal future for everyone.



# All-Star Advocates

**Heather DeMocker '25 and Hersh Gupta '26** reached the finals of this year's prestigious James Patterson McBaine Honors Moot Court Competition, UC Berkeley Law's advanced-level appellate competition now in its seventh decade.

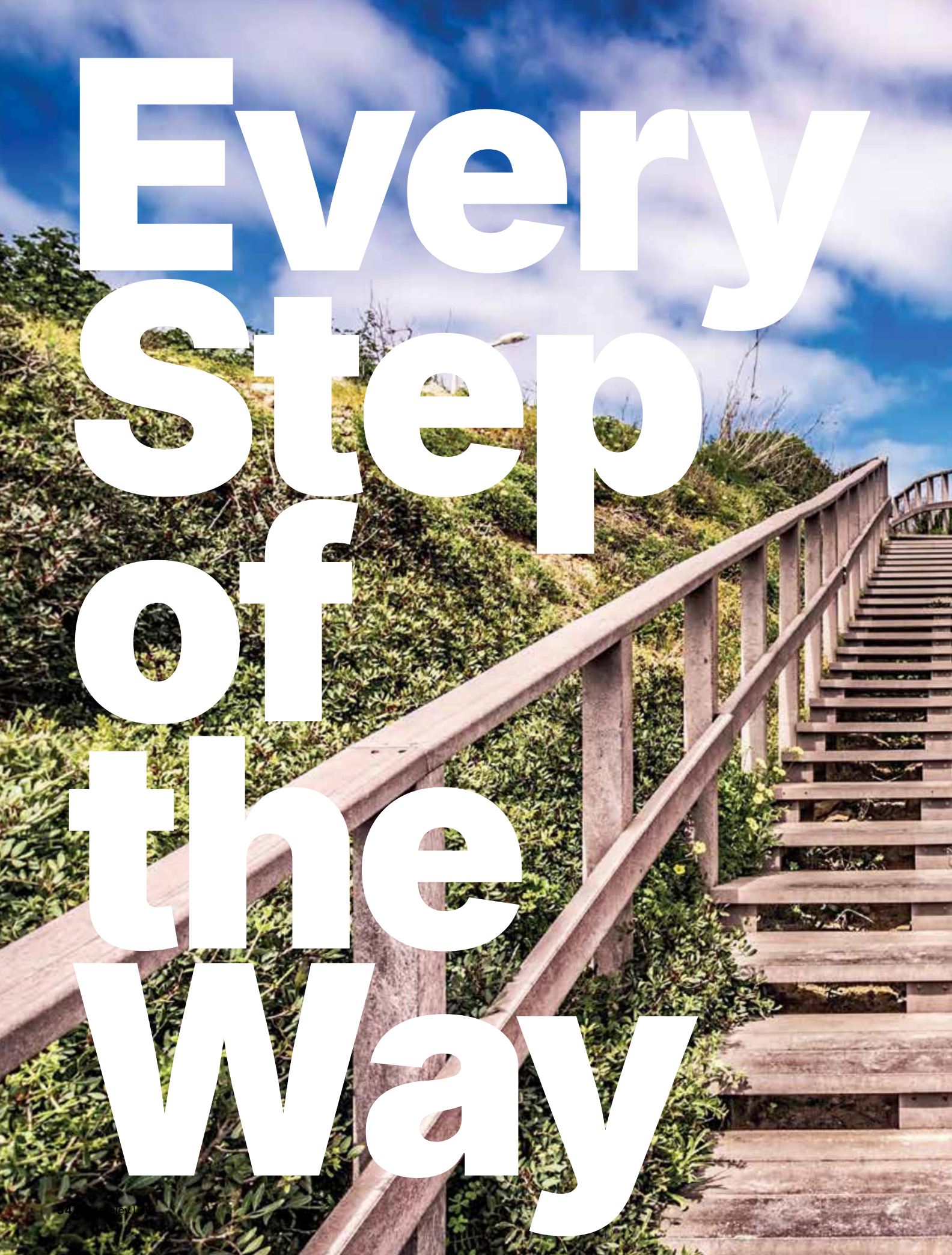
Designed to both test and hone students' written and oral advocacy skills as they independently prepare an appellate brief

and deliver at least two oral arguments, the competition is modeled after U.S. Supreme Court practice with students given a problem selected from real appellate decisions involving topical issues of great public importance. During the final round, a panel of esteemed judges from the state and federal bench preside over the arguments before a spirited audience.









# Every Step of the way





## Providing expanded access, ample outlets for vital experience, and transformative financial support, UC Berkeley Law turns public service dreams into reality.

By Andrew Cohen

**T**he disillusioning dilemma is all too common: Talented law students eager to forge public interest careers but stymied by roadblocks, including limited chances to gain meaningful experience as a 1L, land a paid summer job in their area of interest, or repay their student loans.

Acutely aware of this conundrum, UC Berkeley Law has carefully built strategic scaffolding to help public interest-minded students soar — from before they even apply to a decade after they graduate.

“Comprehensive support for students’ public interest pursuits is essential to our mission,” Dean Erwin Chemerinsky says. “We’re committed to expanding access to applicants who are eager to become public interest lawyers, offering abundant opportunities when they’re here, and reducing their loan debt to make their desired careers truly feasible.”

The school has more than doubled its financial aid expenditures since Chemerinsky arrived in 2017 and reduced the average student loan debt to

lower than virtually all its peer law schools. Unlike most schools, students can also gain immediate direct experience through the Pro Bono Program's 40-plus Student-Initiated Legal Services Projects (SLPS), then do more real-world legal work through the surging Clinical and Field Placement programs.

Students have seen increases in scholarships, advising resources, tailored programs, and postgraduate fellowships. 1Ls and 2Ls who do 25 hours of pro bono work and secure full-time legal work for a nonprofit, government agency, or federal or state court judge receive an Edley Grant, named after former dean Christopher Edley Jr. Over half of our 1Ls receive these \$5,500 grants and 2Ls can receive \$6,500 for a second placement, enabling key experience in otherwise unpaid positions.

There's also a trove of relevant courses, four public interest-dedicated staff members in the Career Development Office (CDO) — including three career counselors with deep public interest experience and expertise — and wide-ranging events and workshops through the CDO and the Thelton E. Henderson Center for Social Justice. The center also oversees a public interest and social justice certificate available to students.

The Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP), one of the most generous among U.S. law schools, provides vital funding to alums working in public interest careers to cover their student loan payments (see infographic, page 41).

"Building a path to this type of legal career requires helping students stay on track at every checkpoint," says Amanda Prasuhn, director of public interest financial support. "By cultivating a strong public interest culture, our students also form a powerful sense of community with each other that extends long after they graduate."

Here are four alums who have scaled this scaffolding to gratifying heights:

**A**seem Mulji '19 encountered many steps between pondering law school to now working as senior legal counsel with the Campaign Legal Center in Washington, D.C. At each one, he saw UC Berkeley Law lifting him up.

"Berkeley's financial support for public interest students is essential for students like me," he says. "Its LRAP was key to my attending law school in the first place — there's no way I could afford it or do public service otherwise."

Mulji jumped into pro bono work as a 1L, got an Edley Grant to work at the Campaign Legal Center that summer, and used bar study grants for public-interest students through the *California Law Review*, where he served as the journal's technology and communications editor.

These days, LRAP enables him to do rewarding work litigating voting rights and redistricting cases and supporting advocacy efforts to improve democracy at the federal, state, and local levels.

"Public service is in Berkeley's DNA as a law school and institution," he says. "By offering so many resources, the school is able to attract students, professors, and staff who share a dedication to using the law for good, no matter their field or speciality. Being surrounded by students, faculty, and staff who put public service at the heart of their work is what makes Berkeley special among law schools."

Mulji's work involves advancing democracy reforms to address voter suppression and gerrymandering. He has also represented Black, Latine, and Native American voters in cases filed under the Voting Rights Act, secured fairly drawn legislative districts and polling locations on tribal reservations, and helped voters with disabilities challenge policies that made mail voting harder during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He also prods state legislatures to enact their own voting rights acts "to enshrine important protections

## Career Development Resources

4

Career Development Office (CDO) staff members dedicated to students pursuing public interest and public sector jobs

7

Graduates chosen last year for the coveted California Attorney General Honors Program, in which new public service-driven lawyers work on many vital issues — a school record and more than any other law school

50+

First-year students who get matched each year with practicing government and public interest attorneys through the CDO's Public Interest/Social Justice Mentor Program

80+

Employers that attend UC Berkeley Law's annual Public Interest/Public Sector Internship and Career Fair



into state law that the Supreme Court has been slowly whittling away for decades.”

In the last five years, he says, “We’ve helped enact state-level voting rights acts in Minnesota, New York, Connecticut, and Virginia. For me, building an inclusive, functioning, multiracial democracy in the United States is the defining struggle of our time.”

For four years between college and law school, Mulji was an organizer and civic technologist, working with local governments across the country to develop processes that engage traditionally under-represented communities in public budgets and policymaking.

“I encountered a host of legal barriers to institutionalizing these democracy-deepening reforms,” he says. “I was also doing this work when the Supreme Court handed down its decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* in 2013, gutting the Voting Rights Act of 1965 based on a fiction that the U.S. has moved beyond racial politics and subjugation. I remember reading the decision and thinking, ‘This can’t be law.’”

Mulji decided to go to law school “to help fight back against democratic degradation and create space for reforms that can create a deeper, more equitable and durable democracy in the U.S.”

At UC Berkeley Law, Mulji participated in the Post-Conviction Advocacy Project as a 1L and co-led the group — in which teams of two or three students help a prisoner prepare for their parole hearing — as a 2L. During that time, he helped his client receive parole.

Mulji also co-directed an election law student group and served as website editor for the *Berkeley Journal of Gender, Law & Justice*.

Outside the law school, he did a part-time externship at the ACLU of Northern California, and was later a full-time extern at the Los Angeles Center for Community Law & Action, where he litigated eviction defense and slum housing claims. After his 2L year, he gained private sector experience as a law firm summer associate in Washington.

These days, he finds great satisfaction in supporting the Campaign Legal Center’s actions to challenge gerrymandered voting districts at the state and local level, and in working to advance various democracy reforms. These include state-level voting rights acts, ranked-choice voting, public financing, and measures to ensure ballot access for justice-involved voters.

“The great thing about Berkeley’s public interest offerings is that they are virtually endless, which I think is rare among elite law schools,” Mulji says. “The difficulty was never that opportunities were



**CAPITALIZING:** Aseem Mulji '19 has parlayed vital training and support from UC Berkeley Law into a gratifying career working on voting rights issues.

scarce, but that there were too many to choose from. It was especially meaningful and enriching to be able to jump right into public interest legal practice, including direct client representation, as a 1L.

“The SLPS and externship programs were really key to getting a sense for what kinds of public interest lawyering jobs exist — there are many — and what they’re like in the day to day. I could not have asked for better legal training for a career in voting rights litigation and advocacy.”

# Bonnie Kwon '09



**F**or law firm attorneys, success often hinges on being a productive rainmaker. For Bonnie Kwon '09, it comes from being an effective grantmaker.

As a policy officer at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Kwon supports race-conscious policies and equitable public investments that serve the communities with the most needs. In doing so, she leverages her experience in organizing, policy advocacy, and strategic communications.

Fifteen years into a thriving public interest career, Kwon points to several key springboards from her time at UC Berkeley Law — beyond the foundational role that LRAP played in her career.

**CONNECTING:** Bonnie Kwon '09 says UC Berkeley Law helped reveal the many intersections of social justice issues, which has guided her professional path.

“The school’s commitment to addressing a wide range of social justice issues allowed me to see how interconnected our struggles for equity and justice truly are,” she says. “This lens has become an integral part of my approach to advocacy and policymaking, helping me recognize and address the multifaceted nature of social inequities.”

Kwon enjoys nurturing leadership in others, especially within the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander civil rights space. She has served those communities in many roles, including program manager and director of network innovation at the Asian & Pacific Islander Health Forum and deputy regional director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders.

In that time, Kwon deftly supported outreach, education, and enrollment of over a million Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders during the first two years implementing the Affordable Care Act. Working with community leaders, she also helped propel a successful campaign to restore Medicaid eligibility for Pacific Islanders from the Marshall Islands, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia living in the United States.

The child of immigrants, Kwon served as an interpreter for her mother — an experience that evolved into advocacy. When it came time to think about law school, she found a natural fit with UC Berkeley Law’s “rich legacy of civil rights activism, particularly within Asian American communities.”

Kwon adds that her time at Berkeley was one of significant personal and intellectual growth. “There are lessons that I picked up in classes that I use every day,” she says. “Berkeley’s culture of solidarity and its emphasis on public service were formative for me. This ethos extended beyond local concerns to encompass global issues, including the injustice in Palestine.”

It also heightened awareness of economic injustice and structural racism in her adopted hometown of Oakland, she notes, pointing to patterns of racist disinvestment and destruction she found impossible to ignore.

“Seeing the highways that cut off West Oakland from the rest of the city, and seeing the legacy of redlining and urban renewal in concentrated poverty and food deserts, fueled my interest in advocating for low-wage restaurant workers,” Kwon says.

Her first job out of law school was setting up the Washington, D.C., affiliate of the nonprofit Restaurant Opportunities Centers United. Kwon worked alongside restaurant workers to develop a



workers' rights policy agenda.

"I was able to apply the lessons I learned at Berkeley Law in a practical setting," she recalls. "My goal was to create good jobs in the food industry. This experience broadened my perspective on economic justice and highlighted the importance of contesting for power."

With growing attacks on race-conscious policies and threats to constitutionally protected activities and speech that may conflict with certain political views, Kwon anticipates some uphill climbs ahead. Still, she remains steadfast in her principles: "I'm accountable to my people, ensuring that my work reflects my community's needs, amplifies marginalized voices like my mother's, and fights for justice with integrity and compassion."

After all, she began learning that as a child.

"My early memories of navigating life at my mother's side animates me," Kwon says. "I'm curious how people are impacted, asking myself what are the distribution of benefits and burdens, and are there people like my mom who are missing from the table?"

**ADVENTURING:**  
Brendan Layde '19 greatly enjoys getting to shape law in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the newest U.S. jurisdiction.



**B**rendan Layde '19 never imagined living more than 5,000 miles from the continental U.S. in an island region with fewer than 50,000 people. But working in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) quickly became a labor of love.

Now legal counsel to the office of Gov. Arnold Palacios, Layde relishes the chance to help build the area's legal foundation.

"As the youngest jurisdiction in the United States, there are a lot of cases of first impression in the CNMI and a lot of opportunities to really shape the jurisdiction's case law," he says. "It's also nearly unique in the U.S. in the extent to which Indigenous, customary, and traditional law are incorporated into the statutory framework."

UC Berkeley Law, Layde explains, built both the confidence and financial framework to pursue such a big leap. He took part in several public interest endeavors during law school, including the Environmental Law Clinic, wage claims work, immigration work on the Special Immigrant Visa program, and summer internships at an immigration nonprofit and at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission office in San Francisco.

"The culture of public interest and public service work at Berkeley Law is fantastic, in terms of both government policy work and nonprofit work," Layde says. "People are really passionate and supportive, and a lot of students really take charge of their legal education with a self-directed sense of moral purpose."

Reviewing opportunities through the school's career portal while studying for the bar exam, Layde saw a judicial clerkship listed with the CNMI Supreme Court. A few months later, he began his new life on Saipan, the region's largest island.

He has since worked as legal counsel for the CNMI House of Representatives — which happened in the midst of a legislative investigation into corruption allegations regarding the former governor — and clerked for the Hawai'i Intermediate Court of Appeals before moving into his current position in October 2023.

His work has included drafting legislation and executive orders, accompanying Palacios in discussions with the federal government, and defending him in litigation brought by a defunct casino that was once by far the jurisdiction's largest private sector employer.

"I wound up being able to do a lot of substantive work on the impeachment of a governor and litigation of the legislature's subpoena power in my first

job practicing,” Layde says. “I enjoy working in government, working closely with clients, and being able to do a variety of litigation, transactional, and policy work, so I’d like to continue working in positions that provide that kind of opportunity.”

He credits UC Berkeley Law for much of his career arc, and for giving him a welcome sense of purpose. After earning a master’s degree in history, working in quality assurance for a healthcare software company, and waiting tables, Layde says that he applied to law school “in large part just to give my life a sense of direction.”

During law school Layde took undergrad Arabic classes — partly to help with his immigration work for Iraqi clients — and also participated on the university’s fencing team. That ethos of leaning into new opportunities helped pave his way to the Pacific islands.

“The Pacific territories, Guam, the CNMI, and American Samoa are all without a law school of their own,” Layde says. “It’s a part of the world where legal, medical, engineering, and other professional services are sorely needed, and where the difference your work makes in the community is palpable.

“It’s also a region where students don’t always have the resources and guidance to find pathways to professional education in the States, which they can then bring back to their communities. I really try to take any opportunity I can to encourage mainland professionals to consider working in the Western Pacific and to encourage students in the Pacific to consider legal and other professional education stateside, because those skills are needed here.”

## Public Interest Scholars Program

- **Three-year scholarship launched in 2021 that covers full tuition and fees for exceptional students who are dedicated to public interest work**
- **Scholars can also obtain program funds to attend conferences, plan events, or join bar associations**
- **Recipients gain access to networking events, social gatherings, and programs with like-minded students, staff, faculty, alumni, and local attorneys**
- **There are 30 current student scholars, 11 in the first-year cohort**



# Valentina Restrepo-Montoya '14

**STRATEGIZING:** Valentina Restrepo-Montoya '14 is the executive director of Arizona Legal Women and Youth Services.

**V**alentina Restrepo-Montoya '14 sometimes views patience as more of a pain than a virtue. Like when it came time to apply to law school, the chance to do meaningful work with clients — ASAP — felt paramount.

“The fact that I could participate in SLPS right away was a big draw,” she says of choosing Berkeley. “I’d heard how difficult 1L year could be and how it was easy to forget why you pursued law in the first place, particularly as someone wanting to go into the non-profit sector. SLPS provided an opportunity to anchor myself in the work I wanted to do after I graduated and a regular reminder of my ‘why.’”

Now executive director of Arizona Legal Women and Youth Services (ALWAYS), Restrepo-Montoya leans on those experiences while overseeing an organization that provides free legal services to vulnerable young people.

Helping clients clear legal barriers that deter opportunity, stability, and self-sufficiency, ALWAYS serves survivors of sex and labor trafficking; eligible youth who are seeking employment, education, or



housing but are denied opportunities due to legal issues; people escaping abusive relationships; and individuals who are eligible for legal immigration status but lack the resources to apply.

"I would not have been able to do the work I've done over the last 10 years if it weren't for LRAP, Edley Grants, and other Berkeley Law public interest programming," Restrepo-Montoya says. "The Financial Aid Office is and has always been so supportive, which I find forever astonishing given the number of external changes they've had to keep up with over the years."

Summer Edley Grants enabled Restrepo-Montoya to work at the Contra Costa County Public Defender's Office after her first year, and at the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta after her second year.

"I don't know that I would have necessarily been selected for those opportunities, or my position at the Southern Poverty Law Center after graduating, had I not been able to point to the experience I gained through SLPS and clinics at Berkeley Law," Restrepo-Montoya says. "It felt like I had an edge over other non-Berkeley applicants who might not yet have spent time in front of the populations they would ultimately serve."

The daughter of Colombian immigrants, Restrepo-Montoya helped a Guatemalan woman obtain an asylum grant through the California Asylum Representation Clinic, and spent many Thursdays at Centro Legal De La Raza assisting its alternating Tenants' Rights and Workers' Rights clinics.

She was also part of UC Berkeley Law's Women of Color Collective and its *Berkeley Journal of International Law*, and the East Bay Community Law Center's immigration program — where she helped people with DACA and related applications — and now credits the experience for guiding how she structured ALWAYS.

"Berkeley Law delivered on the community I was hoping to join," she says. "I was proud to be a part of an extensive legacy of people who decided to do something grueling because they felt it would make the world a marginally better place."

At ALWAYS, Restrepo-Montoya works with the managing attorney, collaborates with the board of directors on strategic planning and governance, interacts with an accountant and treasurer to keep finances in order, spearheads development efforts, handles communications, and represents the organization in the community.

Previously an assistant public defender and immigration attorney, in the latter role Restrepo-Montoya advocated on behalf of people with serious mental

illnesses in deportation proceedings.

"If nothing else, there are people in the United States today who would not be here if not for my advocacy, and that feeling can't be bought," she says.

In three years at ALWAYS, Restrepo-Montoya has tripled both the operating budget and full-time staff, and developed a program that hosts law students interested in pursuing public interest careers. The result: serving more clients.

"I've known what I wanted to do with my life for a long time, but I'm grateful to Berkeley Law for playing such a crucial role in making it possible, keeping me on the right track, and helping me open the doors that needed opening," she says.

## Loan Repayment Forgiveness Program (LRAP)

### Any J.D. graduate working in law-related public interest

employment can use LRAP funding for up to 10 years if they enter the program for the first time within 3½ years of graduating. Those earning \$80,000 or less can receive 100% LRAP support with no out-of-pocket contributions toward their loans, and those earning over \$80,000 up to \$120,000 can receive partial support.

Pairing LRAP with the federal government's Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, alums in certain public interest jobs can also apply to have their loan balance entirely forgiven, tax free, after 10 years of qualifying employment and income-driven monthly payments.

Current top practice areas among participants include public defense, legal aid, immigration, and civil rights, and top locations include California, New York, Washington, D.C., and Colorado.

\$20m

Amount disbursed to UC Berkeley Law grads since the program started in 1997

40

States where LRAP participants currently work

58%

Participants employed at nonprofits

38%

Participants employed in government

# Fast Forward

Powerful Student  
Action Figures



“Berkeley Law alums are also so integrated — you can even say ingrained — in the Bay Area startup ecosystem.”



Tiana Wang '25

# Helping Students Fuel Startups

**Tiana Wang has lived in three countries.**

In college, her internships and part-time jobs covered seven different fields. At UC Berkeley Law, she created the Business Community Legal Advice Workshop, was president of the Startup Law Initiative, and is co-editor-in-chief of the *Berkeley Business Law Journal*.

So much for less is more.

"I feel so lucky to love what I do, and I've found it's actually more efficient to be part of multiple organizations with similar missions," Wang says. "You see what works in a particular system and can apply it elsewhere, so you're not always starting from scratch."

As an entrepreneurship fellow with the University of Alaska Center for Economic Development before law school, she helped organize over 60 events for Alaska Startup Week and

moderated a panel on startup law basics. Learning how vital it was for entrepreneurs to gain meaningful access to resources as well as a robust network — "Innovation doesn't happen in a vacuum," she says — Wang saw that many of the entrepreneurs experienced failures before successfully launching their company.

That resonated strongly with her when she struggled acclimating to law school as a 1L.

"The adversarial nature of litigation seemed antithetical to who I was and how I interacted with the world," Wang says. "For the first time in a long time, I didn't know how to approach my work with the creativity and collaboration I'd learned to rely on in my other roles."

Helping early-stage companies navigate the startup landscape enabled Wang to rediscover her identity as a problem-solver and adviser. The Business Community Legal Advice Workshop she founded assists small business owners through office hours and legal basics workshops with community partners.

Wang relishes seeing 1Ls get to engage in meaningful hands-on transactional work with clients who are low-income small business owners in California's Central Valley. Running a small business with limited resources is extraordinarily difficult, she notes.

The startup landscape is rich at UC Berkeley — which ranks No. 1 among U.S. law schools for generating startup founders, companies, and female entrepreneurs — and at the law school.

"The student-run groups do a fantastic job of finding clients who really benefit from the students' services, and organizations like the Berkeley Center for Law and Business truly go above and beyond in connecting students with resources," Wang says.

"Berkeley Law alums are also so integrated — you can even say ingrained — in the Bay Area startup ecosystem. I'm always very impressed by their leadership in the community and eagerness to talk to students and give thoughtful advice."

Wang strives to mirror that leadership model, pushing to create safe, productive environments for people to be their most authentic selves.

"Being kind and understanding goes a long way anywhere you are," she says. "I've learned to prioritize connections over differences, and that makes me better in my transactional work."

Meeting so many different people and having friends from very different backgrounds has helped me realize that my purpose — the thing most fulfilling to me — is to build rich, rewarding relationships in the workplace and in life."

— *Andrew Cohen*

**MOVING UP:** Tiana Wang '25 has enjoyed fusing her creative side with a growing interest in tech law.

Kevin Andrews '26


## An Affinity for Leadership and Service

**Los Angeles native Kevin Andrews** had never visited the Bay Area before attending UC Berkeley Law's Admitted Students Weekend.

"But I was 100% sold after that," he recalls. "Everyone was so friendly and down-to-earth, and Dean Chemerinsky's

speech was so moving that it nearly had me in tears."

Andrews always revered people who could command a room and communicate effectively, and wanted to grow those skills — making law school a logical destination. "Those who don't know



"Assisting indigent veterans in securing benefits, especially those who are unhoused and facing significant stress, has been incredibly rewarding."



the law are at the mercy of those who do,” he says. “I also wanted to learn to wield it to help others.”

The values of leadership and service grew exponentially during his time with the Air Force ROTC during college. In law school, he became active with the student group Military Veterans at Berkeley Law and Legal Obstacles Veterans Encounter, a Student-Initiated Legal Services Project that helps former service members in several ways.

“Assisting indigent veterans in securing benefits, especially those who are unhoused and facing significant stress, has been incredibly rewarding,” says Andrews, the first in

his family to graduate from college and become a military officer. “Contributing to and strengthening the law school’s veteran community has also been deeply meaningful. Being able to pay forward the kindness and guidance I received as a new student from 3Ls and recent graduates is a fulfilling way to give back.”

Andrews is also co-president of Christians at Berkeley Law, which welcomes students for biweekly fellowship, Bible studies, spiritual support, social activities, and networking events with other graduate student groups — and has almost doubled its attendance from last year.

Throughout his campus endeavors, Andrews sees students eager to learn about groups they’re unfamiliar with and working to bridge divides. Last fall, Military Veterans at Berkeley Law co-hosted an event with the school’s Queer Caucus to discuss groundbreaking litigation focused on LGBTQ+ veterans who were dishonorably discharged under the controversial Don’t Ask Don’t Tell regulation.

“Community is essential in a law school environment,” Andrews says. “It encourages the exchange of diverse ideas and perspectives — each enriched by the students’ unique backgrounds — and creates a space where preconceived notions can be challenged, promoting understanding and building connections between different communities and identities.”

Prior to law school, Andrews worked in sales both before and after his active duty service. While he appreciated the chance to scale performance with compensation, the work left him craving a greater sense of purpose, leading him to intern with the Contra Costa County Public Defender’s Office last summer.

“Similar to joining the Air Force, I was motivated by the chance to do impactful, service-oriented work,” he says. The experience gave him a firsthand understanding of the vital role lawyers play in advocating for those in need and reinforced his desire to pursue a meaningful legal career.

Now shifting his professional focus toward plaintiff-side law, Andrews hopes to specialize in employment or class action work and aims to “develop strong trial skills, hold corporations accountable, and have the opportunity to scale my income based on the value I provide.” — *Andrew Cohen*

**EYEING IMPACT:** Kevin Andrews '26 has helped uplift various communities within UC Berkeley Law.

DARIUS RILEY



## Krista Arellano '26 Charging Ahead on Multiple Fronts

### Krista Arellano grew up in Watsonville

and after finishing her undergraduate degree at Yale, she wanted to come home and thought law school might be the next step.

Mulling her options, Arellano attended a Zoom seminar for pre-law students organized by the La Alianza Law Students Association. Little did she know the affinity group would become a cornerstone of her UC Berkeley Law experience.

"It's been a huge highlight of my social community here," says Arellano, who now co-chairs the group. "In my role, I get to see all of the work that goes on behind the scenes and it's amazing how much of a resource La Alianza is — not just to Latine students, but to everyone."

The law school's chapter, founded in 1969, is closely entwined with the *Berkeley Latine Journal of Law & Policy*, where Arellano is on the editorial board.

"You can just tell how much care all of the students before us have put into making this organization be the organization it is today," she adds. "To have the presence that it has on campus and to, year after year, provide so many resources to 1Ls and to students generally, is fantastic."

In typical UC Berkeley Law fashion, Arellano is busy on multiple fronts. She's deeply involved in the student-led Post-Conviction Advocacy Project, which helps incarcerated people with the parole process. The client she has worked with for more than a year recently had a parole hearing, and Arellano is grateful to gain that substantive experience as a student.

She is also a Thelton E. Henderson Center for Social Justice Scholar, a program that provides students who demonstrate a standout commitment to social justice before law school with scholarship

funds and mentoring opportunities.

"I've been able to try a lot of different things, and hopefully I can try a few more before I'm done," Arellano says. "When you first start law school, it feels like such a long time. But now that I'm more than halfway done, I'm realizing how few semesters I have left, and I feel like I have to pack everything into them."

She hopes to do a field placement, either in the Bay Area or beyond, before graduating. And thanks to the flexibility to register for courses across the UC Berkeley campus, Arellano has continued studying Portuguese — which she began at Yale and honed during a year teaching in Brazil as part of the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

"When I came to law school, I expected to not be able to focus on it as much, so it's surprising and really cool to take these classes," she says. "I've been able to get back in touch with things that interested me in the past and tie that in with my law school education."

Arellano's multifaceted experience is exactly what attracted her to UC Berkeley Law, and she's taking full advantage.

"As 1Ls, we can participate in pro bono projects and journals. There's an excess of things to do, and it can be difficult to choose," she says. "But it's really nice to know that all of those options exist. Knowing that we can make the most of it is really reassuring, because it helps me feel like I know what I'm getting myself into when I graduate."

— Gwyneth K. Shaw

**VARIETY SHOW:** Krista Arellano '26 has made the most of UC Berkeley Law's abundant options.





“I’ve been able to get back in touch with things that interested me in the past and tie that in with my law school education.”



**BRAIN TREE:** (From left) Professors Manisha Padi, Veronica Aoki Santarosa, and Aaron S. Edlin are part of a stellar law and economics faculty.

**Research Spotlight:**

# Enhancing An Impressive Tradition

**M**ore than 40 years ago, UC Berkeley Law faculty helped pioneer the visionary field of law and economics. Today, a deep bench of scholars is not just upholding that tradition but advancing it.

Renowned emeritus professors Robert Cooter and Daniel Rubinfeld put the school — and the field — on the map with pathbreaking research incorporating economic insights into the study of law. Cooter, Rubinfeld, and Professor Aaron S. Edlin have all been president of the American Law and Economics Association.

UC Berkeley Law continues to prioritize the area, hiring seven professors who specialize in it in the past six years while bolstering course offerings for J.D. students and those in the Ph.D.-granting Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program (JSP).

Calling Cooter, Rubinfeld, Edlin, and Professor Alan Auerbach “giants in the field,” Professor Andrew C. Baker says the school has built on that foundation to house “the deepest and best bench of empirical legal researchers in the country — a unique strength of our institution.”

The crux of law and economics, Edlin explains, is analyzing law from the perspective of choosing the law that’s best for society rather than textual analysis or legal philosophy: “Figuring that out with data, as opposed to pure theory, is a huge advance.”

His colleagues work in myriad fields. The largest cluster, including Professors Kenneth Ayotte, Adam Badawi, Baker, Ofer Eldar, Stavros

Gadinis, Prasad Krishnamurthy, Frank Partnoy, and Steven Davidoff Solomon, focuses on the wide spectrum of business and corporate law.

Professor Manisha Padi analyzes the economics of consumer finance contracts, and Professor Abhay Aneja probes how legal institutions affect economic and social inequality. Professor Jonah B. Gelbach has applied statistical tools to court records to tease out civil procedure trends and offer new statistical evidence approaches.

Professor Veronica Aoki Santarosa, a legal and economic historian, uses original archival research to study how the law creates and supports markets. She and Professor Dhammika Dharmapala, an expert on taxation and public finance, the economic analysis of law, and corporate finance and governance, teach JSP courses.

Professors Peter S. Menell and Robert P. Merges, architects of the school’s massive tech law footprint, bring an economist’s perspective to intellectual property and copyright. Other faculty also draw from the law and economics toolbox, including Gadinis and Professors Katerina Linos and David Hausman.

“Berkeley offers unparalleled support and freedom to pursue one’s own scholarly agenda,” Santarosa says. “I appreciate the law school’s commitment to interdisciplinary cooperation across the university — we have so much to learn from each other.”

The Berkeley Center for Law and Business is another hub for faculty and students, and Edlin leads the Law, Economics & Politics Center — which strengthens ties between the law school and many other campus units.

With established senior scholars and younger faculty making a splash, Gelbach sees Berkeley as “the best place in the world to be a law and economics scholar.”

— *Gwyneth K. Shaw*

**STAR POWER:** (From left) Professors Dhammika Dharmapala, Ofer Eldar, Andrew C. Baker, and Jonah B. Gelbach.



TYLOR NORWOOD (2X)



## Honors Spotlight:

# Flourishing Faculty

**From prestigious national appointments to award-hoarding books, UC Berkeley Law educators are routinely heralded for their widespread impact and expertise.**

**AGENCY WITH AGENCIES:** Professor Seth Davis was appointed to a two-year term on the Administrative Conference of the United States. The independent federal agency identifies and promotes improvements in the fairness, efficiency, and adequacy of procedures that federal agencies use for regulatory programs, grants, benefits, and other functions. An award-winning teacher, Davis explores questions of sovereignty, responsibility, and redress as they arise in public law and private law.

**RACING FORWARD:** Renowned author and speaker Savala Nolan '11, executive director of our Thelton E. Henderson Center for Social Justice, won the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Keynote Living the Dream Award for "groundbreaking work in promoting racial justice and equity" that "set new standards for progress." She spearheaded the school's Race and Law concentration and an endowed racial justice fellowship, and contributed to the Peabody Award-winning NPR podcast "The Promise."

**PAGING EXCELLENCE:** Professor Dylan Penningroth's buzz-generating book *Before the Movement: The Hidden History of Black Civil Rights* won a whopping 12 awards and was a finalist or shortlisted for four others. Examining slavery's last decades to the 1970s, partly tracing his own family's history, Penningroth challenges accepted understandings and shows how Black people regularly dealt with the laws of property, contract, inheritance, marriage, divorce, associations, and more.

**STANDOUT SCHOLAR:** Dean Erwin Chemerinsky won the 2025 American

Bar Foundation Outstanding Scholar Award, which honors someone who produced outstanding scholarship on the law or government. Last year, in addition to publishing many articles and op-eds, Chemerinsky released his new book *No Democracy Lasts Forever: How the Constitution Threatens the United States*, as well as the seventh edition of his *Constitutional Law* casebook and the third edition of his *First Amendment* casebook.

**GLOBAL CITIZENS:** Our Honorable G. William and Ariadna Miller Institute for Global Challenges and the Law was chosen from over 100 nominees for one of the East Bay Chapter of the United Nations Association's annual Global Citizen Awards. An association executive committee member wrote that Professors and Co-Directors Laurel Fletcher and Katerina Linos, Administrator Toni Mendicino, and the institute "are exemplary due to your outstanding record of teaching, research, and advocacy."

**BROADBAND BUZZ:** Professor Tejas N. Narechania co-authored a paper that won the Internet Research Task Force Applied Networking Research Prize for showing large gaps in broadband availability and information quality certified by major Internet service providers to the federal government compared to what's truly offered to end users. The paper was the basis of an *amicus curiae* brief submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court regarding a False Claims Act case against an AT&T subsidiary.

MOHAMED HASSAN



## Scholarship Spotlight:

# Prolific and Perceptive Professors

**UC Berkeley Law’s faculty is stocked with expert excavators who dig well beneath the surface to assess what lies at the root of society’s vexing issues. Their data-driven work regularly unearths pathbreaking revelations, offers timely analysis, and ignites broad efforts to pursue meaningful change.**

**Here are a dozen recent examples showcasing the depth and importance of their wide-ranging scholarship.**



**ADAM BADAWI**  
WITH ROBERT BARTLETT

### **ESG Overperformance? Assessing the Use of ESG Targets in Executive Compensation Plans**

*European Corporate Governance Institute*

Linking executive compensation to ESG (environmental, social, governance) performance has recently become more prevalent — 63% of S&P 500 firms did so during the 2023 proxy season. The authors reveal how often executives miss, meet, or exceed the financial and ESG-based targets in their compensation plans, find that it’s extremely rare to miss these targets, and show how ESG overperformance is more often related to governance deficiencies rather than exceptional outcomes.



**KHIARA M. BRIDGES**

### **Race in the Machine: Racial Disparities in Health and Medical AI**

*Virginia Law Review*

Bridges describes how people of color — who suffer

higher illness rates than their white counterparts as well as poorer outcomes when treated for the same illnesses — are not informed that their health is managed by artificial intelligence that likely encodes centuries of inequitable medical care. Her paper highlights problems of algorithmic bias and sobering concerns for pregnant people of color, and argues that healthcare providers should disclose their use of these AI technologies to patients.



**HANOCH DAGAN**  
WITH AVIHAY DORFMAN

### **Relational Justice: A Theory of Private Law**

*Oxford University Press*

What makes private law private? What is its domain, and the values it promotes? The authors build on years of their scholarship to lay out a new approach for understanding some of society’s most important building blocks. They argue that private law should, and to a significant degree already does, abide by the fundamental commitment to reciprocal respect for self-determination and substantive equality — which form the core of what Dagan and Dorfman call “relational justice.”





**MALCOLM FEELEY  
WITH VAN SWEARINGEN**

**From Plantation Prisons to the Modern Era**

*Vital City*

The authors assess the ongoing crisis at New York City’s Rikers Island jail and the lessons of past prison reform efforts by jurists to dismantle Southern prisons originally modeled on plantations and mandate changes in California. The paper argues that persistently failing prisons are like failing companies that can be declared bankrupt and placed in receivership, and proposes that such prisons also be declared bankrupt with a receiver appointed to reorganize them.



**CHRIS JAY  
HOOFNAGLE  
WITH GOLDEN G. RICHARD III**

**Cybersecurity in Context**

*Wiley*

This textbook and complementary set of technical exercises, the first introduction to society’s full range of

cybersecurity challenges and solutions, probes the technical detail and social relevance of security. Noting that cybersecurity links computers, data, people, economics, psychology, military science, international relations, and law, the authors offer frameworks and alternatives to find security approaches that are freedom-enhancing, not freedom-crushing.

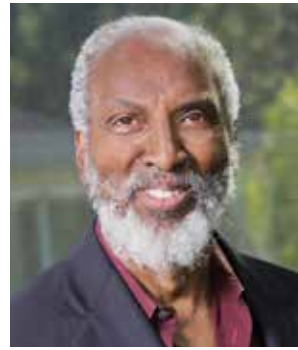


**PRASAD  
KRISHNAMURTHY  
WITH TUCKER COCHENOUR**

**An Economic Case Against Public Banking, and a Case for It**

*Journal of Financial Regulation*

The authors examine the economics of public consumer banking in the U.S., which can take the form of price subsidies or direct provision. Detailing reasons why the economic case for both is rather weak, they cite check cashing and related payment services as exceptions — if the institutional infrastructure exists to deliver them effectively. Without it, they urge expanding the financial services offered to federal beneficiaries, such as Social Security recipients, by the U.S. Treasury.



**JOHN A. POWELL**

**The Power of Bridging: How to Build a World Where We All Belong**

*Sounds True Publishing*

A guide for connecting across differences, Powell offers a framework for building cohesion and solidarity between disparate beliefs and backgrounds amid society’s growing divisiveness. His book says bridging is more than a set of actions, noting that it’s a mindset that can be cultivated to foster belonging and connection. He shares personal reflections and concrete practices to help bridge differences in one’s community, friendships, family, and workplace.



**ASAD RAHIM**

**The Legitimacy Trap**

*Boston University Law Review*

The educational path of today’s law students hasn’t changed much since the late 1800s: They largely take the

same required courses, are assigned appellate opinion readings, and have professors using the Socratic method. Rahim says these practices were modeled after Charles Darwin’s study of organisms and pushed by corporate law firms because the high-stress culture benefited them, and that law schools now aiming to be welcoming and inclusive still default to an educational model that was created to intimidate.



**DIANA S. REDDY**

**Labor Law Breaks Free: Reviving State Capacity to Protect Workers Under the NLRA**

*Roosevelt Institute*

Reddy looks at recent innovations by the National Labor Relations Board, which was highly proactive during the Biden administration and made labor law more relevant and responsive than it’s been in decades. But with many board innovations under attack from courts, anti-union corporations, and politicians, will its recent efforts survive? “As a legal matter, they should,” Reddy writes. “As a political matter, well, that depends on us.”



**ANDREA ROTH**

**The Embarrassing Sixth Amendment**

*California Law Review*

The Sixth Amendment ensures assistance of counsel in “all criminal prosecutions,” yet the Supreme Court has ruled the right doesn’t apply in state cases with no jail sentence. With defendants being convicted, fined, detained, and deported without a lawyer, and the current court’s textualist bent, Roth poses reasons why progressives aren’t pushing back harder, rebuts them, and urges engaging the text to explore enforcing a right to counsel in all prosecutions.



**JEFFREY SELBIN**

**Suicide by Cop? How Junk Science and Bad Law Undermine Accountability for Killings by Police**

*California Law Review*

Selbin offers the first critical examination of “suicide by

cop” as a law enforcement theory that shifts the blame for excessive use of police force to victims, shields police from accountability, and undermines civil rights. He explains that the term “suicide by cop,” shorthand for encounters in which civilians allegedly provoke a lethal response from law enforcement, has become a form of malleable junk science that police officers are increasingly using as a broad defense against both individual and institutional liability.



**LETI VOLPP**

**Weep the People**

*UC Law Journal*

The idea of citizenship promises the belonging that is necessary to the very idea of “We the People,” the opening phrase of the U.S. Constitution. Yet citizenship simultaneously excludes those who fall outside the borders of belonging. Volpp’s paper explains that while “We the People” rhetorically suggests that citizenship might come with a guarantee of universal inclusivity, in reality this remains an unfulfilled promise — with race, in particular, threatening the equality associated with citizenship.

**Rankings Spotlight:**

**Highly Revered: Myriad Metrics Put Berkeley in Lofty Company**

**U**C Berkeley Law is rated the world’s No. 6 best law school in this year’s *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings, up from No. 8 last year.

The annual comprehensive assessment ranked 389 institutions from 48 countries and territories, using 18 performance metrics that reflect distinctive qualities within the academic discipline of law worldwide.

The rankings evaluate excellence across constitutional and administrative law, international law, commercial and corporate law, criminal law and justice, and legal theory and jurisprudence.

In addition, *preLaw* magazine’s field and subject rankings give UC Berkeley Law top marks across several disciplines, with an A+ rating for technology, international, criminal, intellectual property, environmental, human rights, and business law. Legal technology (ranked No. 1 nationally) and racial justice (No. 6) also garnered an A+ rating. The school earned an A for employment and public policy law, and an A- for trial advocacy.

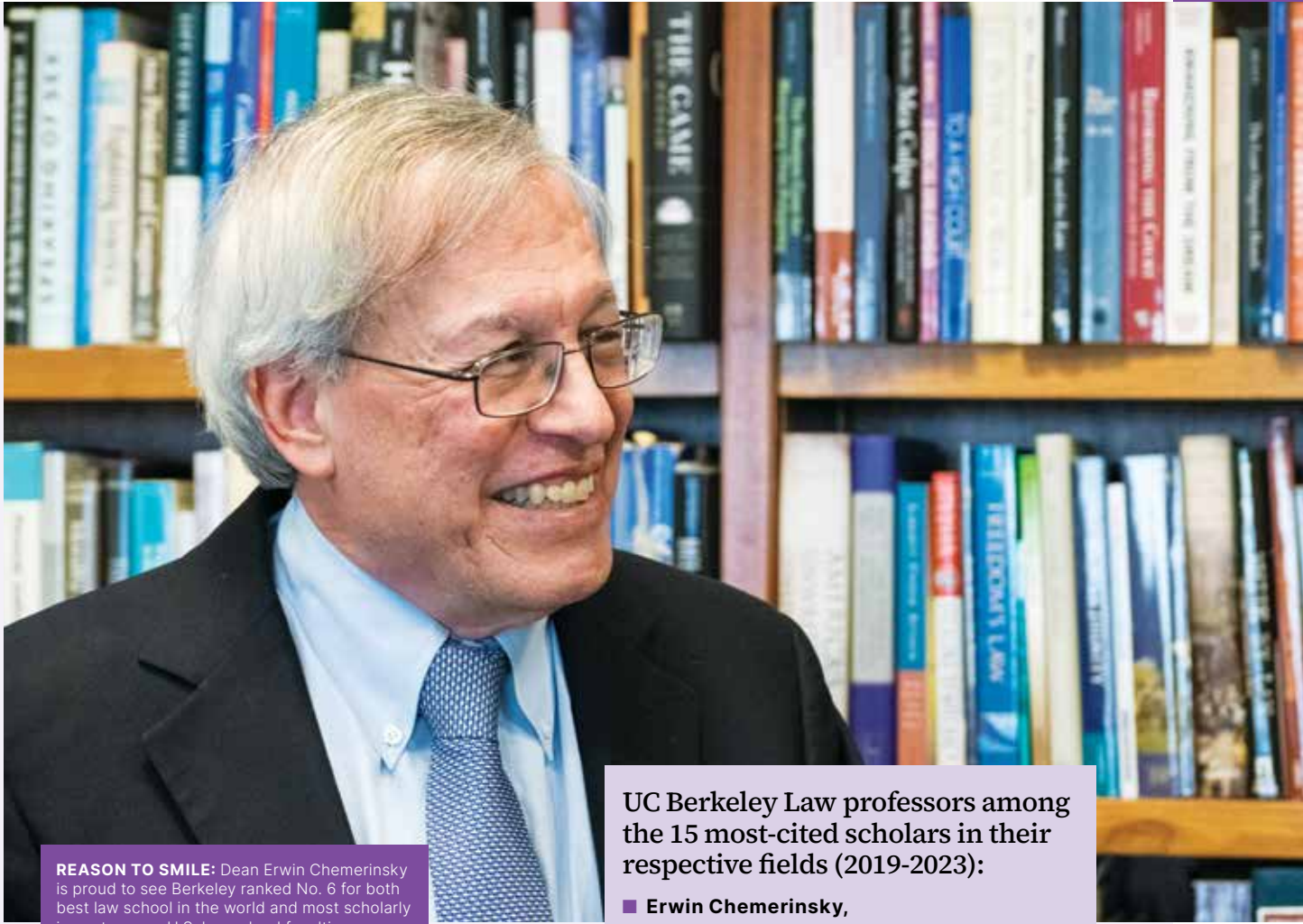
UC Berkeley Law’s powerhouse faculty also ranks No. 6 among United States law schools in scholarly impact, according to the latest version of a study that tracks citations as a measure of professors’ influence.

Dean Erwin Chemerinsky is the school’s most-cited scholar and ranks second nationally. He and six fellow professors were recognized among the most-cited scholars in their fields between 2019 and 2023.

“I was delighted to see that Berkeley Law was sixth among all law schools in the country in the recent study of scholarly impact, as well as having many faculty who are among the most frequently cited in their fields,” he says. “This reflects that our school has a very prolific faculty whose scholarship is widely recognized as important and influential.”

Fellow professors Khiara M. Bridges, Daniel A.





**REASON TO SMILE:** Dean Erwin Chemerinsky is proud to see Berkeley ranked No. 6 for both best law school in the world and most scholarly impact among U.S. law school faculties.

Farber, Ian Haney López, Peter S. Menell, Robert P. Merges, Pamela Samuelson, Steven Davidoff Solomon, and John Yoo rounded out the faculty’s most-cited scholars.

Chemerinsky, who is also the nation’s top-cited constitutional law professor during that stretch, calls the faculty’s ranking a testament to “the depth and breadth of their excellence.”

The so-called “Leiter score,” created by University of Chicago professor and law blogger Brian Leiter, calculates a faculty’s scholarly impact from the mean and median of tenured professors’ law journal citations over a five-year period. More recently, a group of St. Thomas University School of Law professors have updated the rankings every three years.

UC Berkeley Law ranked sixth in the 2021 rankings, up from seventh in 2018. The school has hired nearly 40 full-time professors since 2017 — including nine in one year in both 2019 and 2023 — bolstering an

**UC Berkeley Law professors among the 15 most-cited scholars in their respective fields (2019-2023):**

- **Erwin Chemerinsky,**  
No. 2, Constitutional Law
- **Catherine Fisk,**  
No. 3, Labor & Employment Law
- **Steven Davidoff Solomon,**  
No. 3, Corporate Law & Securities Regulation
- **Jonathan Simon,**  
No. 7, Law & Social Science\*
- **Paul Schwartz,**  
No. 9, Law & Technology
- **Christopher Tomlins,**  
No. 10 (tie), Legal History
- **Sean Farhang,**  
No. 14, Law & Social Science\*

QUADRENNIAL STUDY, UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS SCHOOL OF LAW  
\*Category does not include economics

already impressive faculty with new ideas, scholarly agendas, and methodological chops.

Another recent ranking of citations for 114 tax law professors with Google Scholar pages lists UC Berkeley Law professors Alan Auerbach No. 2 and Dhammika Dharmapala No. 7, respectively.

— *Andrew Cohen & Gwyneth K. Shaw*



## Donors Help Shore Up the Student Launch Pad

3L Juliette West arrived at UC Berkeley Law determined to be a litigator. Born and raised in San Francisco, she went to Canada for college, then spent five years working for the nonprofit public interest law firm Prison Law Office.

She immediately got involved with two of the school's Student-Initiated Legal Services Projects, the Post-Conviction Advocacy Project (PCAP) and the Name

and Gender Change Workshop (NGCW). After her 1L year, she spent 10 weeks in Akin Gump's Los Angeles office as the firm's Pro Bono Scholar and worked on



**ON THE RISE:** Continuing Student Scholarship recipient Juliette West '25 aims to be a trusts and estates lawyer with an active pro bono practice.

various pro bono matters. She will join Akin after graduation (likely as a litigator) and intends to make pro bono work a pillar of her practice there, providing litigation support and direct services to local nonprofits.

"I'm so grateful to have landed at Berkeley Law, where a commitment to pro bono work is the norm," West says. "I've met so many talented and generous students whose careers I look forward to watching, and have learned from many inspiring professors."

She's also benefited from an additional boost of financial aid for her final year of law school: the Kate Gold '91 Memorial Scholarship. It's one of the school's Continuing Student Scholarships, awarded to 2L and 3L students who meet particular requirements for financial need, academic achievement, or a specific career interest.

Some are in the names of donors, while others are in memory of family members or colleagues.

Bill Falik, who has taught at the law school and UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business for many years, funds both

types. The Harry Falik Public Interest Scholarship, directed to 3Ls with a strong commitment to a career in the public interest or public service sectors, was established in honor of his father's 100th birthday. The Falik Real Estate Scholarship is for a 3L with an interest in building a career in real estate or land use law and a potential focus on affordable housing.

Falik's first courses were in the early 1970s, and he returned in 2006. While he's not an alum, "I have always had a strong connection to Berkeley's law and business schools," he says.

He sees his giving, which includes scholarships at Haas and UC Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy and College of Environmental Design, as a way to further the university's public mission and help ease the decision of recipients to choose a career doing public interest work.

"If you're pursuing a career doing public interest work you're simply just not going to be as well-compensated as working in a law firm," he says. "My feeling is, rather than be discouraged by that, I would like to encourage graduates to follow their passion by working in the public interest arena."

West's \$5,000 award was funded by the law firm Proskauer Rose to honor Gold, a partner there before her death last year. A specialist in business and employment disputes, Gold was known as a natural leader and a dedicated mentor — particularly for women in the profession.

The words Proskauer used to describe Gold in a tribute to the beloved partner were: "Kate imparted many lessons to us: To be of service and generous; to be kind and lead with love; to show up for one another, listen,

**ROLE MODEL:** The Kate Gold '91 Memorial Scholarship honors her longtime commitment to kindness, mentoring, and inclusivity.



"I've met so many talented and generous students whose careers I look forward to watching, and have learned from many inspiring professors."

— 3L Juliette West

support, and live a full life, knowing we are all doing the best we can in the time we have."

The Gold scholarship has been "a real blessing," West says, allowing her to focus on her studies and pro bono commitments rather than on finding ways to pay her tuition.

"Because of this support, I've been able to take on meaningful projects like my work with PCAP and NGCW," she says. "I'm sure these projects were instrumental in landing me Akin's Pro Bono Scholarship, a life-changing opportunity for which I am so grateful. But more than providing financial assistance, this scholarship has been a reminder of the supportive community invested in the growth and success of Berkeley Law students."

— Gwyneth K. Shaw



**TRAIL TIME:** Los Angeles chapter members are rewarded with a stunning ocean view during a recent hike.

**EXPERT INSIGHT:** Environmental law expert Sheila Foster '88 (left) answers a question from journalist Jami Floyd '89 at a New York City chapter event.



# Regional Chapters Gain Momentum

For Amanda Allen '19, it's a pretty sweet deal. Be it reconnecting with friends, making new ones, building her professional network, forging community, or just getting a fun work break, she says UC Berkeley Law's regional alumni chapters offer something for everyone.

A senior associate at Hogan Lovells in Washington, D.C., Allen has helped build up the D.C. chapter, working with Alumni Engagement Associate Director David Smith to expand programming and membership.

"When you've decided to pursue your career so far away from the community you built during law school, engaging through alumni chapters is a great way to not only meet new people from the Berkeley Law community, but also provide another avenue to support the school,"

she says. "I've always found it exciting being a part of building something new, and the energy David brings to his role makes it all the more exciting."

Smith has helped infuse momentum over the past year, recognizing graduates' varied interests and availability. Events include receptions with Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, presentations on timely issues by alumni and faculty experts, admitted student gatherings, trivia nights, happy hours, hikes, and more.

Bringing together grads currently living in cities across the country, the program has chapters in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York City, San Francisco, Silicon Valley, and Washington. Each has two or more leaders with five to ten alums supporting them and helping with planning. More than 30 people attended the first virtual summit for chapter leadership in November.

"We've been offering more variety of events because our alums are at different ages and different stages of their careers and personal lives," Smith says. "We want to meet them where they are so they can pick what works best for them."

Anya Ku '20 grew up in Oakland and went to Berkeley for both undergrad and law school, and says moving to D.C. for a fellowship was intimidating: "I was nervous about leaving my Bay Area community and family, so I turned to the next best thing: Berkeley Law."

Before moving east, some D.C.-based former classmates alerted her to informal "bar reviews" led by Justin Lam '21. When Ku contacted him about joining, he said he was moving to New York for a





**PARK PLACE:** Silicon Valley chapter alums learn about Año Nuevo State Park from docent Olivia Iannicelli '87 (right).



**HAPPY HOUR:** Regional alumni chapters all across the country host a series of after-work social gatherings.

clerkship — and invited her to take the reins. Ku and Olivia Gee '20, her former Student Association at Berkeley Law co-class president, started hosting monthly gatherings that helped generate excitement for an official D.C. alumni chapter.

“Community was one of the best parts of law school at Berkeley, so fostering that community post-graduation has been fulfilling,” Ku says. “It has been so rewarding to go to events and meet alumni who guide me through new phases in my career development and immediately turn around and offer my own advice to current and admitted students.”

When she returned to the East Bay, Ku recalled the excitement of supporting the D.C. chapter’s launch and promptly got involved.

“I’ve helped host events, welcome admits, and even planned a Berkeley Law trivia night,” she says. “It’s been great to get to meet more alumni and students outside of pure networking.”

A bit further south, while preparing for his 35-year reunion in 2017, Joshua Lipp '92 contacted the alumni office to ask about his donations to date. While

he knew he had donated each year, “I was surprised I had not given more,” he recalls.

With positive feelings about his Berkeley experience and close ties with many classmates, he describes the cost of his Berkeley Law education as his “best investment ever given that my law degree enabled me to live and support my family ever since, especially when you consider my three years of tuition cost less than what I paid for a year of my children’s preschool.”

Lipp donated more, asked how to get more involved, learned about the alumni chapter and alumni mentor programs, and now partakes in both. On one Silicon Valley chapter hike, he met a young lawyer and hired him at his firm soon after.

“That event benefited this recent grad, this ancient grad, and the entire alumni community,” Lipp says. “Berkeley Law helped me get launched as a lawyer, and the community of alumni was a big help. Now that I’m on the alumni side of the equation, I’m happy to help strengthen that community, both worldwide and locally.”

Despite a busy schedule as a partner

at Sidley Austin, Benson Cohen '04 has spent considerable time growing the New York City chapter, which has expanded its leadership group and introduced more types of events.

“I view our success by the number of new folks who are attending events and connecting — or reconnecting — with the law school,” he says.

A Berkeley Law Alumni Association board of directors member from 2007 to 2020 and the school’s 2019 Young Alumni Award winner, he loves seeing newly admitted students begin feeling at home in the school community. “They are always nervous and eager, and it’s an enormous pleasure to make them start to feel part of something,” he says.

Knowing how vital alumni connections become, both from a professional development and personal relationship standpoint, Cohen loves building alumni bonds.

“Being on the other side of the country, that can feel isolating from the law school,” he says. “It makes these regional chapters all the more important to maintaining those valuable ties.”

— *Andrew Cohen*

# Grad Gathering

Last fall's festive Alumni Reunion Weekend drew 326 graduates back to UC Berkeley Law for renewed connections, updates from the school, and some cross-class community building.

Class years celebrating major milestones formed the largest groups, ranging from 70 members from the class of 1974 toasting their 50th reunion to 30 alums from the Class of 2019 celebrating their 5th — and first official — reunion. The latter group was shepherded by Eleni Anagnostopoulou LL.M. '19, who lives in Greece and convinced classmates from Canada and Peru to make the trip back to Berkeley.

In addition to the all-alumni reception and class dinners, alums enjoyed a tour of the law school and a town hall with Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, who discussed the school's present and future. He also moderated a review of the 2023-24 U.S. Supreme Court term with panelists Mario L. Barnes '95, now a professor at UC Irvine Law, and UC Berkeley Law Professor Andrea Roth.

The school's Center for Law, Energy & the Environment and its Executive Education program co-hosted another event on navigating the aftermath of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*. The Court overruled a long-held deference to administrative agencies' interpretation of legal ambiguity — holding that courts must exercise independent judgment in deciding if an agency acted within its statutory authority.

UC Berkeley Law Executive in Residence Irene Liu '06 — a former general counsel with experience at the Federal Trade Commission and U.S. Department of Justice — coordinated the talk. It featured panelists David Doniger of the National Resources Defense Council, who argued the landmark *Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council* case, Judge Jeremy Fogel of the law school's Berkeley Judicial Institute, and Hae-Won Min Liao of Gilead Sciences.

This year's Alumni Reunion Weekend is scheduled for Sept. 26-27. — Gwyneth K. Shaw



**SIGNED UP:** (From left) Scott Gardner '89, Daniel Egan '89, Mona Sidhu '89, Melvin Hodges '69, Debra Fischer '89, and Letitia Moore '89.



**DOG DAY:** Jim Richman '74 brings a canine companion to Booth Auditorium.



**SAY CHEESE:** Class of 2004 alums Jeffrey Zinsmeister (left) and Jobe Danganan (right) snap a photo with Dean Erwin Chemerinsky.



# Honoring the Legacy of Two JSP Titans

Searching for a fitting way to honor the memory of their respective spouses, Carol Brownstein and Professor Emeritus Harry N. Scheiber arrived at the same place: UC Berkeley Law’s Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program (JSP).

The widow of Berkeley Law Professor and renowned legal historian David Lieberman, Brownstein says he “had great respect for students, especially those in the JSP.” Lieberman chaired the program for years and spent much of his career teaching its Ph.D. candidates. He received the university’s Faculty Service Award in 2017 and the law school’s Faculty Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019.

Scheiber, himself an eminent legal historian who was chair and associate dean of JSP for eight years, lost his wife Jane Lang Schreiber in 2022 after almost 64 years of marriage. Jane was an esteemed college administrator, researcher, and author, with

whom Harry collaborated regularly on historical and legal scholarship projects, beginning in the 1950s when the couple were students at Cornell University.

Each received the Berkeley Citation, which is

**PARTNERS:** Professor Emeritus Harry N. Scheiber (right) set up a JSP student emergency fund in memory of his longtime wife and colleague Jane Scheiber.

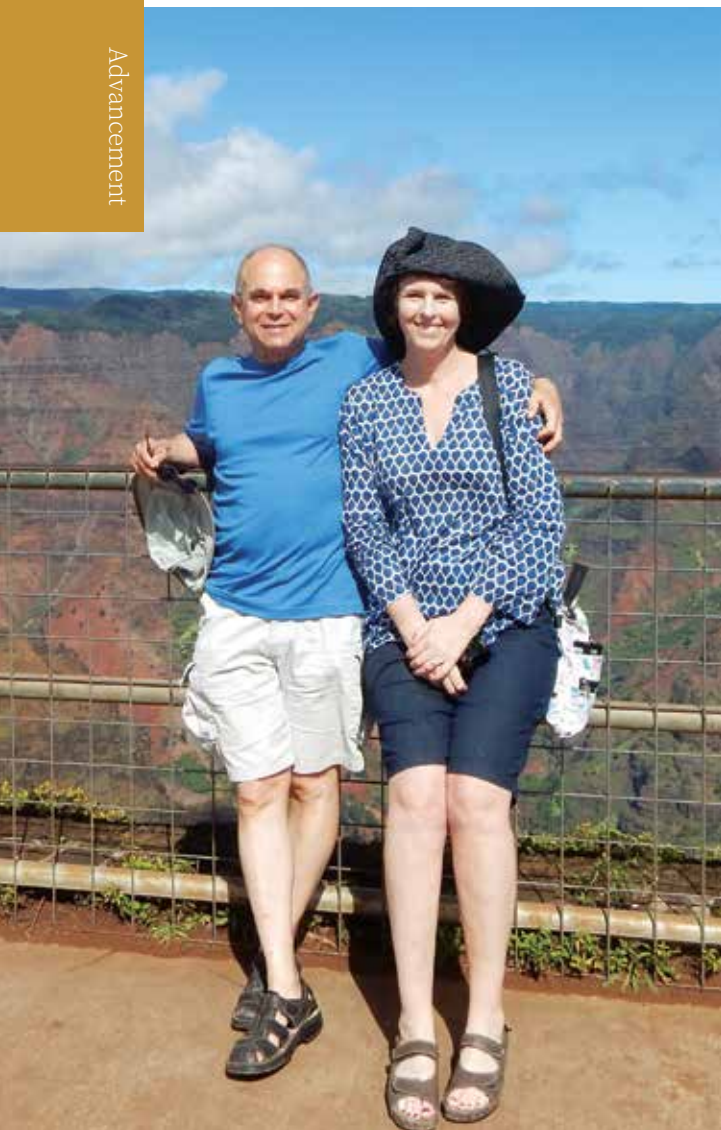


**REUNITED:** (From left) Class of 1964 alums Penny Cooper, Anthony Smernes, and Janice Kerr catch up at a reception.



BRITTANY HOSEA-SMALL(4X)





**PATH MATES:** Carol Brownstein (right) says creating a JSP fund in memory of her late husband, Professor David Lieberman, honors his deep devotion to JSP students.

In a similar vein, Scheiber created a student emergency fund to provide grants for students who develop an unexpected urgent need.

“Grad students are often close to the margins financially, and Jane cared deeply about people’s personal lives — none more so than the students,” he says. “Many of them describe how much she meant to them as a friend, mentor, and advocate.”

A unique interdisciplinary program, JSP promotes the study of law and legal institutions through the lens of several disciplines — including economics, political science, philos-

ophy, sociology, and more — and has launched many standout legal educators and policy experts.

A renowned historian of the 18th century who died in a hiking accident in 2022, Lieberman focused largely on British legal, political, and social thought. He taught core JSP courses and mentored many first-generation university students.

Brownstein describes him as brilliant, funny, and humble, with a knack for bringing together people with disparate ideas. An online memorial page for Lieberman extols his sage advice, his scholarly acumen, and his profound influence on how to treat people with respect and collegiality.

“He made you feel as if you were bringing value to the conversation and that the conversation was the most

important thing — not what he had to impart,” Brownstein says.

When Jane Scheiber was ill with cancer, Lieberman made chicken soup and brought it to the Scheibers’ house — typical of his “many similar small acts of kindness for colleagues,” Brownstein recalls.

Deeply involved with UC Berkeley, Jane was the longtime Assistant Dean of College Relations and Development in the College of Chemistry, transforming its philanthropy culture, overseeing pivotal projects, and ultimately bringing in over \$165 million. Even after retiring, she volunteered as a special assistant to the dean and helped advance several development efforts.

Jane was also appointed a research associate in UC Berkeley Law’s Center for the Study of Law & Society, and for 20 years played an instrumental role in the programs and publications of the school’s Law of the Sea Institute. Berkeley Law’s annual ocean law lecture is named for the Scheibers, and their jointly authored 2016 book *Bayonets in Paradise*, on martial law in Hawaii during World War II, became a revelatory and highly praised effort.

When the Scheibers were at UC San Diego in the 1970s, Jane edited and contributed to a series of pioneering course readers on a variety of important subjects. A Woodrow Wilson National Scholar, she co-authored a well-known article on the Wilson Administration and its racist treatment of Black Americans in World War I — countering the dominant narrative of Wilson as a great internationalist.

“Jane had broad interests and great intellectual curiosity, a real capacity for looking at subject matter across disciplines and getting on top of it — just a great gift,” Harry says. “When we moved to Berkeley, she was instrumental in helping develop the JSP Program. Jane was devoted to higher education, loved building infrastructure for good scholarship and teaching, and had great concern for students’ welfare.”

— *Andrew Cohen*

the university’s highest honor, given to “distinguished individuals ... whose contributions to UC Berkeley go beyond the call of duty and whose achievements exceed the standards of excellence in their fields.”

Brownstein created a student fund after hearing that JSP students from non-traditional backgrounds often had to work summers and lacked the money to do pre-dissertation research. She gladly patched that hole, upholding Lieberman’s legacy of supporting students and their research.

“David had a high degree of empathy and was always willing to work with students who faced difficulties to help them reach their goals,” she says. “He often spent so much time with students that he had to do his ‘regular work’ at night.”



# Coupling a Commitment to Giving

Anhthu Le '04 had just graduated from UC Berkeley and was preparing to start at UC Berkeley Law when her roommate introduced her to a longtime friend, Yusef Alexandrine '07. The two fell in love — first with each other and then with the law school, where Alexandrine enrolled three years later.

Now happily married and living in Oakland with their young son, they've stayed connected to the law school, frequently taking family walks through the campus and attending reunions and events. Both deeply value their educations and hope to instill those same values in their child.

Le came to the United States as a refugee from Vietnam at age 5 and grew up in a poor, gang-ridden neighborhood. Despite their humble surroundings, Le's

father, a lawyer in Vietnam, extolled the power of education as a tool to transcend poverty and injustice. Le credits her success to the education and opportunities she accessed at UC Berkeley.

"It changed the trajectory of my life, and now we support our families with this, and I wouldn't have met you," Le says, nodding at her husband. "So it's all of those things for us. We're very, very grateful to the law school."

Alexandrine grew up poor in Berkeley and shares that sentiment. While he's made a career in securities law and private investments, he deeply values UC Berkeley Law's civic mission and commitment to social justice.

"I love that there's a public option that can compete with a lot of the swanky private schools out there and bring that public school ethos," he says.

The couple prioritizes supporting UC Berkeley Law through annual gifts to the school — not only to honor the life-changing impact on them but also its larger mission and social purpose.

"We want to sustain that and pay it forward, hopefully," Alexandrine says.

David Rosenfeld '73 also met his spouse at UC Berkeley Law: Shirley Woo '74, who like Le earned her undergraduate degree at the university, too.

"That was the best part of law school, meeting her," he says.

Rosenfeld took Labor Law from the renowned David Feller, and made it his career because it reflected his progressive goals for the law. He's litigated on behalf of unions for more than five decades at the firm that's now Weinberg Roger & Rosenfeld.

When Feller died in 2003, Rosenfeld and other former students funded the David E. Feller Memorial Labor Law Lectureship to honor him. Not long after, Rosenfeld came back to the law school and has taught various courses, including seminars, the core Labor Law course, and his favorite — a class on representing low-wage workers.

Rosenfeld says he and Woo, who practices energy law, give to strengthen the pipeline of people who are drawn to the school's public mission and exemplify it after graduating.

He views UC Berkeley Law as a place that trains students "to improve the lives of working people and deal with problems that are plaguing this country and the world."

Lawyers can play an important part in that, he adds, noting, "Even in my teaching, I've seen students who've gone off to do fabulous things. I think I played a small part in it, and that's what it's about." — *Gwyneth K. Shaw*

**SHARED VALUES:** Anhthu Le '04 (left) and husband Yusef Alexandrine '07 at last fall's Alumni Reunion. They met just before she began law school and still live in the East Bay.

COURTESY OF ANHTHU LE '04 AND YUSEF ALEXANDRINE '07



## 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

### 1972

#### Alan Watenmaker

joined the international law firm Withers in its Los Angeles office. He and a group of other lawyers, paralegals, and staff members moved to Withers from the trust and estates firm Hoffman Sabban & Watenmaker. Alan advises on tax, gift and estate planning, trust administration and probate, and charitable planning.

### 1973

**John Burris**, an Oakland civil rights

lawyer who has represented more than 1,000 victims of police misconduct, was featured in a profile article of the *Berkeley Haas Magazine* Fall 2024 edition. A summer public interest fellowship fund in his name supports rising UC Berkeley Law 3Ls in internships at public interest organizations or government entities focused on police accountability and/or racial bias, inequity, and injustice.



### 1974

**Lise Pearlman** co-produced *American Justice on Trial: People v. Newton*, based on her award-winning 2016 book, which aired on over 200 PBS stations in February for Black History Month after receiving six best documentary awards. Also co-produced

by Lise's husband **Peter Benvenuti '74**, the film takes a close look at the tension-filled 1968 murder trial of Black Panther leader Huey Newton, his legal team's unprecedented defense strategy, and the trial's enormous impact on the jury selection process. Renowned alumni lawyers such as Lowell Jensen '52, Thelton Henderson '62, Penny Cooper '64, and Barry Scheck '74 are also featured.

### 1977

**Emily Vasquez** was selected by her judicial colleagues to receive the Alba Witkin Humanitarian Award, given by the California Judges Association. A retired judge and current mediator who served on the Sacramento County Superior Court for two decades, Emily was honored for making significant contributions to both the judiciary and the community through her humanitarian efforts.

### 1978

**Rita Risser** (aka Makana Chai) writes that her book, *Na Mo'olelo Lomilomi: The Traditions of Hawaiian Massage and Healing*, is celebrating its 20th year with a new printing. She credits UC Berkeley Law and 10 years of practice before digitization for giving her the tools and stamina to spend three years in the archives, noting "it was just like going through boxes of discovery, but more fun."

### 1984

#### Paul Krekorian

recently completed 15 years on the Los Angeles City Council. A former California State Assembly member, Paul served as the City Council's president from October 2022 to September 2024.

### 1987

**Joni Hiramoto** was recognized as the Contra Costa County Trial Court Judge of the Year by the Alameda-Contra Costa Trial Lawyers Association at a January gala in



Oakland. Last fall, she received the California Judges Association's Bernard S. Jefferson Award for distinguished service in judicial education.

## 1994

**Andrew Kwok** was appointed chief legal officer at PEG Companies, an owner, operator, and developer of multifamily, hospitality, and build-to-rent assets in the U.S. and Canada. Highly experienced in private equity, securities, and structured finance, Andrew has been a partner at multiple law firms and held major leadership roles in a British bank's legal department.

## 1995

**Danielle K. Little** has joined Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP as a partner in its general liability and American Disability Act (ADA) compliance defense groups. Her practice is focused on handling complex tort, employment, ADA, and insurance defense matters.

## 1997

**Katrina Lee**, a professor and director of the nationally ranked

### Miguel Márquez '96

## Facing the Fires Head On

**In a way, Miguel Márquez's career arc seemed predestined.**

"My parents immigrated from Mexico in the 1960s with very limited formal education and very limited English skills," he says. "Government programs like Headstart, summer school, Pell grants, and student loans were critical lifelines toward limitless opportunities. I recognized early on the importance of those government programs in my life's journey, which sparked my interest in giving back by dedicating nearly all of my professional career to public service."

Pasadena's city manager since 2022, Márquez oversees services provided to over 130,000 residents by about 2,300 city employees with a budget of \$1.1 billion this year. Even before law school, he helped state and local governments as a management consultant providing financial and organizational analysis.

While he spent four years at two firms and four years as a California Court of Appeal associate justice, his career has mostly involved leadership roles helping cities and counties. Márquez has served as San Mateo County deputy county counsel, San Francisco deputy city attorney, San Francisco Unified School District general counsel, and Santa Clara County counsel and chief operating officer.

He relishes helping shape systemic changes to build a more just and equitable society, and helping residents obtain quality municipal services to improve their lives — and also their community's collective wellbeing.

"Local government provides a tremendous platform to serve the public and bring about needed changes," he says. "The biggest challenges are societal divisions, driven by both mainstream and social media, that preclude collective problem solving and foster hatred and blame instead. Communities working together to solve problems are unstoppable.



Divided communities get nothing done."

Confronting the January fires that ravaged greater Los Angeles became all-consuming, as Márquez directs Pasadena's disaster emergency services and oversees its fire and police departments. The city-owned Pasadena Convention Center housed 1,000 evacuated residents within two hours of the Eaton fire starting, and the Rose Bowl was turned into a command center for 4,000 first responders.

"My team and I spent nearly every waking hour fighting fires, evacuating residents, and providing food, clothing, and shelter to those evacuated," he says. "All of this work was undertaken alongside our federal, state, and county partners, our nonprofit and business partners, our partners in education, our faith-based community, and thousands of residents and volunteers both here in Pasadena and throughout the state and nation. The coordination and support has been extraordinary."

Márquez recalls his law student days being marred by California passing Propositions 187 (which banned undocumented immigrants from using the state's major public services) and 209 (which barred state and local governments from considering race, sex, or ethnicity when making decisions about public employment, contracting, and education). The UC Board of Regents subsequently changed the UC system's admissions process, resulting in Berkeley Law's Class of 2000 having only one Black student and a handful of Latine students.

"Nearly 30 years later, being part of a diverse and thriving California gives me hope for America's future," he says. "As goes California, so goes the nation." — *Andrew Cohen*

Program on Dispute Resolution at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, won the university's 2024 Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching. The author of several law review articles and a business of law course book, Katrina has also won the Morgan E. Shipman Outstanding Professor Award from the Class of 2024 and the Class of 2022 at Moritz, and she addressed both classes at their hooding ceremonies.



1998

**Jamie Rosen**

received the Muskie-Chafee Award from the U.S. Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division, its highest honor for a federal employee whose tireless efforts help make America's environmental laws on the books the reality of the land. Senior counsel for

the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of the General Counsel, where he's been a U.S. Forest Service natural resources attorney for 26 years, Jamie has made significant contributions to protecting the nation's environment and public lands. He lives in Berkeley with his wife Jeanine and his two children, Pepper and Clark.

**Gina Shishima**, U.S. chief strategy and operations partner at Norton Rose Fulbright, received the 2024 American Bar Association Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award. Previously her firm's U.S. head of intellectual property and chief diversity officer, she co-chaired the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Women's Leadership Network, serves on the Center for Women in Law's Executive Committee, and is on the Asian Americans Advancing Justice board of directors.

2003

**Chhaya Malik** is the chair of the California

Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation, speaking across the state in that volunteer role and presenting to the California Council on Judicial Appointments about the judicial application evaluation process. The deputy director of dispute resolution at the California Civil Rights Department, Chhaya manages a team of neutrals resolving civil rights complaints and the community conflict resolution unit that enters state communities to help resolve conflict and promote peaceful relations.

**Paul Marchegiani**

recently launched Vox Vera, LLC, a premium performance skills coaching firm dedicated to helping advocates and leaders effectively deliver a message, connect with others, and speak with presence. In addition to coaching, leading workshops, and trial consulting through Vox Vera, Paul develops and teaches courses on public speaking, presence, and communication at top law schools, including Berkeley.

2006

**Anne Tamar-Mattis**, who taught Sexual

Orientation, Gender Identity, and the Law at UC Berkeley Law for several years, has taken a surprising turn in her career. After many years working as executive director of law-focused nonprofits, Anne is now chief administrative officer of Liminal Medicine, a (legal) psychedelic medicine clinic in Sebastopol, Calif.

2007

**Jennifer Seidenberg**

**Bock** has been re-appointed by Colorado Gov. Jared Polis to the state's Water Quality Control Commission and elected its chair. This year, she's leading the commission's rule-making to implement a new law protecting Colorado's waters after the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency* dramatically narrowed the definition of wetlands eligible for federal protection.

**Michael Pasahow**

was promoted to partner at Faegre Drinker in San Francisco. Part of the firm's benefits and executive compensation practice group, he advises an array of corporate clients, such as businesses, fiduciaries, and investment

funds, that focus on employee benefits law and employee stock ownership plan transactions.



2008

**Ben Allen**, a state

senator representing the Westside, Hollywood, South Bay, and Santa Monica Mountains communities of Los Angeles County, received the UC Legislator of the Year award. Ben is serving his third term, chairs or co-chairs several committees, and has authored nearly 60 new laws in various areas, from environmental protection to electoral reform. Former voting student member of the University of California Board of Regents, Ben has also been president of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education,



a law school lecturer, and an attorney in the private and nonprofit sectors.

**Monique Liburd**, senior trademark counsel at Google, was named 2024 Trademark Prosecutor of the Year by the Bar Association of the District of Columbia at its annual gala in December. Monique's Google trademark team was also named internet & telecommunications team of the year by the *World Trademark Review*.

## 2010

**Sara Ghalandari** was promoted to partner at Gibson Dunn in the firm's San Francisco office. She focuses on land use law, advising clients on all aspects of land use and development, including entitlement processes, zoning regulations, environmental documentation, and transactional agreements between private and public entities.

## 2011

**Monica Ager Jacobsen** was named a deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Democracy,

### Bhanu Sadasivan '04

## Deftly Pairing Science and Law

**Bhanu Sadasivan already had a Yale Ph.D.** and several years of postdoctoral work at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital under her belt when she decided to go to law school. An immunologist by training, she wanted to explore patent law and was drawn to UC Berkeley Law because of its perennial top ranking in the field.

"As a scientist, I enjoyed gathering data and analyzing it to put together a story," she says. "Law is similar — you gather facts and put together a story to tell the jury. Marrying science and law seemed the best of both worlds."

Sadasivan took a range of intellectual property courses and participated in the student-run *Berkeley Technology Law Journal*, then spent a semester working for a judge and another semester at the law school-affiliated East Bay Community Law Center. All of it confirmed her hunch that she was on the right track.

"The former two cemented my interest in patent law, the latter two in litigation and working with clients," she says.

Litigation — with a focus on the life sciences — has formed the backbone of Sadasivan's successful practice. Her work encompasses some of the sector's leading-edge technologies, including recombinant DNA technology, pharmaceutical formulation, computer hardware, and software.

A partner at McDermott Will & Emery in the firm's Silicon Valley office, Sadasivan has racked up a host of accolades. She was named the *Daily Journal's* Top Intellectual Property Lawyer in 2023 and has been included on the lists of *Best Lawyers in America* for patent and IP litigation, the *IAM Patent 1000* World's Leading Patent Practitioners, and Lawdragon's 500 Leading Litigators in America, among others.

Her clients include some of the industry's heaviest hitters, including Amgen, Ambry

Genetics, and Alnylam. Recently, Sadasivan helped close a three-year litigation on behalf of the cell-free DNA testing company Natera, which sued two competitors in the early cancer screening market for patent infringement in the U.S. District Court for Delaware.

A jury awarded the company more than \$19 million in damages for royalties and lost profits as a result of the infringed patents, and a few months later a judge issued a permanent injunction against the competitors to stop using Natera's patented technology — an unusual victory in the healthcare sector.

Sadasivan has co-authored several scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals, too. And she's a board member and past president of the Asian Law Alliance, a nonprofit that strives to provide equal access to the justice system for Asian Pacific Islander and low-income populations in Silicon Valley.

Combining her scientific expertise with the rigors of practicing law is an ideal blend that offers deep professional satisfaction, Sadasivan says.

"Every case has a different technology to learn and a legal area to explore deeply," she says. "It is never boring and keeps me on my toes." — *Gwyneth K. Shaw*





## A Powerful Courtroom Voice

**Iconic trial lawyer Theodore “Ted” Olson ‘65 died on Nov. 13.** Named one of the 100 most influential people in the world by *TIME* magazine in 2010, Olson served as Solicitor General of the United States from 2001 to 2004 and as Assistant Attorney General in charge of the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Legal Counsel from 1981 to 1984. Except for those two intervals, he was a lawyer with Gibson Dunn in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., since 1965 and founded the firm’s appellate and constitutional law practice group.

Olson argued 65 cases in the U.S. Supreme Court, including the two *Bush v. Gore* cases arising from the 2000 presidential election and *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*. Surprising many given his conservative pedigree, he also argued in favor of same-sex marriage in *Hollingsworth v. Perry* — which upheld the overturning of California’s Proposition 8 that banned such marriages — and successfully challenged the first Trump Administration’s rescission of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

Private counsel to Presidents Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush, Olson also served both in high-level Department of Justice positions. Among his many accolades, he twice received the Department of Justice’s top award for public service and leadership, and also received the Department of Defense’s Distinguished Service Award, its highest civilian honor, for his advocacy in U.S. courts.

## In Memoriam

William F. Stanton Jr. '55  
J. Dennis Bonney '56  
K. Duane Lyders '59  
Glenn M. Alperstein '60  
Edward Freidberg '60  
Hamilton L. Hintz Jr. '60  
Hon. Alan C. Kay '60  
Stanley Pedder '60  
David W. Swarner '61  
Philip M. Madden '62  
David B. Flinn '63  
William R. Hartman '64  
Victor C. Wykoff Jr. '64  
James R. Birnberg '65  
Thomas O. Hurst '65  
Dan G. Lubbock '65  
William K. Norman '65  
Theodore B. Olson '65

Karl J. Uebel '65  
Gary P. Kane '66  
James B. Klemm '66  
James L. Larson '66  
John E. Olmsted '66  
A. James Roberts III '66  
Robert P. Scherle '67  
John D. Shultz '67  
Steven A. Sindell '67  
Charles W. Carnese '69  
Steven M. Fink '70  
Jon H. York '70  
William D. Sherman '72  
Jerome J. Kirkpatrick '74  
Manuel R. Delgado '77  
Margaret A. Jennings '77  
Mary L. Gosney '78  
Glenn M. Gottlieb '78

John T. Liu '78  
Nancy B. Page '78  
William J. Schlinkert '78  
James A. Yoro '78  
Lee H. Greene '80  
Mark D. Welsh '81  
Helen L. Delaney '82  
Michael Zischke '82  
Richard B. Curtis '86  
Genevieve T. Dougherty '87  
Gregory R. Shaughnessy '87  
Marilyn M. Singleton '95  
Pierre C. Ulimubenshi '15  

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Jane M. Andersen  
Charlene Apperson  
Judith Gold Bloom  
Dale C. Bowyer

Martha A. Coddington  
William R. Frazer  
Virginia R. Furth  
Pete Gleichenhaus  
Robert W. Goldsby  
Lindsay Harris  
Florence Borsuk Helzel  
Matthew L. Hudson  
Gary M. Levin  
Stanley B. Lubman  
Nancy K. Lusk  
Nancy Elliott Mack  
Jeanne Welch McCormick  
Allan K. Ng  
Elena O. Nightingale  
Jeffrey Parker  
David M. Rothman  
Leila R. Thissell



Human Rights, and Labor. In this role, she is responsible for promoting human rights and democracy in Europe as well as South and Central Asia.

**Brent Schoradt** was elevated to counsel at Vinson & Elkins' Denver office. Brent represents financial institutions, project sponsors, and developers in the financing, development, and sale of large-scale wind and solar projects, with a focus on tax-equity financings.

**Todd Trattner** was promoted to partner in Gibson Dunn's San Francisco office. He focuses on intellectual property transactions in the life sciences industry, which include royalty financings, licensing transactions, commercial agreements, asset acquisitions, and advising on complex intellectual property issues in connection with M&A and financing transactions.

## 2012

**Robert M. Yeh** was promoted to counsel at Latham & Watkins in San Diego. Part of the firm's healthcare & life sciences practice and corporate department, he advises companies

### Wilson Dunlavy '15

## Big Environmental Settlements From the Big Apple

**One thing Wilson Dunlavy learned quickly** as a lawyer: The learning never stops.

Specializing in litigation against fossil fuel companies and other polluters, Dunlavy has helped government entities, consumers, small businesses, workers, and homeowners recover over \$16 billion while prompting changes in various company practices.

As a law student, he never imagined absorbing so much science.

"Everything from metallurgy to fish migration, how emissions systems work, and how toxins are spread through ocean currents and the air," says Dunlavy, a partner in the New York City office of plaintiff-side powerhouse Lief Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein. "I also have to understand a lot of economics for the complex damages modeling that goes into my cases."

His track record includes a \$1.8 billion settlement with Sempra Energy Corporation arising from the largest methane leak in U.S. history, and around \$500 million after a variety of coastal oil spills in California. He also helped steer a series of major settlements against



Volkswagen, Porsche, and Audi stemming from the 2015 "clean diesel" scandal for cheating on diesel-emissions tests.

Dunlavy currently represents the State of California against fossil fuel companies in what may be the most important environmental litigation to date: seeking to hold major oil companies accountable for decades of deception regarding the impact of climate change.

"As I grew up, I realized that the law best fit my skill set, and I could effectuate change best as a plaintiff-side lawyer," he says. "Berkeley was the only law school I ever wanted to go to, in part because of its focus on environmental law, but also because of its public interest focus and embrace of plaintiff-side work."

He has persuaded courts to certify classes of victims of environmental disasters by applying modern science to traditional theories of trespass, nuisance, and negligence law.

"You'd think it's a no-brainer, but fossil fuel companies spend millions of dollars trying to convince courts that trying such cases on a class-wide basis is not appropriate under traditional tort law," he says.

Dunlavy received a California Lawyer of the Year Award from the *Daily Journal* and was a finalist for Consumer Attorney of the Year by the Consumer Attorneys of California. Additionally, Lawdragon named him among its 500 Leading Plaintiff Consumer Lawyers in America the past two years, he's been a *Super Lawyers* Northern California Rising Star five years running, and the American Antitrust Institute recognized him for outstanding private practice antitrust achievement.

"I take great satisfaction in getting companies to agree to change their corporate practices as part of a settlement," he says. "Never in my wildest dreams would I imagine I would have played a part in changing corporate behavior and helping so many achieve justice."

The biggest myth of environmental law?

"That you need to have a science background to succeed," says Dunlavy, who also fathers two toddlers with his husband. "You just have to be willing to roll up your sleeves and learn the science." — *Andrew Cohen*

and investors in the life sciences sector on a wide range of intellectual property-intensive transactions.

## 2013

**Ciara (Mittan) McHale** and **Rory McHale '12** recently celebrated the birth of their second child, Finn William McHale.

## 2014

**Alex S. Li** published his latest space law-related article in the *UC Irvine Law Review*, "Autonomizing Outer Space: Updating the Liability Convention for the Rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI)" (15 *UC Irvine L. Rev.* 82 (2024)). The piece explores the transformative impact of AI technologies on outer space's liability framework, as established by the Space Liability Convention, and offers recommendations for its reform.

**Maxwell H. Pines**, after 10 years at the Public Defender's Office of New Mexico, has started his own law firm: Max Pines Law. In addition to criminal law, Max now practices personal injury law and helps his clients get expungements from his Albuquerque office.

He has a website and also maintains an informative blog at [maxpineslaw.com](http://maxpineslaw.com).

**Smita Rajmohan** was among 100 people named to the Obama Foundation Leaders USA program, a six-month initiative for emerging leaders age 24 to 45 across varied sectors. Members hold weekly virtual meetings with subject experts and practitioners, gaining practical training on values-based leadership. Senior counsel at Autodesk and a tech law authority, Smita is focusing on how to harness AI's power for social good.

**Dina Roumiantseva**, counsel at Tucker Ellis in San Francisco, was selected by her peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America*® for 2025 in Commercial Litigation; Litigation – Intellectual Property; and Technology Law. She focuses her IP practice on trademark counseling, prosecution, and litigation, as well as copyright infringement, cyber-squatting, trade secrets, and contract disputes.

## 2015

**Rory Collins** was promoted to partner at

Faegre Drinker in the firm's Minneapolis office. Part of the business litigation practice group, he litigates class and mass actions nationwide and defends food, beverage, and dietary supplement companies in consumer fraud class actions.

**Caroline Kuehn** was promoted to partner at Vinson & Elkins' Houston office. Her practice focuses on complex asset and entity-level acquisitions and divestitures, joint ventures, commercial agreements, and projects across the energy and infrastructure industry, with an emphasis on renewable energy sources.

**Zak Welsh** was promoted to partner at ArentFox Schiff in the firm's San Francisco office, where he maintains a broad transactional practice with a focus on the sports, entertainment, real estate, and hospitality industries. He has vast experience handling commercial agreements for professional sports franchises, owners and operators of entertainment venues, and brands and service providers, and is an adjunct sports

law professor at UC Berkeley Law.

## 2016

**Cindy Dinh** left Big Law and is now corporate counsel at Sumitomo Corporation of Americas, advising the largest subsidiary of the Japanese trading company and revamping its Code of Business Conduct. Named a 2024 "Rookie of the Year" by the Association of Corporate Counsel and the *Texas Lawbook*, she also welcomed her second child, Lincoln. Cindy hopes to set up an alumni chapter in Houston, and urges fellow alums to connect with her on LinkedIn.

**Nathaniel Miller** was elevated to Of Counsel at Caplin & Drysdale. Working in the firm's Washington, D.C., office and part of its bankruptcy and complex litigation practice groups, he specializes in complex commercial litigation with an emphasis on creditors' rights and bankruptcy litigation.

**Meghan Natenson** was elevated to counsel at Vinson & Elkins' San Francisco office. Her practice focuses on commercial litigation, including federal securities claims,

shareholder activism, class actions, data privacy, breaches of fiduciary duty, and other commercial disputes.

**Shampa Panda-Bryant** joined Arnold & Porter as a senior associate with the firm's environmental practice group in Washington, D.C. Previously a trial attorney within the U.S. Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division for nearly five years, she also joined the board of directors of the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

## 2023

**Kamran Jamil** served as an American Bar Association representative in November at the UN Climate Summit, the only multilateral decision-making forum on climate change that convenes almost every country, in Azerbaijan. A federal district court clerk in the Southern District of California, Kamran was previously a teaching assistant for UC Berkeley Law's environmental justice seminar while working at the Executive Office of California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, where he focused on environmental matters.



A group of seven young adults, members of the student journal Ecology Law Quarterly, are posing on a balcony. They are surrounded by large, ornate bells. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. The balcony has a tiled floor and a metal railing. The background shows the architectural details of the building, including columns and windows.

Parting  
Shot

## Saved by the Bells

Members of the student journal *Ecology Law Quarterly* (from left) Meg O'Neill '26, Jessie Sugarman '27, Chloe Winnett '26, Alejandra de Maar '27, Neil Gallagher '27, Colin Gamm '27, and John Hale '27 take a break and tour the inside of UC Berkeley's iconic Campanile, the world's second-tallest freestanding clock and bell tower.

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*“We want our students trained to be leaders capable of driving change within organizations and society.”*

— Dean Erwin Chemerinsky

## Berkeley Law Leads

*Winner: Bloomberg Law, Law School Innovation, “Career Pathing”*

Berkeley Law Leads is a first-of-its-kind leadership training initiative designed to equip law students with the skills to inspire, influence, and navigate complex

challenges. Grounded in real-world application, this program prepares future lawyers to lead in any setting — from courtrooms to boardrooms to public service.

Watch “Berkeley Law Leads: Painting a New Picture of Leadership”

