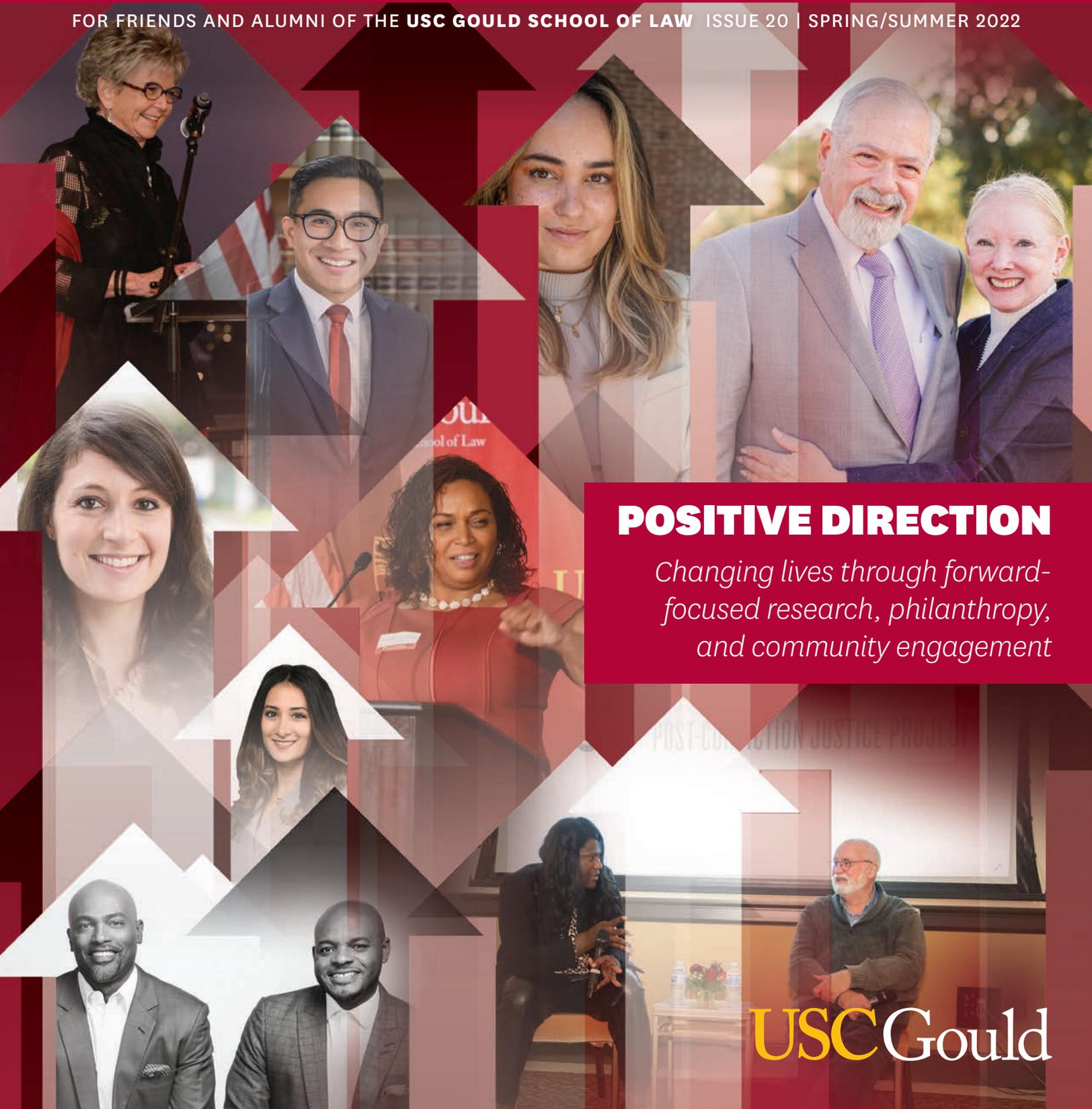


# USC Law MAGAZINE

FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF THE USC GOULD SCHOOL OF LAW | ISSUE 20 | SPRING/SUMMER 2022



## POSITIVE DIRECTION

*Changing lives through forward-focused research, philanthropy, and community engagement*

**USC** Gould



**It is often said that the only constant is change. I am grateful to be part of a law school whose members are *change-makers*, dedicated to helping move forward society and the legal field in a positive direction.**

As we turn the page on another successful academic year, capped off by a joyous on-campus commencement ceremony for the Class of 2022, I am delighted to share with you inspiring stories about our students, alumni, faculty and staff, who are making a meaningful change in our communities.

In this issue, we highlight the historic \$13 million gift — the largest single gift ever for the law school — from Richard and Karla Chernick. Richard is a trailblazer and noted leader in the field of alternative dispute resolution, and has played an instrumental role in shaping Gould's ADR program.

Our opening section also includes stories about the success of recent clerkships; photos from the naming celebration at the historic L.A. Memorial Coliseum to honor Barbara F. Bice's \$2 million estate gift to support our Public Interest Law Foundation; and a scholarship fund for law students from underrepresented communities recently initiated by alumni Justin Sanders (JD 2000) and Reginald Roberts Jr. (JD 2000).

We also cover the launch of a new partnership with India's O.P. Jindal Global University; the *Southern California Law Review's* annual symposium, which focused on the legacy of environmental law pioneer Christopher Stone; a Post-Conviction Justice Project event featuring Father Gregory Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries; and a new anti-trafficking report by the International Human Rights Clinic which gained national attention.

Further, we focus on the C. David Molina First Generation Professionals Program, which recently celebrated five years of impact; an outstanding student project that centered on helping WWII Nisei Trojans; a new biography commemorating community leader and civil rights activist Sei Fujii (JD 1911); and we spotlight recent grads who earned the prestigious Equal Justice Fellowship and Irmas Fellowship in public interest law.

**“In this issue, we highlight the historic \$13 million gift — the largest single gift ever for the law school — from Richard and Karla Chernick. Richard is a trailblazer and noted leader in the field of alternative dispute resolution, and has played an instrumental role in shaping Gould's ADR program.”**

In our *Faculty Focus* section, the magazine shines a light on faculty accomplishments and thought leadership, including the cutting-edge research on corporate governance and finance from Professor Dorothy Lund which is being published in the nation's top legal journals; Professor Robin Craig's work to educate judges and lawmakers as part of the Environmental Law Institute's Climate Judiciary Project; Professor Nomi Stolzenberg's new book and Professor Ariela Gross' Order of the Coif book award.

In addition, this issue includes a special section on *Clinical Perspectives*, featuring the life-changing work of our clinics. Notably, our Immigration Clinic successfully resolved one of its oldest cases, dating back to 2004; the Post-Conviction Justice Project set precedent in a case for a client serving life without parole for a crime he committed at age 16 (*In re Deandre Moore*); the International Human Rights Clinic is working to obtain humanitarian parole for Afghans; along with other inspirational articles.

In closing, I thank you for being part of the Gould community, and I wish you and your loved ones a safe and refreshing summer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AGS'.

Andrew T. Guzman  
Dean and Carl Mason Franklin Chair in Law,  
Professor of Law and Political Science



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USC Gould shaped alumnus Richard Chernick's career, and in return he helped build a home for ADR at the law school



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# USC MAGAZINE Law

SPRING | SUMMER 2022

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Gould School of Law



## 2022 USC LAW AWARDS

Each year, USC Gould academic programs and the Student Bar Association bestow distinguished awards to students and faculty for their exceptional abilities both in and out of the classroom. Congratulations to those honored this year:

### WILLIAM A. RUTTER DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

Rebecca Brown, *The Rader Family Trustee Chair in Law*

### CLASS OF 2022 JD AWARDS

#### C. David Molina First Generation Professionals Program Student of the Year

Ravneet Purewal

#### Dean Dorothy Nelson Commemorative Prize

Sophia Maline

#### Mason C. Brown Award

Matthew Palmquist

#### Miller-Johnson Equal Justice Prize

Danielle Wilkins

#### Edward & Eleanor Shattuck Awards

Harrison Park, Rebecca “Beckie” Alch, Tomi Johnson, Steven Perkins, Brooke Kopel, Christopher Pineda



### DEI Fellowship Awards

Dimiana Saad, Leilani Stacy, Jonathan “Chief” Coleman, Christopher Pineda

### CLASS OF 2022 GRADUATE & INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AWARDS

Amanda Guimarães, Lorenzo Rovini

### 2021-2022 STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION FACULTY AND STAFF OF THE YEAR AWARDS

#### Staff Member of the Year

Dave Dinh, *Assistant Director, Project Management*  
Rachel Kronick Rothbart, *Director, Career Services*  
Linda Richardson, *Associate Director, Career Services*

#### Adjunct Professor of the Year

Natalie Kouyoumdjian, *Lecturer in Law*

#### Faculty Member of the Year

Michael Chasalow, *Clinical Professor of Law and Director, Small Business Clinic*

## AMY ALDERFER (JD 1999) HONORED WITH 2021 WIDNEY ALUMNI HOUSE VOLUNTEER AWARD



Amy Alderfer

Amy Alderfer (JD 1999) has found success both in her career as a litigator and in her involvement at USC as an alumna. In addition to four years serving as president of the USC Gould Alumni Association, in 2020 Alderfer joined the USC Alumni Association Board of Governors and the USC Gould

Board of Councilors. In September, her alumni commitments were honored with the USC Alumni Association’s 2021 Widney Alumni House Volunteer Award, given to outstanding alumni serving across a variety of alumni organizations.

“I never would have expected to serve as president of the Gould Alumni Association, then to have all of this recognition and these new roles, but as the opportunities came up I was open to them and I really fell in love with the chance to give back and be part of something bigger,” Alderfer says.

After starting in private practice, Alderfer shifted to Am Law 100 firms as a litigator focusing on product liability, high-end personal

injury and mass tort. In October 2021, she became an in-house litigator with The Walt Disney Company.

One of the highlights of her tenure as Gould Alumni Association president was working with Nicole Stark, USC Gould’s director of alumni relations on setting up C-Suite lunches to involve more established alumni with their alma mater. Forming connections was her key priority, she says.

“The further people are removed from law school the more complicated their lives become, so we wanted to offer opportunities for these more established alumni to renew these relationships and get value out of attending Alumni Association events.”

Alderfer emphasizes the importance of the Trojan Family throughout her career.

“My connection to USC throughout all of this has been really important to me and instrumental in my career,” she says. “I feel that people really do take an interest in each other, not just alumni from the law school but other alums from the larger university, and they really care about seeing other people succeed.”

—Melissa Masatani



### USC GOULD ROY P. CROCKER PROFESSOR JODY ARMOUR

was elected to a three-year term on the ACLU of Southern California’s Board of Directors. In his application for the position, Armour pledged to defend the rights of free expression and free assembly in the interest of supporting marginalized communities and striking a balance in the university setting between due process and diversity and equity issues. “I believe it is possible to reconcile civil liberties and racial justice concerns but doing so takes effort and demands nuance. I can’t think of a better place for this kind of discussion than the ACLU Board of Directors,” he said.

## GOULD PREVIEW SUPPORTS INCOMING LAW STUDENTS WITH COMMUNITY, SKILL BUILDING

In fall 2021, USC Gould launched Gould Preview, a new pre-orientation program intended to provide enhanced transitional support to incoming law students, including first-generation students and students returning to school after pursuing interests outside of academia.

The five-day program attracted more than 30 students who participated in torts and legal writing classes, and workshops on topics including how learning in law school is different, reading and briefing cases, outlining, and how to take law school exams. The program was free and housing costs and most meals were covered.

The program was patterned after similar programs at peer institutions, said Sue Wright, professor of lawyering skills and director of academic success at USC Gould.

Wright developed Gould Preview along with Laura Riley, associate professor of lawyering skills and assistant director of academic success, and David Kirschner, associate dean of admissions and financial aid as a way to build community among incoming students who identified as desiring additional support upon entering law school.

“The idea is that this group of students could show up the following week at orientation and already have some friends

there,” says Wright. “It increases their comfort level, both socially and academically.”

Nickey Woods, Gould’s assistant dean of diversity, equity and inclusion and Malissa Barnwell-Scott, director, diversity, equity and inclusion, and the Alfred C. Molina First Generation Professionals program, led a workshop in community building. Professor Sam Erman, who has researched the connections between engagement, learning and well-being among law students, also led a workshop on transitioning to Gould with a colleague from Indiana University.

Plans are now in the works to further integrate a DEI focus in the program. Meanwhile, Wright and Riley hope that Gould Preview serves as a starting point for the critical skill of building relationships and honing in on approaches for academic success in law school that work for each student.

“When school starts, students primarily work within their super sections, but this is an opportunity to meet other students based on their backgrounds and identities,” says Riley. “We hope [Gould Preview] helps them to expand their networks and connect with students who can support them at the start of their professional journeys.” 📌

—Leslie Ridgerway

## HON. ADALBERTO JORDAN BRINGS EXPERTISE TO USC GOULD AS JURIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM RESUMES

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Jurist-in-Residence program resumed in March with Hon. Adalberto Jordan, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit in Miami, Fla., sharing his experience and expertise with students and faculty at the USC Gould School of Law. The program, developed in 2018 by Dean Andrew Guzman, offers students and faculty an opportunity to hear from and meet with prominent judges both in and outside the classroom. While at USC Gould, Judge Jordan delivered a talk on “The Importance of the Oral Argument,” attended a Constitutional Rights Law course taught by Professor Daria Roithmayr and an Advanced Legal Writing class taught by Professor Sue Wright, and met with students for lunch and coffee — and a lot of discussion about clerkships. “Clerkships were the overarching theme



“Clerkships were the overarching theme [of the visit],” said Hon. Adalberto Jordan of his participation in USC Gould’s Jurist-in-Residence program.

[of the visit],” said Judge Jordan, who served clerkships with Judge Thomas Alonzo Clark, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit in Atlanta, Ga., and for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor. “They asked what goes into clerkship hiring, how I make decisions, what I am looking for, and

how I distinguish between the top students. I told them what they can do to make their applications more competitive, what classes they should take if they’re planning to do a clerkship, and where they should apply.” 📌

—USC Law Magazine staff

# USC GOULD | By the Numbers

## ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

# 90.67%

2021 JD graduates employed in full-time, bar passage-required jobs, 10 months after graduating

**#1 IN CALIFORNIA  
#10 IN THE U.S.**

# 94.3%

California Bar Pass Rate in 2021  
**(TOP 3 IN STATE)**

# #8

Ranking in *Princeton Review's* 2022 Best Law Schools (Greatest Resources for Minority Students)

## COMMENCEMENT 2022

# 213

 JD degrees conferred

# 653

 Master's degrees and graduate certificates conferred

### SAKS INSTITUTE SPRING SYMPOSIUM FOCUSES ON COVID AND MENTAL HEALTH

The USC Gould Saks Institute for Mental Health Law, Policy and Ethics invited COVID-19 patients and medical and mental health experts to its spring symposium, "Conversations About COVID-19 & Mental Health," a series of panels digging into issues including COVID-induced delirium and psychosis, Long COVID, frontline health care professionals and therapy in the time of COVID. The panels, hosted by *New York Times* health and science writer Pam Belluck, featured harrowing stories of mental health challenges faced by patients, health care professionals and first responders. "People are still struggling through the pandemic, and our conversation today remains meaningful and important," said Professor Elyn Saks (far right) in opening remarks. 🗣️

—Yulia Nakagome



### MOTIVATED BY BEARING WITNESS

Renowned public interest litigator Melinda Bird, senior litigation counsel for Disability Rights California, here with Dean Andrew Guzman, shared why she is inspired by public interest work in her March 8 keynote for the 10th anniversary of the Nieman-Sieroty Lecture at USC Gould. 🗣️

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LAW COALITION HONORED WITH STATEWIDE DIVERSITY AWARD



Brenda Cortez-Martin

The Southern California Law School Coalition — a collaboration between Brenda Cortez-Martin, USC Gould School of Law associate director of admissions and two peers from UC Irvine School of Law and Loyola Law School — was awarded the California Leadership-Access-Workforce (LAW) Diversity Champion Award for 2022.

The award was established in 2016 by the board of directors of Cal LAW to recognize outstanding efforts in supporting diversity, equity and inclusion within the law field. Cortez-Martin shares the award with Kelly Greer of Loyola Law School and Estuardo Ponciano of UC Irvine School of Law.

“It’s such a great honor to be recognized by the California LAW board for all the work we are doing in regards to pipeline and outreach efforts,” said Cortez-Martin. “Through our strong vision for collaboration, we’ve been able to pool resources to have a broader reach. We are all committed to increasing awareness and access [to law school], and we’re demonstrating that we can do more [together] than we can do individually.”

The partnership’s first effort launched in late 2020 — Southern California Law Pathway Day, a virtual event aimed at prospective community college and high school students interested in law careers, especially those who are underrepresented. That led to the creation of the law summer boot camp, a three-day virtual workshop in June 2021 introducing underrepresented community college students to key aspects of law school, including admissions, financial aid and planning, and a mock law class taught by Professor Jody Armour.

About 175 students attended and each day was organized under themes. Students received homework assignments to help instill what they were learning, Cortez-Martin said. Breakout sessions familiarized students with resources such as the Law School Admission Council, Access Lex Institute, and the Kahn Academy for practice LSAT tests. Students also reviewed financial resources with a panel that included 3L Chief Coleman, former president of the Barbara L. Bice Public Interest Law Foundation and the Black Students Law Association, and Ashley Zavala (JD 2020), now an associate at Hahn & Hahn LLP.

The California LAW program was started in 2016 under the leadership of the State Bar of California’s Council on Access and Fairness and with support from the Law School Admission Council to provide a clear educational pipeline for diverse students from high schools, community colleges, and four-year institutions into law schools or law-related careers. 🏠

— Leslie Ridgeway

## GOULD QUOTABLES



*“If it passes, it’s a completely new day for American democracy. That bill would be the most important voting bill since the Voting Rights Act of 1965.”*

**FRANITA TOLSON** on the Freedom to Vote Act, Fox-TV (Utah), January 17, 2022



*“This is a clear opportunity for valuable reform. Major platforms should be held accountable when they exclude sellers of competing products for no good reason. But the proposed antitrust bills do much more than that. And more is not always better.”*

**ERIK HOVENKAMP** and **D. DANIEL SOKOL** in op-ed on possible consequences of proposed antitrust bills, *The Hill*, March 21, 2022



*“We also live in a #MeToo world, where employee interests are heightened by our sense that sex discrimination and sexual harassment aren’t just violations of economic rights but are violations of an individual’s dignity.”*

**STEPHEN RICH** on Activision Blizzard’s \$18 million settlement over sexual harassment and discrimination allegations, *Bloomberg Law*, March 30, 2022

# BUILDING A LEGACY THROUGH GENEROUS GIVING

USC Gould shaped his career, and in return, Richard Chernick (JD 1970) helped build a home for ADR at the law school and committed the largest gift in its history

By Julie Riggott

**A trailblazer and much-lauded leader in alternative dispute resolution (ADR), Richard Chernick (JD 1970) has further solidified his legacy in support of educating future leaders, joining his wife Karla in committing \$13 million to USC Gould's law school building fund endowment — the largest single gift ever for the law school.**

"I owe my career to USC," says Chernick, vice president and managing director of the Arbitration Practice at JAMS, the world's largest private ADR provider, based in Los Angeles, "and in particular to Judge Dorothy Nelson and to Bob Warren, a USC Law alum who hired me at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP. I really feel a debt."

Inspired by his gratitude for his education and the Trojans who supported him, and driven by his passion for ADR, Chernick helped to create one of the nation's longest-standing, most comprehensive and renowned ADR programs, the USC Gould School of Law Center for Dispute Resolution, and has taught as a lecturer in law since 2014.

The \$13 million gift is among many significant contributions that Chernick has made to USC Gould over his long association with the law school.

"Rich has been involved with USC Gould for more than five decades — as a student, alum, instructor, adviser, and advocate," says Dean Andrew T. Guzman. "He exemplifies our dedication to excellence and service, kindly offering his expertise to enrich our school and its students. We are honored by this investment in our future from Rich and Karla. For years to come, their historic gift toward USC Gould's facilities will benefit students, faculty, and staff alike."

## TROJANS HELPING TROJANS

It's been 52 years since he graduated, but Chernick has a long list of reasons he still feels he owes a debt of

gratitude to Trojans like Nelson and Warren (JD 1956). Then-Dean Nelson played a pivotal role at various points in Chernick's law school experience. First, she made sure he was able to finish law school. "When I ran out of money after the first year, she secured a full (Legion Lex) scholarship for my second and third years," he says. Chernick also noted that Dean Nelson helped his wife with finding employment on campus, which served to "further support us financially," he adds.

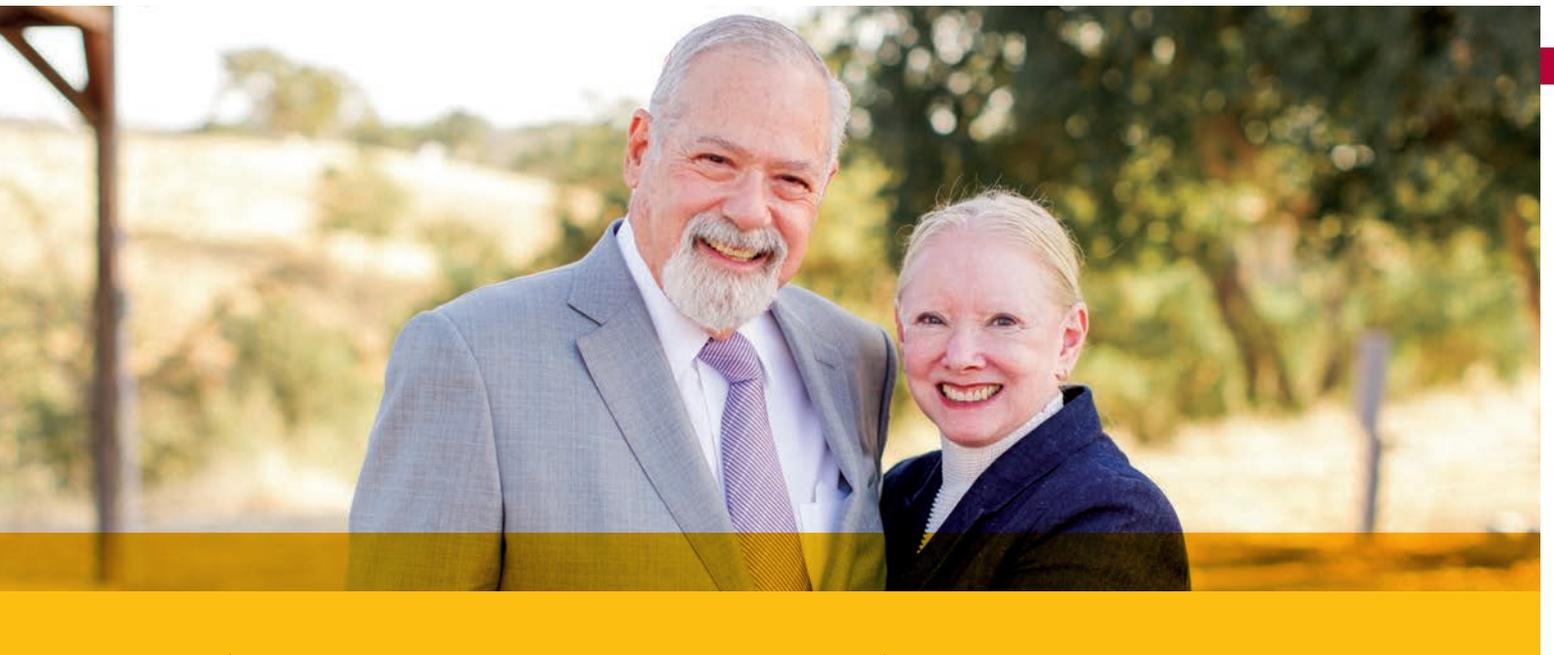
Most importantly, Nelson inspired his interest in pursuing both ADR as well as judicial administration, a new topic she was teaching and on which he helped her write a case book. These became his major practice areas at Gibson Dunn, where he was hired in 1971 and was partner from 1977-1994, specializing in commercial litigation and domestic and international arbitration.

"Dorothy inspired me to be aware of alternative forms of dispute resolution, which led to my work as an advocate in commercial arbitrations and later international cases. This in turn led to my almost 30-year career as an arbitrator," says Chernick, who has conducted more than 1,200 commercial domestic and international arbitrations.

USC and Gibson Dunn helped him secure a clerkship with the California Supreme Court. And Warren became a mentor. "He was a fabulous role model and a great teacher — and a die-hard Trojan to his last breath," Chernick says.

## A BOLD TRANSITION

At the height of his litigation career, Chernick made the bold transition to full-time neutral with the American Arbitration Association, which awarded him the Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Responsible Use of ADR in 1993 and where he served on the board of directors for 10 years. In 2001, he was recruited by JAMS to build its national arbitration practice.



*Richard Chernick and his wife Karla were inspired by his gratitude for his education to commit \$13 million to the law school's building fund endowment — the largest single gift for the law school.*

“I have had the pleasure of working with and learning from Richard for over two decades,” says JAMS President Kimberly Taylor. “He is truly a pioneer within the alternative dispute resolution space, and JAMS would not be the organization that it is today without his contributions to shape our national arbitration practice and his support and guidance to help train our panelists. Richard’s creativity, thoughtfulness and dedication make him a tremendous asset within the dispute resolution field and a greatly respected colleague at JAMS.”

“I love what I do,” Chernick says. “Every day is exciting and different. It requires my complete interest, attention, intellect and diligence to be able to manage an arbitration practice and handle 15 to 25 cases as a sole arbitrator or as a part of a tripartite panel.”

In addition to arbitration and education, Chernick puts a high priority on helping organizations that provide legal services to people and communities faced with disadvantages. A former president of the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, he has been involved with the Western Center on Law and Poverty, which honored him with the Outstanding Legal Services Leadership Award in 1993, and the board of the Western Justice Center, which named him a Champion of Justice in 2019.

Throughout the years, Chernick has taken on various leadership roles — including chair of the Dispute Resolution Section of the American Bar Association and ABA’s advisor to the Revised Uniform Arbitration Act — and has been profusely honored for his work. Most recently, he was named the inaugural inductee in the California Lawyers Association’s ADR Hall of Fame in December 2021.

#### **ADR AT USC GOULD**

Some of Chernick’s closest and oldest friends were USC classmates, and he has remained connected to the school, its faculty and administrators since his student days — participating in class reunions, Legion Lex, golf tournaments and other alumni activities and serving as chair of the USC Gould Board of Councilors. “I appreciate the quality of my education at USC and the highly collegial atmosphere, then and now, of the Trojan family.”

Almost a decade ago, he approached then-Dean Robert Rasmussen and then-Vice Dean Scott Altman about offering a domestic arbitration class. “I had been teaching arbitration elsewhere, but I wanted to teach at USC,” says Chernick, who is the author or co-author of leading texts on ADR, employment ADR and international arbitration and mediation.

When he started teaching, USC Gould got a major gift to start an ADR program. Chernick became the ad hoc director and eventually chair of the ADR Program Advisory Board. “I wanted to be a part of creating something substantial and appropriate at USC that responded to what is really a changing environment in how legal disputes are considered, assessed and resolved.”

“[Clinical Professor of Law] Lisa Klerman and I, with the support of Dean Andrew Guzman and Associate Dean Deborah Call, put together what has become a very large array of ADR courses and activities,” he says of the USC Gould School of Law Center for Dispute Resolution. Among those offerings are comprehensive JD and LLM programs, certificate programs, mediation clinics and the annual USC-JAMS Arbitration Symposium.

“We have built an ADR program at USC that rivals the best in the nation.” 

# EXPANDING ACCESS A EXCELLENCE THR

Need-based scholarships offer opportunities to law students

By Leslie Ridgeway

**When Barbara Danz (JD 1992) and her husband Tad recently contributed the final \$25,000 needed to establish a \$100,000 core endowment at USC Gould School of Law for need-based scholarships, her motivation was simple and straightforward.**

“My USC Gould education contributed immensely to my success,” said Danz, who came to USC Gould after a successful career in consulting. “I support scholarships because I want to ensure that future generations have the same opportunities that I did.”

Danz’ contribution joined a \$50,000 gift from an anonymous faculty member, along with \$25,000 from Tamerlin Godley (JD 1996), partner at Paul Hastings LLP, and her husband Tim, all of whom understood the benefit

*Barbara Danz (JD 1992) and husband Tad’s contribution helped establish a \$100,000 core endowment for need-based scholarships.*



in helping talented law students pursue their careers without the looming pressure of debt.

**The establishment of the need-based scholarship endowment accompanies an effort to raise annual/current use need-based scholarship funding for the incoming Fall 2022 1L class.** For the last decade, all scholarships have been merit-based. This year, the introduction of a need-based component to financial aid supplements the core merit-based funds that 97% of Gould students receive — and relies entirely upon the generosity of alumni and friends.

“Our addition of need-based scholarships gives students access to top-quality legal education and the ability to pursue the area of law that interests them without regard to the salary they will earn following graduation,” says Dean Andrew Guzman. “We hope our alumni see the same value in this approach that we do and will join in supporting this scholarship initiative.”

**Supporting current use need-based scholarships is a matter of ensuring that a diverse group of students has the chance to thrive in the legal profession.** This is a high priority for Karen Bedrosian Coyne (JD 1995), CFO of Karisma Foundation and COO of the Bedrosian Trust.

“Students who have the drive to work the hardest, achieve the most, and distinguish themselves from among their peers deserve every opportunity to pursue their academic and professional goals,” Coyne says. “Helping to level the financial playing field and reducing the financial barriers to education are the least I can do to help ensure that the highest caliber students join the ranks as graduates of USC Gould.”

“[It is] an investment that will yield dividends over a lifetime,” adds David Kirschner, associate dean of admissions and financial aid.

# AND SUPPORTING TOUGH GENEROUS GIVING

“The scholarship I received when I was in law school made a world of difference. We are pleased to be a part of helping others in this exciting way.”

— Tamerlin Godley



*Tamerlin Godley (JD 1996, above right) and her husband Tim contributed to a \$100,000 core endowment for need-based scholarships while Karen Bedrosian Coyne (JD 1995, right) gave her support to current-use need-based scholarships.*

In Fall 2022, USC Gould Admissions hopes to provide need-based scholarships to 20 percent of the incoming class, with a goal of raising enough funds for these scholarships to support every incoming class going forward. Every scholarship given is guaranteed for each student’s three years at Gould.

“My USC law degree has given me access and opportunities I could never have imagined,” Godley says. “The scholarship I received when I was in law school made a world of difference. We are pleased to be a part of helping others in this exciting way.”

For information on supporting USC Gould law students by giving toward current use need-based scholarship funding or by adding to the need-based scholarship endowment, please contact the USC Gould Development Office at (213) 821-3560 or give online at <https://gould.usc.edu/alumni/student-scholarships-aid/>. 



# CLERKSHIPS — NO BETTER OPPORTUNITY

Khoa Nguyen (JD 2020) gains varied experience in federal, appellate courts

By Diane Krieger

**Mere weeks after taking the bar exam, Khoa Nguyen (JD 2020) was deep in a case that everyone in the Southern California legal community was talking about. The 2021 rulings by U.S. District Court Judge R. Gary Klausner in the FBI's controversial seizure of hundreds of Beverly Hills private vaults were shaped, in part, by bench memos Nguyen helped draft.**



Khoa Nguyen

He also had a hand in Judge Klausner's eventual dismissal of high-profile lawsuits brought by cruise passengers in the early days of the COVID crisis, when health authorities prevented Princess Cruises' Grand Princess from docking in San Francisco.

Fewer than two years out of law school, Nguyen has logged dozens of federal court experiences, more than some senior litigators in top law firms.

Nguyen is currently clerking for the Hon. Gregory Phillips on the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cheyenne, Wyo. In September, he starts as an associate with the litigation firm Hueston Hennigan LLP.

"[A clerkship] forever marks you as an elite lawyer," says Professor Sam Erman, who clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justices Anthony Kennedy and John Paul Stevens and former U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Merrick Garland, now the U.S. Attorney General. "Grades drop off the CV. But clerkships remain the coin of the realm."

## **BRINGING STUDENTS AND JUDGES TOGETHER TO DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS**

"If you ever want to be a litigator, there's no better opportunity than clerking for a federal judge," says Professor Rebecca Lonergan. "It gives you insight into how judges think, the way decisions are made, what actually happens in chambers. Having that knowledge makes you a better lawyer."

Lonergan, an assistant U.S. attorney for 15 years before joining USC Gould, chairs the Faculty Judiciary Committee (formerly the Faculty Clerkship Committee). She took over last year from Erman, who overhauled the committee's mission in 2016 to encourage every USC Gould student to make clerking a goal.

Because USC Gould admits so many first-generation students and students with no family connection to the legal profession, school leadership placed an emphasis on demystifying clerkships.

The school's Career Services Office works closely with clerkship candidates on their applications. It's a service few other law schools perform, Lonergan explains: "We do not leave students on their own, because, again, many of them aren't familiar with the process."

In 2016, with support from Dean Andrew Guzman, the committee initiated the Jurist-in-Residence program, bringing judges to campus for two-day residences. Lonergan hosts lunches and coffees where judges meet with clerkship candidates.

"We want those kind of relationships to develop. It's not just getting the students interested in clerking. It's also getting the judges interested in our students," says Lonergan, who regularly interacts with federal judges as faculty advisor of Gould's Hale Moot Court Honors Program.

Recent alumni who realize they want the benefit of clerkship experience are also encouraged to apply. "I write letters of recommendation all the time for former students who've done a couple years of practice," Lonergan says.

Many large firms are open to associates taking a leave of absence to work for a federal judge, even offering a "clerkship bonus" to help offset the lower government salary, according to Andrea Chen Ayvazian, assistant director, Career Services Office.

Nguyen with U.S. District Court Judge Hon. R. Gary Klausner, for whom Nguyen helped draft bench memos as part of a significant 2021 ruling.

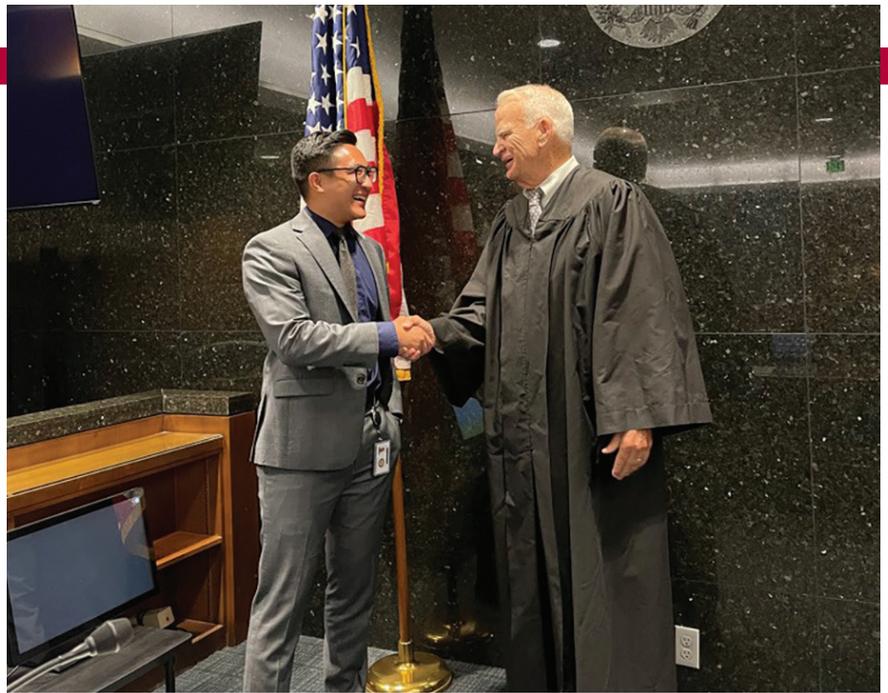
**VARIED EXPERIENCE BURNISHES CAREER GOALS**

Nguyen values the different types of experience he gained in federal and appellate courts.

“In district court, something urgent comes up every day — which can be very scary but also very fun,” he says. “The pace is much slower in an appellate clerkship. You get your set of cases, and that’s all you’re working on for the next two months. I wouldn’t say one is better than the other.”

An academic standout, Nguyen graduated in the top 10 percent of his USC Gould class and was named Order of the Coif with a 3.87 GPA. He was a teaching and research assistant to civil procedure Professor Daniel Klerman, senior submissions editor on *Southern California Law Review* and a legal writing fellow tutoring 1Ls and LLM students. He served as internal vice president with the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association and volunteered with the USC chapter of the International Refugee Assistance Program.

After a summer internship with the U.S. Attorney’s office in Santa Ana, he set his sights on becoming an assistant U.S. attorney. “Everyone always talks about how it’s the best job you can have outside of clerking,” he says.



Asked what he likes the most about clerking, Nguyen says, “the camaraderie. With Judge Klausner, every morning started in a casual meeting over coffee. We would just talk. Most of the time it wasn’t even about work.”

That kind of relationship never loses its luster, Lonergan says.

“There is no better reference to have than a federal judge. They are the most respected people out there. Their recommendation will carry a lot of weight.”

**USC GOULD CLERKS**

Each year, USC Gould honors its “Clerks Class” — comprised of both current students and recent alumni who have secured clerkships in the previous year.

ALUMNI	U.S. COURT	JUDGE	CLERKSHIP YEAR
Monica Mahal '22	District of Oregon	Hon. Michael Mosman	2022-23
Jay Simmons '19	Northern District of Indiana	Hon. Philip Simon	2022-24
Keon Zemoudeh '21	Northern District of California	Hon. William Alsup	2022-23
Shauli Bar-On '23	Ninth Circuit	Hon. Sandra Ikuta	2023-24
Kieu My “Mindy” Vo '22	Central District of California	Hon. James Selna	2022-23
Emma Tehrani '19	Central District of California	Hon. Fernando Olguin	2022-23
Andrew Ojeda '18	Eastern District of Michigan	Hon. Jonathan Grey	2021-22
George MacCabe '22	Central District of California	Hon. Ronald Lew	2022-23
Kelsey Falkenberg '20	Eastern District of Missouri	Hon. Audrey Fleissig	2022-23
Maja Tosic '21	Western District of Michigan	Hon. Robert Jonker	2022-23

# NAMING CELEBRATION FOR THE BARBARA F. BICE PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FOUNDATION

On March 31, the historic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum was the site for the naming celebration of the Barbara F. Bice Public Interest Law Foundation. The evening brought together alumni, students, practitioners, faculty and friends to thank Barbara Bice for her \$2 million estate gift in support of public interest law, and to celebrate the impact that Gould students have had for 35 years partnering with public interest law organizations in Los Angeles and beyond. As dinner was served, Mrs. Bice lit the Coliseum torch, an emblem of learning and hope and an appropriate symbol for the evening's celebration.

Page 12: top, right— From left: Jon Reiter (JD 2000), Barbara Bice and Asha Dhillon (JD 1999)

Page 12: center, right— From left: Lisa Mead (JD 1989), Hon. Jim Bianco (JD 1987) and PILF co-founder Karen Lash (JD 1987)

Page 13: top— From left: Program speaker Wende Julien (JD 2009), Barbara Bice, Dean Andrew Guzman, program speaker Mirelle Raza (JD 2021)

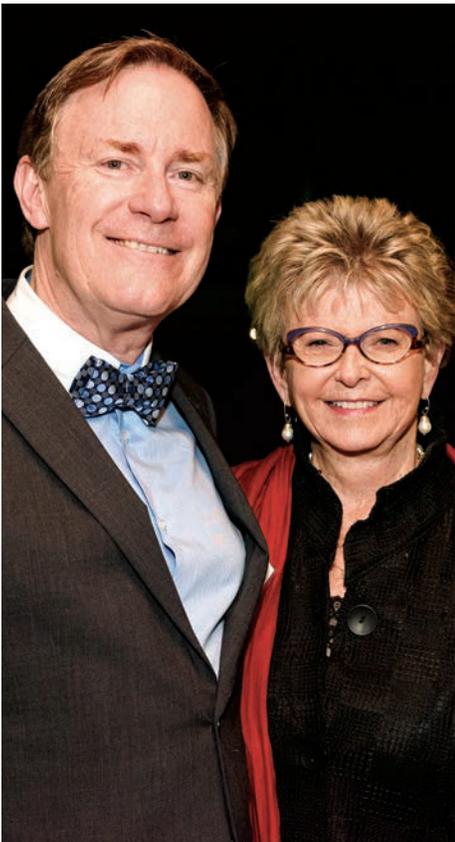
Page 13: center, left— Barbara Bice and Erin Matzkin (JD 2002)

Page 13: center, right— From left: Professor Clare Pastore and PILF board members Tim Wolfe, Chris LoCascio, Leilani Stacy, Khadijah Omerdin, Brianna Khong, and Zoe Mitrofanis with Barbara Bice (fourth from left)

Page 13: bottom, right— Jon Robertson (JD 1987) and Barbara Bice

Page 13: bottom, center— Todd (JD 1985) and Shari Swanson (JD 1985) with Barbara Bice





# *Investing in law students' success*

Two longtime friends pair up to create scholarship for future lawyers following their dreams at USC Gould



Page 14: Justin Sanders (JD 2000), left, and Reginald Roberts (JD 2000) created the Clarence Thompson Memorial Scholarship Fund to contribute the same type of support they received as law students.

Page 15: Justin Sanders delivers the keynote address at the 2022 Law Day Celebration of Diversity at Alumni Park.

By Julie Riggott

**Before becoming law partners at Sanders Roberts LLP, longtime friends Justin Sanders (JD 2000) and Reginald Roberts Jr. (JD 2000) found their profession in different ways.**

Roberts, a first-generation college student, discovered he had a natural ease with words, which steered him to law. Sanders' father was a Yale School of Law graduate and corporate lawyer with deep ties to the civil rights movement. Both Los Angeles natives, the future partners met at Morehouse College undergraduates before studying at the USC Gould School of Law.

Today, the two USC alumni focus on business litigation, employee litigation and general liability defense, with clients including Ford Motor Company and Facebook. The firm has grown to 26 lawyers, and in 2016 and 2020, *Daily Journal* named it among California's top 20 boutique firms. Despite their success, they haven't forgotten the journey to get there.

"We had many mentors and men and women we looked up to who bent over backwards to say 'yes.' They did a lot for us to help put us in the position that we're in now," says Sanders, who was both a Southern California Super Lawyer and USC Black Law Students Association Alumnus of the Year in 2019. "It's very important to us that we do the same for people who are coming up behind us."

His law partner agrees. "USC Gould changed my life," says Roberts, who was named one of the top 40 lawyers



pretrial advocacy class. Sanders and Roberts also recently initiated the Clarence Thompson Memorial Scholarship Fund for USC law students from underrepresented communities, and encourage others to add to the fund.

"If students of color who want to attend USC's law school are attending other schools instead because money is an obstacle," Sanders says, "then we were going to help bridge that gap."

Roberts could only attend a top-tier school like USC because of a scholarship. For Sanders, receiving the Crispus Wright Scholarship was the determining factor in becoming a Trojan. In selecting the name of the fund, they gave a nod to Clarence Thompson, USC Gould's first Black alumnus, who graduated in 1900 at age 18.

Today, African Americans represent over 13% of the U.S. population but only 5% of the nation's lawyers. The partners

**"If students of color who want to attend USC's law school are attending other schools instead because money is an obstacle... then we were going to help bridge that gap." — Justin Sanders (JD 2000)**

under age 40 by the National Bar Association in 2013. "When I'd walk down the hallways, the dean knew my name. It made me feel really invited, like I wasn't the only person that was invested in my success. Because of that, we're still giving back today."

**GIVING BACK THROUGH NEW SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

In addition to being active members of the USC Gould Alumni Association and the school's Law Leadership Society, Sanders and Roberts mentor students and teach a

agree that diversity at law schools is critical. "If you have a society that is governed by rules created by a homogenous segment of that society," Roberts says, "over time there will be discord."

Sanders adds: "At USC, I met people that had completely different political, legal and social views, and we became friends — we're still friends. We sat through lectures from people on the far left, people in the middle and people on the far right. That causes students to challenge, or maybe strengthen, their own views." 

# Expanding Gould's Global Reach

The law school launches new partnership with India's O.P. Jindal Global University

By Melissa Masatani

*The new partnership between USC Gould Graduate & International Programs and O.P. Jindal Global University is one of several exchange programs with universities around the world.*

**The USC Gould School of Law, through its Graduate & International Programs Office, has launched a new partnership with O.P. Jindal Global University, expanding the opportunities for students to study abroad and gain international experience during their time in law school.**

"We are thrilled to partner with O.P. Jindal Global law school, one of the most prestigious law schools in India. We have graduated several of their alumni from our Master of Laws degree, and are excited to formalize our relationship through this exchange agreement," said Sarah Gruzaz, director of Graduate & International Programs at USC Gould. "This is a particularly exciting time for this partnership, as the practice of law in India is flourishing. As we look ahead to an increasingly international practice of law, USC Gould is committed to expanding our global reach through our diverse student body and partnerships with top-ranked law schools around the world."

More than 100 students from University of Hong Kong; Bocconi University in Italy; University Jean Moulin Lyon III in France; Bond University in Australia; and Fundação Getulio Vargas University in Brazil have participated in the exchange programs since 2004. With two students set to participate from Jindal in Fall 2022, USC Gould's international presence will grow to six destinations for students.

Law students in good standing and who have completed one year of study are eligible to apply to enroll in up to a year's worth of classes at the partner university of their choice, receiving credit toward their degree from their home institution. The application process includes interviews



and a faculty reference, with the selected students receiving enrollment and visa information from the partner university once accepted.

At USC Gould, these programs allow students to deepen their understanding of the application and importance of law and legal systems, as well as encourage students to form professional and personal relationships with the partner institutions.

"USC Gould has always recognized the value of diversity," Gruzaz said. "Bringing together students and faculty with different backgrounds and perspectives creates a unique and expansive opportunity for learning and understanding. As the practice of law becomes more and more global, it is critical for the success of our graduates to have the opportunity to connect with and learn from practitioners around the world."

The partnerships also help to elevate awareness of USC Gould in different parts of the world. Several international students have gone on to obtain their LLM degree through USC Gould as a result of these programs, Gruzaz explained.

"Jindal is one of the top private law schools in India," Gruzaz said, "and it's a great connection for USC Gould." 📌



# Champion for the environment

Colleagues come together to memorialize legacy of Professor Christopher Stone in *Southern California Law Review* symposium

By Leslie Ridgeway

Symposium organizers and participants included (from left) Brooke Kopel (JD 2022), Professor Robin Craig, Professor Richard Lazarus, Professor Karen Bradshaw, Professor David Takacs, Samuel Clark-Clough (JD 2022) and Mindy Vo (JD 2022).

**The legacy of the late Professor Christopher D. Stone, J. Thomas McCarthy Trustee Chair in Law, Emeritus, was the focus of the *Southern California Law Review's* annual symposium, bringing together colleagues and leaders in environmental and property law to discuss Stone's influence — as an innovator, a pioneer of interdisciplinary legal study and a respected and beloved teacher and mentor.**

The April 1 symposium, which will be featured in the last issue of the *Law Review's* 95th volume, featured presentations by USC Gould School of Law Professor Robin Craig as well as environmental law scholars Professor Hope Babcock of Georgetown University Law Center; Professor Karen Bradshaw, fellow at Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University; Professor Daniel Esty of Yale University, director of the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy; Professor Richard Lazarus of Harvard Law School; and Professor David Takacs of UC Hastings School of Law.

Opening remarks were made by SCLR Editor-in-Chief Mindy Vo, Dean Andrew Guzman and Professor Scott Altman. Also present were Stone's wife Anne and daughter Carey Stone.

Dean Guzman noted that Stone, who died in May 2021, established himself as a founder of modern environmental advocacy with the publication of the groundbreaking paper "Should Trees Have Standing?—Toward Legal Rights for Natural Objects" (*Southern California Law Review*, 1972), one of the best known papers published in SCLR. He also lauded Stone as one of a cohort of Gould professors who championed interdisciplinary study, helping to distinguish Gould as one of the first law schools to build interdisciplinary thinking into the curriculum. He also was a standout educator.

"His commitment to his students was obvious, his success with his students was obvious, his students will testify he had high expectations for them but none of them felt they were

unreasonable — he had high expectations because he knew and had faith in their abilities to perform," Guzman said.

Altman highlighted Stone's eagerness to help colleagues and mentor young professors, including himself, and Stone's propensity to start conversations in the middle, just one of many examples of Stone's unconventional thinking process.

"It was Chris's game," he said. "You had to figure out what he was thinking about and how it connected to the next three things he said and it was never easy. For Chris, everything was connected — he just needed to see deeply enough to know how."

Esty pointed out that the symposium was taking place in the context of the war in Ukraine, as well as the 2021 UN Climate Change conference in Glasgow, calling it a "critical moment" in environmental law and policy and praising Stone for leading the way for him and other environmental scholars to continue the fight for climate change.

"There is virtually no professor of environmental law who doesn't make reference to and teach and continue to be inspired by Chris Stone's work and particularly the idea that emerged that we might look for rights for nature as a way to advance an environmental agenda that in the 1970s was just emerging but ... 50 years later has not yet achieved the full measure of success required to ensure a sustainable future," he said.

Craig's presentation, "Fish, Whales and a Blue Ethics for the Anthropocene," acknowledged Stone's interest in the ocean, including international fisheries and whaling and surrounding ethical issues that Stone explored in works such as *Earth and Other Ethics: The Case for Moral Pluralism* (1987).

"Chris had a lot to say about the ethics going forward, the blue ethics ... for the Anthropocene with respect to our ocean food," she said. "As he noted in his book, 'As long as the judges remain within the bounds of conventional international and U.S. principles, with no accounting for the whales' interests, the 'harvesting' will continue.' And the harvesting has, despite some pretty stringent international law provisions." 

# CELEBRATING THE POWER OF KINSHIP

PCJP event showcases former client's transformation through compassion

By Jenifer Kasten

**Alone in a cell, living as a woman in a male prison, Celia Perez took a leap of faith and put her life story in a letter to the Post-Conviction Justice Project at the USC Gould School of Law. She wrote about how a traumatic childhood drove her into homelessness at the age of 14 and how she sought family and protection in a gang. Not yet openly living as a woman at age 17, she was arrested and charged as an adult and sentenced to 29 years to life in prison. Despite the repeated violence and brutality she suffered at the hands of the men who surrounded her, Celia began to engage in intensive self-reflection, eventually realizing she is a transgender woman. Finally living her truth provided Celia the internal freedom she had lacked for so long and even paved the way for her to become a powerful advocate for her community in prison.**

How can a person accomplish such a fundamental, personal transformation under such unspeakably harsh conditions? At a special conversation titled "Compassion and Transformation," Professor Heidi Rummel, co-director of PCJP, posed that question to Celia and her mentor, Father

Joined by Homeboy Industries founder Father Gregory Boyle, PCJP client Celia discussed her transformation through compassion.

Gregory Boyle, the Jesuit priest who befriended her in juvenile hall.

The two reminisced about their early connection, when Celia knew him simply as "G," a kind man who held mass at juvenile hall. Many know Fr. Boyle as the founder of Homeboy Industries, the largest gang intervention and rehabilitation organization in the world. He also is known as a prolific speaker and author of three books, including the *New York Times* bestseller *Tattoos on the Heart*.

Celia recalled being unable to understand "how it was possible a human being could be trying to show that much love. He would hug you, and just care about you ... I didn't know how to react to that." But Fr. G kept showing up, and eventually, Celia said, he became the first man that she was able to trust.

The second man was then-PCJP law student Alexander ("AK") Kirkpatrick (JD 2017). As her legal representative, AK advocated for Celia to obtain gender-affirming health care through the prison system and prepared her for the parole process.

"Celia taught me that it was actually the power of kinship — loving herself and the complicated truths of her journey — that gave her the tools to find freedom within herself. It is with this internal fortitude and endearing brightness that Celia found the external freedom she embodies today."

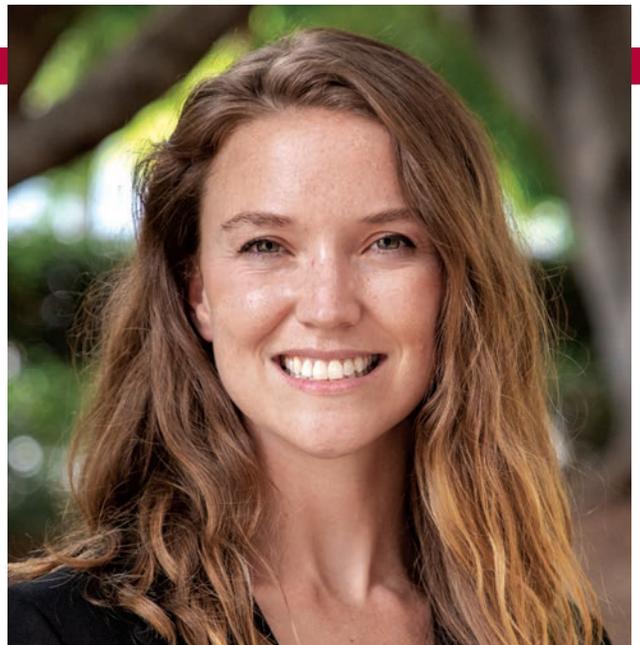
PCJP law students Sanat Deshpande (JD 2020) and Natalie Katz (JD 2020) continued AK's fight for Celia's freedom, and Celia was granted parole at her initial youth offender parole hearing. In June 2020, Celia walked out of prison a free woman after 28 years.

Celia reconnected with Fr. G who gave her the opportunity to continue her advocacy for people at the margins, describing her as a "groundbreaking presence at Homeboys," where she now works as an advocate for the LGBTQIA+ community and leads gang reconciliation groups.

The audience applauded as Celia described her design of the first-ever Homeboys Pride shirt, that in her words, "changed the conversation about what people believe about Homeboys." 🍌



# STUDENT-LED INVESTIGATION RECOMMENDS SIGNIFICANT REFORMS



International Human Rights Clinic report on abuses in law enforcement anti-sex trafficking operations gains national attention

By Matthew Kredell

Maura Reinbrecht (JD 2022) conducted most of the interviews and report analysis for the International Human Rights Clinic report "Over-Policing Sex Trafficking: How U.S. Law Enforcement Should Reform Operations."

**Do law enforcement operations to stop sex trafficking lead to abuse of trafficked persons? That was a question investigated by USC Gould School of Law's International Human Rights Clinic in a report titled "Over-Policing Sex Trafficking: How U.S. Law Enforcement Should Reform Operations."**

Professor Hannah Garry, founding director of the clinic, and student attorney Maura Reinbrecht (JD 2022) introduced the report Nov. 15 in a virtual launch and panel discussion with experts and individuals who have experienced sex trafficking. The report, endorsed by 33 anti-human trafficking experts, including individuals and organizations, was subsequently cited in an article in *The Washington Post* about trafficking myths around the Super Bowl.

The report, completed over three years, is a comprehensive assessment of law enforcement operations to combat sex trafficking, coordinated nationwide on federal, state and local levels. Reinbrecht, who conducted most of the interviews and report analysis, and Garry are the report's primary authors. They were assisted by six other student attorneys at the clinic who did in-depth interviews with 42 law enforcement professionals, prosecutors and those who have experienced sex trafficking, filed 16 public records requests and developed a broad literature review. Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP served as pro bono counsel to the clinic for the report and the team included clinic alumna Kelsey McGregor (JD 2015), now counsel at WilmerHale.

Anti-sex trafficking operations became a clinic focus after troubling accounts from clients that told a different story than official reports on anti-sex trafficking operations, Garry said.

"No matter how well-intentioned, operations too often result in serious human-rights abuses with disproportionate

discriminatory harm to minority communities, particularly Black women and minors, the LGBTQ community and undocumented immigrants, who are at greater risk for sex trafficking," Garry said.

## REPORT CONCLUDES ANTI-TRAFFICKING OPERATIONS AMOUNT TO "OVER-POLICING"

Most disturbing are accounts of verbal, physical and sexual abuse of trafficked persons by law enforcement, indicating a lack of oversight and accountability, Reinbrecht said.

"Given the ineffective, harmful and sometimes abusive nature of operations, we conclude that operations are a form of over-policing that traumatizes trafficked persons, perpetuates systemic racism and undermines the aims of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act," Reinbrecht said.

Other students working on the report include 2L Mairin McQueen, Mirelle Raza (JD 2021), Shayna Jackson (JD 2021), Anissa Ghafarian (JD 2020), Julie Kvedar (JD 2020) and Kaili Lynn (JD 2020).

McQueen said the project changed how she perceives her role as an attorney.

"Seeing these conflicting points of view on how to combat human trafficking helped me develop as a lawyer," she said. "I think being an attorney is understanding that issues are complicated. There's a lot more to it than just 'human trafficking is bad, and those fighting human trafficking are good.'"

The report's authors recommended that law enforcement drastically reform and limit the use of operations.

"In the least, we hope our report achieves this important goal while also impressing upon its readers the need for more transparency, investigations and accountability with respect to abuse of conduct during operations," Garry said. 🚧

# A sense of belonging

The C. David Molina First Generation Professionals Program celebrates five years of jump-starting careers

By Christina Schweighofer

**Vanuhi “Vannie” Karapetian (JD 2018) will never forget hearing USC Gould Professor Camille Gear Rich tell her and other first-generation students, “You belong at this school.”**

Karapetian, then a 1L, recalls Rich’s encouraging words: “You didn’t get in by accident. You’re entitled to ask questions to your professors. You belong here just as much as everybody else does.”

Vanuhi “Vannie”  
Karapetian



*Professor Rich knows exactly how I feel, she thought, and realizing that everyone in the room experienced “impostor syndrome,” something shifted. “It was relieving, almost cathartic,” she says.*

After Rich’s talk, Karapetian, today an associate at K&L Gates LLP in Los Angeles, became a regular at events hosted by USC Gould’s C. David Molina First Generation

Professionals (FGP) Program. She served on the executive board as a 3L and mentors other students who share her background.

Launched in 2015, the FGP program at USC Gould celebrated its fifth year in fall 2021. The program provides services to 142 students facing unique challenges ranging from socio-economic burdens to a lack of familiarity with the professional world. FGP emphasizes inclusivity with seminars on topics like resume writing, interview skills and “Dressing the Part,” as well as networking and mentorships.

2L Vanasis Ohanian, current FGP co-president and a mentee of Karapetian, says, “Mentorship is everything. I really appreciated having someone there who was genuinely invested in me and my success.”

She benefitted from Karapetian’s feedback on her cover letter and resume, and from interview advice as she successfully pursued a summer internship with Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP in L.A. She has since been named as the firm’s 2L Diversity Fellow, a position that comes with a \$50,000 scholarship.

Ohanian made it her goal as FGP co-president “to take the program to the next level.” Events this year include “networking as an FGP student” and a panel featuring attorneys, mediators and arbitrators from 10 different firms who introduced their practice areas and stayed for a Q&A. At the beginning of each semester, 1Ls could also attend panels where top-performing 2Ls shared tips on everything from how to excel in a class of a specific professor, preparing for class and taking notes. Holding the event at the beginning of the year, Ohanian says, has allowed students “to kill it from the start.”



“I was the first college graduate in my family, so I had personal experience with the self-doubt that can plague even the most successful students when they enter a top tier law school like Gould.” — Judge Michael C. Kelley

Dean Andrew Guzman with John Molina, whose \$3 million donation supports the C. David Molina First Generation Professionals Program.

Initiated by Dean Andrew Guzman, the FGP program was one of the first in the country to be officially sponsored by a law school administration and immediately drew backing from alumni and the wider Trojan network.

Judge Michael C. Kelley at the Los Angeles County Superior Court, who serves on the USC Gould Board of Councilors and earned his B.A. from USC, is a strong supporter of FGP, in part because he sympathizes with students’ fears of not measuring up. “I was the first college graduate in my family, so I had personal experience with the self-doubt that can plague even the most successful students when they enter a top tier law school like Gould.”

Kelley participates in networking events, mentors students and recruits FGP students for summer externships. His message to them is that “they need to be confident that they belong; and that they should lean on the things that brought them success so far.”

In addition to feeling isolated, many first-generation law students face economic pressures, and the program now awards scholarships to all entering first-year FGPs.

In 2019, FGP received a \$3 million boost from John Molina (JD 1989), and was renamed in honor of the philanthropist’s father. A first-generation college student and emergency room physician in Long Beach, C. David

Molina established clinics making health care accessible to the lowest-income patients.

John Molina has explained his backing of the FGP program with the central role that it plays “in furthering the law school’s efforts around diversity and opportunity.”

His gift supports the FGP program in perpetuity and, along with it, the John Molina Scholarship Fund benefitting students from challenging socioeconomic backgrounds.

For Ohanian, the scholarship “greatly reduced the financial burden of completing my law degree.” Enrolling at Gould after a two-year gap, she, like many other first-generation students, was unable to rely on her family for financial support and before receiving the scholarship, had to work to sustain herself.

Karapetian, who lived on financial aid throughout her time at USC Gould, remembers paying the rent with an FGP-sponsored \$500 stipend at the end of her first semester.

“It was really helpful,” she says. “People looking at a school like USC assume that the students have the financial support they need. But that’s just not the case.”

# Forgotten no more



Project led by alums Jenna Edzant, Mirelle Raza and Sara Zollner focuses on Nisei Trojans denied transcripts after World War II

By Leslie Ridgeway

*A class project by (from left) Jenna Edzant, Mirelle Raza and Sara Zollner, shined a spotlight on the story of the Nisei Trojans.*

**When Jenna Edzant, Mirelle Raza and Sara Zollner enrolled in “Law, Society and the University: The History of Discrimination” at the USC Gould School of Law in 2020, they expected to learn in depth about past inequities, but not to develop a project that aligned with a university decision to right a wrong from more than 70 years ago.**

The university announced in mid-October that USC would award posthumous honorary degrees and President Carol Folt would make a public apology to the 121 Japanese-American USC students who were swept up in federal efforts during World War II to remove or relocate into camps people with Japanese ancestry. These actions took place at the annual USC Asian Pacific Alumni Association’s gala in April 2022.

Edzant, Raza and Zollner, all 2021 graduates, worked together on “Forgotten Trojans: USC Nisei Story,” a historical record of the refusal of USC officials to allow Japanese-American students enrolled in the early 1940s to obtain their transcripts. Many of the students managed to enroll in different universities, but none earned their degrees from USC as hoped. The Gould students later heard from John Kaji (BA 1976), former president of the Asian Pacific Alumni Association, whom they had interviewed for “Forgotten Trojans,” that a senior advisor to Folt had reviewed the website they created prior to the decision. An article in the *Los Angeles Times* highlighted the students’ research project.

“I was a little in shock,” says Edzant, now a fellow at Greene, Broillet & Wheeler LLP in El Segundo, Calif. “The university making a formal apology was completely unexpected. It felt like the university turned a corner. It made me proud to be a Trojan.”

Raza applauded the decision for helping bring closure to the “Sansei,” children of the students from the generation known in Japanese culture as “Nisei.”

“Their parents were die-hard USC fans and I know it means a lot to them,” says Raza, now working as a Deputy Attorney General in the California Department of Justice’s Special Prosecution Section in San Francisco. “It’s a positive sign that the President and Board of Trustees are listening to community leaders. I’m hopeful this is the first of many decisions to heal this institution.”

“Law, Society and the University,” offered for the first time last year and taught by professors Sam Erman and Ariela Gross, was developed as part of an overall effort throughout higher education to acknowledge and deal with past issues of discrimination and racism. The course was aimed at teaching students how to make a historical argument, and how that is different from legal argument and advocacy.

Edzant, Raza and Zollner initially considered looking into past USC President Rufus B. Von KleinSmid, whose support of eugenics, antisemitism and racism were protested for years by critics. That research led them to the Nisei Trojans and John Kaji, who connected them with families of the students who had been denied their transcripts by WWII-era USC officials who contended at the time that assisting the Japanese-Americans in any way was giving aid and comfort to the enemy.

Zollner, now a Justice Catalyst Fellow at the San Francisco District Attorney’s office, says the oral interviews posted on the website made the case for an apology effectively.

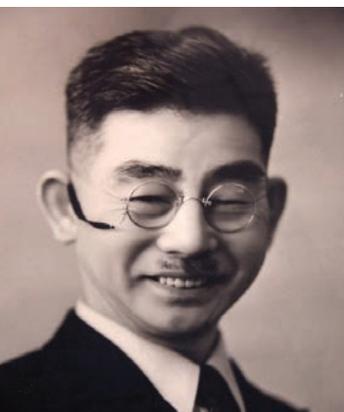
“The oral interviews of the families of people who didn’t get degrees (from USC) were the most poignant part of the research project,” Zollner says. “Our goal was to amplify their voices, and we hope their stories are centered (by the university).”

# Biography honors USC Gould alumnus' fight for civil rights

New book on life of Japanese American newspaper publisher and community leader Sei Fujii launched with celebration in Little Tokyo

By Yulia Nakagome

**A new biography honoring USC Law School graduate Sei Fujii (JD 1911), an influential Los Angeles newspaper publisher and civil rights activist, was celebrated at the Little Tokyo Historical Society on Nov. 2.**



Above: Sei Fujii  
Above, to the right:  
The biography celebrating Sei Fujii (JD 1911) was attended by (from left): Adam Engelskirchen (great-grandson of J. Marion Wright), Jason Engelskirchen (great-grandson of J. Marion Wright), Alice LaMoree (granddaughter of J. Marion Wright), Coralie Kupfer (daughter of Owen Kupfer), Jeffrey Gee Chin (publisher and filmmaker), Naomi Hirahara (editor), Saeko Higa-Dickinson (translator).

Written by USC School of Cinematic Arts alumnus Jeffrey Chin (MFA 2016) and Fumiko Carole Fujita (PharmD 1965) with key source material from author Kenichi Sato, *A Rebel's Outcry* details Fujii's life as founder of *Kashu Mainichi* (*Japan-California Daily News*), his efforts to overturn the California Alien Land Law in 1952, and his experiences as an immigrant and community leader.

"Our book has been a passion project with the Little Tokyo Historical Society for over a decade, where we've incorporated historic photographs, illustrations and original documents," Chin said.

The book traces Fujii's journey through school and includes historical photos from Fujii's granddaughter, Chin said. There were some interesting discoveries along the way, including details about Fujii's death.

"We had interviews with first hand sources, such as Bill Nishimura, whose father went to school with Fujii in Yamaguchi-ken," he said. "We were also able to meet Hidekichi Nagamine, who knew him for many years. Fujii gave a eulogy at Nagamine's father's funeral, but he had a heart condition which forced him to collapse and die during the funeral. As a result, we have a photo of his last speech."

The book highlights Fujii's work to advance civil rights issues, especially of disadvantaged people.

"He found a workaround to allow the Japanese to purchase land," Chin said. "He knew how to work



with different communities in race relations campaigns and had a forward-thinking mindset to fight amongst them for equal rights."

His sacrifices included refusing to become a U.S. citizen in order to overturn the California Alien Land Law of 1913.

"Fujii lived and fought in the U.S. for 51 years, but he was only a citizen for 51 days before he passed away," Chin said. "He was a hero who exemplifies minority groups. He was a part of the legacy before civil rights movements we know today."

Janice Marion Wright LaMoree, the daughter of J. Marion Wright (JD 1913), who was Fujii's law partner, was featured in a video at the launch about the relationship between her father and Fujii. Wright's granddaughter and great-grandsons were in attendance.

Chin has been part of other efforts to honor Fujii over the years, including obtaining a posthumous law license from the California State Bar in 2017, and designing a monument in Little Tokyo in Fujii's honor.

Chin hopes *A Rebel's Outcry* is not seen only as a historical archive.

"Fujii's life represents a path toward equal rights for all communities," he said. "Young activists, regardless of race, can look to someone who was unable to practice law, who eventually won two major Supreme Court cases. When he didn't have a voice in the courtroom, he had a newspaper to help less educated people to protect their rights." ✍️

# Answering a calling



## Joyous celebration marks 2021 Bar admission ceremony

By Leslie Ridgeway

*Gould students who passed the California bar take the attorney's oath, qualifying them to practice law.*

**Cheers filled Bovard Auditorium when the 2021 Bar Admission ceremony took place on Dec. 7, the final step in USC Gould School of Law alumni's journey to becoming full-fledged attorneys.**

Early results had indicated a 94% pass rate for USC Gould alumni taking the California bar, the highest mark in recent years.

After two years without an in-person ceremony, the celebration took on special significance as friends and family feted the candidates for the bar, carrying congratulatory bouquets and ringing the stage with camera phones as candidates had their bar cards officially signed after the formal ceremony.

"Given the uncertainties of the past year and a half, your ability to reach this point is even more impressive," said Dean Andrew Guzman in opening remarks. "The pandemic has taught us all new lessons in perseverance, and reminded us about the value of being caring and collaborative. I know you will be better lawyers because of these experiences."

Serving as bailiff, Student Bar Association President Rebecca Alch called the admissions to both the State Bar of California and the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California to order. The Hon. E. Carlos Dominguez (JD 2005), recently appointed as judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles,

took some time before administering the State Bar oath to remind the candidates to thank those who supported them through law school and to remember their privilege as attorneys.

"Being an attorney is more than a job, more than a profession, it's a calling," he said. "And it is up to you to ensure that you use your privilege as an attorney with care, compassion, responsibility and duty to others who are less fortunate. I encourage you not only to focus on becoming a good lawyer by challenging yourself, but also use your gifts as an attorney to help others in your community."

The Hon. André Birotte, Jr., before administering the federal oath for the U.S. District Court, noted that passing the bar was a momentous milestone — and one of his most cherished memories along with having his first child. He urged the candidates to use their positions as attorneys to be of service in as many ways as possible, and to remember the importance of having a "noble reputation," pointing out that "your reputation takes years to build, and seconds to destroy."

"Those that act with integrity, and those that act with fairness, and those that act with professionalism, will stand out, and those reputations will last you all a lifetime," he said. 🍷

# Personal experiences fuel passion leading to public interest law fellowships

Matthew Palmquist, Alex Tron named winners of Equal Justice Fellowship, Irmas Fellowship

By Yulia Nakagome

**Personal experience, passion and persistence steered the career paths of USC Gould 3Ls Matthew Palmquist and Alex Tron, both winners of fellowships supporting their post-graduate work in public interest law.**

Palmquist, winner of the Equal Justice Works Fellowship, is the first USC Gould Public Interest Scholar to win the fellowship. He will represent detained LGBTQ migrants at the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project in Phoenix, Ariz. from 2022 to 2024.

Tron's Irmas Fellowship supports their work with the nonprofit California Legal Assistance, where Tron will create a re-entry network for low-income residents in California's rural central coast. The project involves using pro bono and community partnerships together with direct services to fight discrimination.

Palmquist's mother's experience immigrating to the United States from South Korea at a time when racist immigration quotas were a barrier for Asian immigrants, plus growing up as a gay man in a conservative town, influenced his choice to enter law school.

"It wasn't great, but thanks to the privilege of my U.S. citizenship, I could leave and move somewhere more LGBTQ friendly," Palmquist says. "However, the homophobic bullying I experienced is nothing close to the horrific violence that threatens many LGBTQ people — particularly, transgender individuals — abroad. Many queer people around the world do not have this freedom of movement, and relocating within one's country is not an option when the oppression of LGBTQ individuals is state-sanctioned."

Tron calls winning the Irmas Fellowship "the culmination of a long, long journey."

"I'm a non-traditional student, and have had to battle my demons and overcome homelessness to get here," they say. "I came to law school to do good in the world, and I know that with the support of the USC community through the Irmas Fellowship, I will be able to accomplish that goal."

Palmquist's work in Arizona will put him in a position to represent migrants unfamiliar with the U.S. legal system and, especially in the case of LGBTQ migrants, have often undergone significant trauma and lack the resources or articulation to explain their claims without a lawyer's guidance.

Tron hopes to advance the project to include all of rural California and to expand their work into the policy arena with a goal of improving justice and equity in the entire state.

Both Palmquist and Tron credited USC faculty and staff with building skills as public interest attorneys. For Palmquist, working with the USC Immigration Clinic and Co-Director Professor Jean Lantz Reisz gave him the invaluable experience of writing the opening brief in a Ninth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals case for a 19-year-old asylum seeker.

For Tron, courses taught by Professor Clare Pastore, Professor Abby Wood and Professors Heidi Rummel and Elizabeth Calvin, as well as Professor Preston Ascherin's help obtaining an externship with a re-entry nonprofit where Tron authored a white paper, were instrumental in Tron's development as an attorney. ✍️



Matthew Palmquist (top) and Alex Tron were influenced to pursue public interest law by personal experiences.

# GOULD ALUMNUS JOINS USC'S OFFICE FOR EQUITY, EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND TITLE IX



Years of experience plus compassionate vision make Linda Hoos (JD 2001) uniquely qualified for position

By USC News Staff

*"I just felt this position presents an amazing opportunity," says Linda Hoos (JD 2001), associate vice president and deputy Title IX coordinator for EEO-TIX.*

**Linda Hoos (JD 2001) was chosen in 2021 as the associate vice president and deputy Title IX coordinator for USC's Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity and Title IX (EEO-TIX). In her new role, Hoos provides overall leadership in the unit with a particular focus on the core intake and support and investigation and resolution functions of EEO-TIX's work related to the University Park Campus.**

Hoos said she appreciates the extraordinary chance her role presents to be at the forefront of a generational shift in a 140-year-old institution.

"With President Carol Folt, (Senior Vice President of Human Resources, Equity and Compliance) Felicia Washington and (EEO-TIX Vice President and Title IX Coordinator) Catherine Spear coming in, and the university's Culture Journey underway, I just felt this position presents an amazing opportunity," Hoos said.

EEO-TIX was created last year with the restructuring and merging of USC's Title IX Office and the Office of Equity and Diversity.

## **UNIQUE QUALIFICATIONS PREPARE HOOS FOR NEW ROLE**

Hoos is uniquely qualified for this important leadership role, with years of experience investigating and managing the types of reports handled by EEO-TIX. She previously worked at the California Office of the Attorney General, where she was part of an investigative team. She then moved to another governmental agency and oversaw employment investigations relating to

sexual harassment and other forms of protected class discrimination and harassment. From there, Hoos worked for the California State University system as a Title IX coordinator at the campus level and later, the system-wide director of Title IX compliance services. Both of those experiences helped Hoos develop into a thorough investigator and understand how to navigate an institution of higher learning.

"Linda brings a deep knowledge of civil rights law and policy, employment law and regulatory practices to this important work and is very experienced in the California higher education setting," said Washington, who oversees the EEO-TIX office.

Hoos reports to Spear, who said of Hoos, "She really checked all of the boxes and gave us a great sense of confidence that she would add a lot of value to this team." Hoos also oversees a new intake, outreach and care management team at EEO-TIX which expands a proactive focus steeped in care for each individual who contacts the office, Spear said.

## **EMPHASIS ON COMPASSIONATE TREATMENT**

"When someone seeks assistance from this office, whether it is for harassment or discrimination, an individual is coming to us feeling very disempowered — feeling as though their ability to control their education or employment path is being disrupted for very unfair reasons," Hoos said. "So, it is incredibly important to make sure someone who is reaching out to remedy that feels as though they are being heard." ✍

# ADVOCATE FOR INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

By Diane Krieger

**How did an aspiring fiction writer from Hawai'i go on to graduate from the USC Gould School of Law and become a leading resource on tribal law?**



Above:  
Breann Swann  
Nu'uhiwa

To the right:  
Nu'uhiwa with  
her family.

It all started in Professor Ron Gare't constitutional law class, says Breann Swann Nu'uhiwa, (JD 2004), who last May joined the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs as senior counsel for the majority.

Twenty years earlier, Nu'uhiwa had come to USC thinking she might pursue sports law. But a dissertation assignment under Gare't supervision was a turning point. Her topic: proposed tribal law provisions in amending the 1994 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

"Actually, today was a full-circle moment for me," she says, speaking on Zoom from the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C. "Members of our staff were over at the White House as President Biden delivered his remarks on the reauthorization of VAWA, which he just signed into law [March 15]."

From writing her dissertation in 2004 "to going through this long and winding road of my career, and now getting to contribute to the actual legislation...I'm just over the moon," she says.

At the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Nu'uhiwa is on an eight-person team of lawyers and policy analysts who research, advise and draft language on topics ranging from broadband infrastructure to USDA programs to violence against women.

Nu'uhiwa helped draft a key portion of the 2022 VAWA reauthorization—the part that expands special criminal jurisdiction of tribal courts over non-Native perpetrators of sexual assault, child abuse, stalking and sex trafficking on tribal lands. Under the previous law, certain perpetrators and ancillary charges fell into a gray area of jurisdiction. With the new amendments, tribal courts can take a more comprehensive approach and rely less on state or federal partners to prosecute charges.



A Yale graduate originally from Pearl City, a Honolulu suburb, Nu'uhiwa chose a Southern California law school to be closer to home. At Gould, she got involved in student government through the Student Bar Association. She was executive editor of the *Interdisciplinary Law Journal*, and joined La Raza (now the Latinx Law Students Association), the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association, and the Middle Eastern South Asian Law Student Association, "because my best friend is Armenian," she says.

"I had all these networks of wonderful people who really helped me to grow as a person and a professional, and who I consider to be great friends to this day," she says.

Her experiences include working in labor and employment law at Thelen LLP; the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian community in Scottsdale, Ariz.; the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in Honolulu; the labor and employment group of Reed Smith LLP in Los Angeles; and as senior associate general counsel with the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians in Temecula. She assumed her current role in D.C. in May 2021.

"The day-to-day work we do is fascinating. There's never a dull moment," Nu'uhiwa says. 🍷

# Re-imagining Corpo

In a shareholder-first world, Professor Dorothy Lund thinks creatively about equitable solutions, publishing research in top legal journals

By Christina Schweighofer

**As corporations continue to prioritize shareholder interests, with institutional shareholders dominating corporate governance, Associate Professor Dorothy S. Lund predicts that a shift will not occur — despite growing awareness of the system’s shortcomings — “absent a major shock.”**

Still, Lund, who joined USC Gould School of Law in 2018, wields her knowledge of the dynamics inherent in the modern corporate governance structure to research solutions, and whether the system, which pressures managers to prioritize shareholder wealth, can and should change.

In a recent paper published by the *Columbia Law Review*, “The Corporate Governance Machine,” Lund and co-author Elizabeth Pollman from the University of Pennsylvania Law School describe the turn toward shareholder wealth maximization that occurred in the past century.

Up to the 1970s, corporations were seen to exist for the benefit of the public; by the late 1980s, shareholder interests were the priority. At the same time, institutional shareholders better equipped to advocate for increased shareholder rights and power held influence over corporate governance.

“Corporate governance is conventionally seen as a neutral system of processes and procedures that serve the greater good,” Lund says. “But we show that it has, in fact, become part of the shareholderist agenda.”

In an article forthcoming in the *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, “Asset Managers as Regulators,” she views with distrust the accumulation of power by institutional shareholders that represent half of American households via their 401(k) plans, and count corporations as their clients.

“They are hugely influential and have begun to usurp regulatory functions,” she says.

Two areas where institutional shareholders have wrought change are the environmental performance of corporations and board diversity. While Lund acknowledges that these mandates offer benefits, she sees the rules as tepid solutions to pressing global problems.

“And there’s another risk,” she says. “If institutional shareholders are perceived as taking care of these problems, does that take the pressure off the government to regulate? Does it maybe even worsen the dynamic of a dysfunctional government?”

Following the Great Recession that ended in 2009 and now the COVID-19 pandemic, many people have grown skeptical of the shareholder primacy view. And while value-oriented environmental, social and governance (ESG) funds have taken off in recent years, they don’t appear to be effecting change.

“Many good-hearted, public-spirited investors are paying more for ESG products that aren’t necessarily delivering what they want,” Lund says. “Economic research has shown that if I stop buying tobacco or oil shares, it’s not going to have an impact on that company as long as other people are willing to purchase their shares.”

In another paper in the *Columbia Law Review*, “Corporate Finance for Social Good,” Lund argues for a change of perspective, away from shareholders and toward people on the outside.

To side-step the shareholder paradigm and empower external stakeholders in very specific scenarios, she proposes the creation of corporate social responsibility bonds.

“Corporate executives can talk the talk all they want about their consideration for society, but at the end of the day all market forces are still pushing them toward maximizing shareholder value,” she says. “We have to rethink how we finance corporate social responsibility.”

She proposes making corporate social responsibility pay the way important pilot projects are financed. As

# rate Responsibility

“Millennial investors have demonstrated that they’re willing to pay more for investment vehicles that match their social preferences... Many of them care about more than financial returns and are willing to put their money where their mouth is.”

— Professor Dorothy S. Lund



*Dorothy Lund*

an example, a big-box retailer may continue selling guns, despite protests, because the profits outweigh any benefit of pulling out of the market. Lund imagines “a group of parents not just protesting but creating a bond and saying, ‘Stop selling guns, and we will pay you the difference.’”

While Lund realizes that bonds “wouldn’t solve every problem,” she sees their potential as immediate and wide-ranging. If a corporation could be convinced to close a polluting factory with such bonds, there could be a tangible benefit for communities and the environment.

“In a time of partisan politics and regulatory ossification, bonds could even be a substitute for more stringent environmental regulation,” she says.

Lund’s hope lies especially with younger generations.

“Millennial investors have demonstrated that they’re willing to pay more for investment vehicles that match their social preferences,” she says. “Many of them care about more than financial returns and are willing to put their money where their mouth is.”

Lund sees it as “important that we talk about the role of corporate power in society” even though a fundamental shift is dependent on companies, and there are limits to what we can expect from them.

“But we can still think creatively about solutions,” she says. 📌

# USC GOULD CELEBRATES THREE ENDOWED PROFE

Camille Gear Rich, Robin Craig, Diana Jaque honored as leaders, experts in their fields

By Melissa Masatani

Dean Andrew Guzman (second from left) presided over the installation of three professorships for faculty including (from left) Robin Kundis Craig, Diana C. Jaque and Camille Gear Rich.

**The USC Gould School of Law celebrated the installation of three professorships recently, honoring Camille Gear Rich, Robin Kundis Craig and Diana C. Jaque on April 14. Rich was installed as the Dorothy W. Nelson Professor of Law and Sociology, Craig was installed as the Robert C. Packard Trustee Chair in Law, and Jaque was installed as the John Stauffer Law Library Director.**

“They are educators and leaders, experts in their fields, and they couldn’t be more deserving of the honor that we’re celebrating today,” Guzman said. “The installation of a faculty member in an endowed chair or professorship is a huge honor ... This is one of the ways in which we mark the success of our mission as a university.”

The celebration, which had been delayed by the pandemic, was held at Town and Gown. Participants included the honorees’ family, friends and colleagues, as well as USC Provost Charles F. Zukoski, who emphasized that in addition to recognizing the trio’s achievements, the endowed positions also offer practical support to fund new accomplishments and signal a level of prestige in academia.

“These chairs and directorships carry a great deal of visibility in the academic world outside of USC,” Zukoski explained. “So, it’s really good for USC that we have such talent here and that we have placed them in these named positions, indicating to the outside world how seriously we take our role in attracting, retaining and recognizing exceptional scholars.”

## HONORING A TRAILBLAZER

Rich, who previously served as the Associate Provost of Diversity and Inclusion, as well as the Associate Provost of Student and Faculty Initiatives in the Social Sciences at USC, encouraged attendees to stand up for their beliefs. She also shared an inspirational message about remaining committed to achieving one’s vision of what the world can be.

“Camille has contributed significantly to USC’s ongoing journey to being a stronger, more inclusive institution, most notably in her role as Associate Provost of Diversity and Inclusion, which served as a precursor to our first ever Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer position. She is a leader in the DEI field, with an extensive record of teaching educators about diversity — myself included,” said Provost Zukoski.

Particularly, Rich created the USC-wide Diversity Equity and Inclusion Week event; was honored for her widely cited research on racial identity development and diversity; and has worked with law schools nationwide on inclusive pedagogy.

The Dorothy W. Nelson Professorship is one of three endowed professorships named after a former law school dean at USC Gould, and is named after Nelson, who was the first woman dean of a major U.S. law school on her appointment in 1969. She held the post until her appointment as Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in 1980.

## EMPHASIS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

A prolific interdisciplinary scholar, Craig specializes in water and environmental law. She has served on six National Academy of Sciences committees; consulted on water quality issues with governments across the globe; and recently has been working on the Environmental Law Institute’s Climate Judiciary Project.

Craig said the professorship was a special way for her to return home to California after having taught in several states across the country.

“If you’re not aware, this is the first year ever there’s been a shortage declared in the Colorado River and the State Water Project for the second or third time ever is not delivering any water,” Craig said. “There’s a lot of work on climate change adaptation to be done and I’m very delighted to be back here to be able to do it in my home state.”

# INSTALLATION OF PROFESSORSHIPS, CHAIRS



“They are educators and leaders, experts in their fields, and they couldn’t be more deserving of the honor that we’re celebrating today. This is one of the ways in which we mark the success of our mission as a university.” — Dean Andrew Guzman

The Robert C. Packard Trustee Professorship is one of three professorships endowed by the late Robert C. Packard, two of which reside at the law school. Packard was a widely respected trial attorney and steadfast supporter of the university, having graduated from both the accounting program and the law school by 1947.

#### NOT A TRADITIONAL LIBRARY

Jaque, an associate dean and adjunct professor of law, started with USC Gould in 1997 and became a law

librarian in 1999. She has contributed to improving the quality and service of the Asa V. Call Law Library with each role held — from the head of collection development and acquisitions to senior law librarian. Jaque has served as the law library director since 2020.

The John Stauffer Professorship honors the position of the law library director at USC Gould and is named in honor of John Stauffer, a native Californian who was born in 1898 and had a high regard for education and learning. On his death in 1972, Stauffer was a member of the USC Board of Trustees and held an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from USC.

“Without a doubt, a law school library plays an indispensable role within the law school community,” Jaque said. “Law libraries are different from traditional libraries. ... Our function is different from what one might think of as a traditional library. We’re here to support the mission of the law school, including providing services to students and supporting faculty research.”

# NEW BOOK EXPLORES BLURRED DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN PUBLIC, PRIVATE ACTION

Professor Nomi Stolzenberg is co-author of *American Shtetl: The Making of Kiryas Joel, a Hasidic Village in Upstate New York*

By Leslie Ridgeway

Nomi Stolzenberg

**A new book by Professor Nomi Stolzenberg and co-author David N. Myers, a professor of history at UCLA, illustrates paradoxes of American law via an in-depth portrait of an upstate New York town of Hasidic Jews that rejects the values of mainstream America while utilizing secular American law and politics to exist as a separate community.**

*American Shtetl: The Making of Kiryas Joel, a Hasidic Village in Upstate New York* (2022, Princeton University Press) examines how the enclave, settled in the 1970s, exists as a separatist society on American soil — particularly relevant at a time when separatism and recession are openly discussed as solutions to political polarization.

“Once we [stop] pretending there’s a distinction between public and private action, a fundamental normative question emerges: do we want to continue to maintain laws in a way that facilitates separatism?” says Stolzenberg. “How far will we let this go, for [a community] to live according to their own law and exempt from laws of state?”

A review in *The New Yorker* calls *American Shtetl* “an extraordinary and riveting account,” and the *Los Angeles Review of Books* notes that the book “describes in arresting detail the trajectory and triumph of arguably one of the most paradoxical villages in the United States.”

Stolzenberg, whose academic focus includes religious law and property law, and Myers, a scholar of Jewish history (and Stolzenberg’s husband), found that the story of Kiryas Joel was really a story of America, and a striking case study of how divisions between private action and public action are often blurred. For example, the enclave purchased real estate and sold it off within the community — a private, voluntary action — but its members also had the right to vote to incorporate the community into a municipality — a public, governmental action.

Pros and cons of separatist communities became clear as they dug deeper, including positive aspects such as resisting cultural conformity, celebrating differences and preserving



the right of people to live where they want to live. But also apparent were the dangers of radically separating groups from each other, including a lack of caring and respect for others’ boundaries and lives.

“You get the situation we have now, with people who say they have the right to be exempt from COVID regulations, or civil rights laws,” Stolzenberg says. “COVID shows us that no group can completely separate itself from society. In reality we are interdependent. No group can completely insulate itself.”

Perhaps the most surprising finding about Kiryas Joel was the presence of “double lifers” — community members who don’t necessarily agree with the way the community is run but aren’t inclined to leave, lending a measure of diversity to the community. The term “double lifers” was coined by Ayala Fader, professor of anthropology at Fordham University. 

# BOOK EARNS USC GOULD PROFESSOR 2020 ORDER OF THE COIF AWARD

Professor Ariela Gross and  
co-author honored for  
*Becoming Free, Becoming Black*

By Yulia Nakagome

Ariela Gross

Professor Ariela Gross and co-author Alejandro de la Fuente of Harvard University were recently honored with the Order of the Coif Book Award for *Becoming Free, Becoming Black: Race, Freedom, and Law in Cuba, Virginia and Louisiana* (2020, Cambridge University Press).

The award was presented at the Association of American Law Schools annual meeting in January 2022.

The book, researched and written over 10 years, explains through historical accounts how enslaved and free people of color in three slave societies used the law to gain freedom and citizenship for themselves and their families.



“It’s especially meaningful for this historical work to be recognized by my fellow legal scholars because one central aim of the book was to show how important law and legal institutions were to the creation of racial regimes in the Americas.”

— Professor Ariela Gross

“It’s especially meaningful for this historical work to be recognized by my fellow legal scholars because one central aim of the book was to show how important law and legal institutions were to the creation of racial regimes in the Americas,” said Gross.

The Order of the Coif Award is given to authors displaying outstanding scholarship and creativity, “that have advanced a field, illuminated new areas of thought and research, and/or explored the many hard questions that law raises,” according to the book award website.

At a virtual award presentation during the annual meeting, the book was lauded for its historical insight into the origin of political exclusion and inclusion through the law — especially timely in the current political climate as democracies around the world grapple with racial and ethnic marginalization.

*Becoming Free, Becoming Black* was also presented in November with the 2021 John Phillip Reid Book Award by the American Society for Legal History for the best monograph by a mid-career or senior scholar in any field defined broadly as American legal history. 📖

# COAST VALU

Professor Robin Craig takes the mystery out of ocean, water law for judges, lawmakers

By Matthew Kredell

**With climate litigation becoming more complicated, the influential Environmental Law Institute turned to USC Gould School of Law Professor Robin Craig to educate judges and lawmakers as part of the institute's Climate Judiciary Project.**

Craig was scheduled to serve on the Capitol Hill Ocean Week Advisory Committee (CHOW), appointed by the National Marine Sanctuaries Foundation to engage in outreach to and education of members of Congress regarding important ocean legal issues during CHOW June 7-9.

"It's nice to have organizations with that kind of national scope reaching out to me," Craig says.

The Climate Judiciary Project provides judges the tools they need to effectively adjudicate the thousands of climate cases sweeping the federal and state courts across the country, she says.

"The project is aimed at making judges a little less apprehensive about these cases and giving them an idea of the full range of legal possibilities they might face in climate cases and how to handle their complexities," says Craig, who was hired by the State of Utah to train state judges on water law. "I think we can make

a real difference and it's an important service that the Environmental Law Institute is trying to provide."

Kris Sarri, president and CEO of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, explained that the theme for this year's Ocean Week is 'Sea: The Future.' The advisory committee seeks to recognize 50 years of progress achieved in ocean and coastal conservation, while setting a course for new policies and actions to sustain waters for the future.

"Professor Craig is a natural choice to help shape the conference agenda this year as part of the CHOW Advisory Committee based on her expertise on all things water including water quality and water allocation law; marine protected areas and marine spatial planning; and the intersection of freshwater and ocean and coastal law," Sarri says. "It is exciting to work with her and the rest of the Advisory Committee as this year's CHOW conference agenda comes together."

Craig is also contributing a chapter on procedural and case management issues that may come up in climate change litigation for a handbook for judges being assembled by ELI.

"The main point of my chapter is that there are a lot of procedural complications that come up in climate change litigation," Craig says. "The same kind of issues come up

**"The project is aimed at making judges a little less apprehensive about these cases and giving them an idea of the full range of legal possibilities they might face in climate cases and how to handle their complexities. I think we can make a real difference and it's an important service that the Environmental Law Institute is trying to provide." — Professor Robin Craig**

# ABLE PLAYER



*Professor Robin Craig hopes her work with Capitol Hill Ocean Week will inform legislators who can make changes to protect the ocean.*

in toxic tort litigation, and there's a rich set of literature on how to manage these highly complicated cases."

Craig is also serving remotely on the CHOW Advisory Committee, helping to craft the agenda to engage lawmakers and their legislative staffers in dialogue and debate on issues impacting oceans, coasts and the Great Lakes, and to propose innovative policies and partnerships to address these issues.

"The goal is to do a retrospective of where we've been but also provide information to members of Capitol Hill and the public on gaps in laws, areas that need to be better addressed, what climate change is doing to the ocean, marine spatial planning, and recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples to ocean resources," Craig says. "There's a whole host of issues that we'll bring to the attention of legislators who are in a position to make changes to better protect the ocean."

In 2023, the institute will lead multiple training sessions for judges that may occur regionally and in Washington, D.C. Craig hopes to participate in some of these sessions, where judges can ask questions and discuss topics openly without maintaining the neutrality required in court.

"Key to this initiative is understanding how science issues arise in the cases, and understanding how to situate these cases within the legal frameworks familiar to judges," says Sandra Nichols Thiam, associate vice president for research and policy at the Environmental Law Institute. "Critical to the effort is understanding the legal landscape and the intersection with science, and Professor Craig, a frequent contributor to many ELI initiatives, lends her unerring legal analysis and superb communication skills to the project as a leading contributor to the course curriculum and speaker for the program."

This year's Capitol Hill Ocean Week marks the 50th anniversary of many important environmental statutes enacted in 1972. These include the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, Clean Water Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act.

"I wanted to make time to be a part of this because it's a way of educating people on Capitol Hill who, quite frankly, have other pressing priorities and very rarely, unless from a coastal state, think about larger coastal issues," Craig says. 🏹

# NEW SEMINAR EMPHASIZES CLASSIC RESEARCH IN CORPORATE LAW

Innovative seminar co-taught by Professors Robert Rasmussen, Michael Simkovic and D. Daniel Sokol takes a foundational approach

By Leslie Ridgeway

**A new seminar created by three USC law professors takes a reflective approach to building strategic skills, relating modern corporate governance innovations to iconic research by leading scholars of corporate law.**

The Corporate and Commercial Law Seminar is co-taught by Professors Robert Rasmussen, Michael Simkovic and D. Daniel Sokol. The seminar features an impressive lineup of established and emerging corporate law scholars including Mark Roe of Harvard University, Emilie Aguirre of Duke University, Douglas Baird of University of Chicago, Margaret Blair of Vanderbilt University, and Robert Jackson of New York University, former commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

For example, the ESG movement (environmental, social and governance investing), which focuses on the role of companies in improving society, is not a recently-devised concept, says Rasmussen.

“By looking at the classics, we see people have been wrestling with these ideas for decades,” he says. “And these are not just academic debates. One student said while she was a summer associate, she was asked to draft corporate governance documents that included ESG terms. We were able to show her the history behind these things. It’s not just a policy matter but a matter of practice.”

The faculty believe the seminar’s foundational approach is essential for young lawyers as they grow in their careers and assume roles where they can influence important business decisions.

“The advantage of a seminar is that you can think deeper thoughts, not just about the day-to-day of being a lawyer – but as you reach the partner level or general counsel level, you’re thinking these strategic thoughts all the time,” says Sokol. “We are giving them the tools to understand these issues, to have an analytical framework and address the potential risks for a client or business.”

The seminar introduces students to established works, works in progress and presentations from practitioners. Students interact with guest speakers, draft reaction papers to scholarly arguments about the structure of corporate governance and discuss the different players within that structure.

The faculty hope to offer the seminar over several years, highlighting the philosophical questions and moral thinking guiding business law — and to spark the same excitement for business law that scholarly articles and academicians inspire in themselves.

“I’ve read many of these articles at least 10 times, and every time I find additional nuggets. There’s something beautiful about rereading older texts and finding something new each time,” says Sokol. 📖



From left to right:  
Robert Rasmussen,  
Michael Simkovic  
and D. Daniel Sokol

Rasmussen, Simkovic and Sokol came up with the seminar while discussing a list of classic works in corporate and commercial law that they consider must-reads for every student or practitioner.

“It’s hard to appreciate that the consensus view could change again without looking back historically and seeing how these ideas changed in previous decades,” says Simkovic. “There are a lot of echoes and similarities in our time.”

# NEW CLASS EXPLORES 'What's Wrong with the American Criminal Justice System?'

Professor Dan Simon teaches course  
that looks into troubling trends

By Leslie Ridgeway

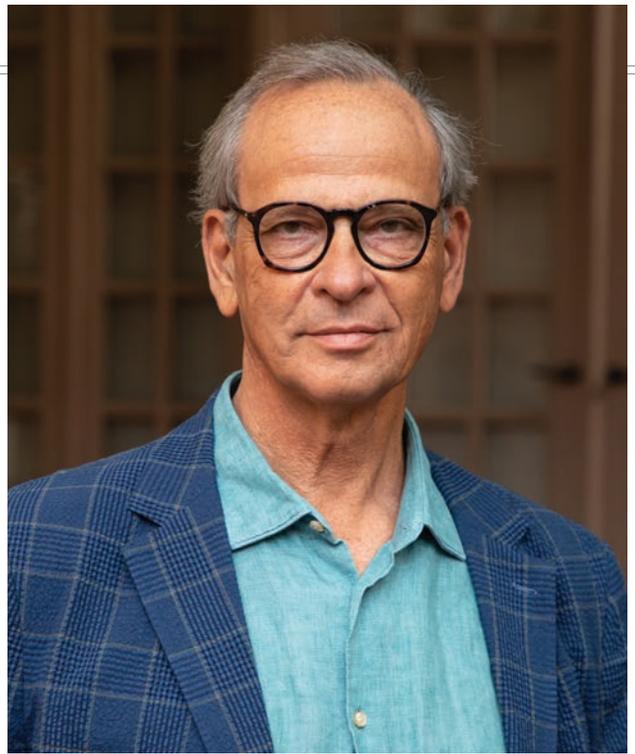
Dan Simon

**Professor Dan Simon has been researching and writing about the American criminal justice system for many years. Troubled by the direction he sees it heading in and the possible damage to democracy, he offered a new course this fall, "What's Wrong with the American Criminal Justice System?" The course objective is to explore what about the system is not working properly and what reforms might set it right again.**

"From a pedagogical point of view, it's our duty as legal educators to provide our students with a profound understanding of the legal tools at their disposal to make them effective lawyers," says Simon, Richard L. and Maria B. Crutcher Professor of Law and Psychology. "That's what we do for the most part. But, we cannot ignore the fact that there are legal domains where there is a wide gap between how the system is supposed to operate and how it actually does."

"This course asks questions that go beyond the doctrine, statutes and court decisions. It focuses, rather, on questions of policy and asks whether we are meeting minimal standards for a 21st-century democracy."

The course, open to a dozen students, has at its foundation Simon's explorations of the issue of accuracy in criminal justice, which he wrote about in his 2012 book "In Doubt: The Psychology of the Criminal Justice Process" (Harvard University Press). With subsequent research, it became obvious to Simon that accuracy was far from the only issue. Compared to decades past and to other industrial democracies, "it seems fair to state that the American criminal system has gone off the rails."



"We are plainly off the charts in the number of people we incarcerate, in the length and harshness of punishment, in the debilitating restrictions following release, in the societal impacts on families, children and neighborhoods, and much more," Simon says. "We tend to deny prisoners the dignity, privacy and respect that are due to every member of our society. We don't invest in training and rehabilitating. There are other ills that come in the form of rushed trials, nondisclosure of evidence, flawed forensic science and misconduct by law enforcement officials. All of this tends to culminate in defendants accepting harsh guilty pleas. Something is fundamentally wrong."

Citing criminological studies, Simon adds, "The tragedy is that this harshness fails to deliver the societal benefits that it seeks. Effectively, our system of over-punishment ends up hurting society. Profound changes are needed to confront these deep-rooted issues if the goal is a fair society."

Simon sees the "progressive prosecutor" movement as a repercussion to the severe trends that have dominated the criminal system for decades. He cautions against denouncing all law enforcement agents, as there are those who "to be sure, are conscientious and professional."

With a broader view of how the criminal justice system operates, Simon says he hopes the course will help students be more thoughtful and effective practitioners. "My hope is that they will also become wise policymakers, and make the system more humane." 

# Influential Scholar Remembered

Conference highlights late Professor Ed Kleinbard's leadership in tax law

By Leslie Ridgeway

Ed Kleinbard

**Scholars in the fields of law, economics and taxation gathered in November 2021 for a virtual conference honoring the late USC Gould Professor Ed Kleinbard. The event was an exploration of the themes that motivated Kleinbard's scholarship, and a tribute to his influence on both tax scholarship and tax policy.**

Kleinbard, who passed away in June 2020, made fundamental scholarly contributions to tax scholarship on both international and domestic issues, to budget policy, and to the debate about the values that those policies should serve. As a member of the USC Gould faculty, his work in these diverse areas was unified by his ambition — which was both scholarly and practical — to put tax law and budget policy to work reducing the economic inequities of contemporary American life.

Speakers at the day-long conference included USC Gould Professors Gregory Keating and Ed McCaffery; leading tax scholars Daniel Shaviro of NYU School of Law, Rueven Avi-Yonah of Michigan, David Weisbach of Chicago and Joseph Bankman of Stanford; notable economists Emmanuel Saez, Gabriel Zucman and Alan Auerbach of UC Berkeley, Bill Gale of Brookings and Rosanne Altshuler of Rutgers University; leading figures in the tax bar, including Les Samuels, former assistant treasury secretary for tax policy and a longtime partner at Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen and Hamilton, where Kleinbard practiced tax law for 30 years; and government policymakers Kimberly Clausing, deputy assistant secretary for tax analysis at the U.S. Treasury and Erika Nijenhuis, senior counsel in the U.S. Treasury Office of Tax Policy.

In the leadoff panel, Shaviro discussed why Kleinbard, who left the private sector for a stint as Chief of Staff at



the Joint Committee on Taxation at the United States Congress before turning to teaching, chose academics.

“I think of it as like Gary Cooper in ‘High Noon.’ He has 85 minutes to save the town,” said Shaviro. “And in Ed’s case, to save the world. And he is . . . determined to save the world.”

On a panel discussion covering Kleinbard’s second book, *What’s Luck Got to Do With It? How Smarter Government Can Rescue the American Dream*, Keating, also a personal friend, mused on the philosophy that fueled Kleinbard’s scholarship focus.

“For Kleinbard . . . moral deservingness is a deeply undesirable principle of distributive justice,” he said. “I think at some psychic level, it’s this belief that animated almost all of Ed’s work. He wanted to get us ‘beyond desert’ to a world where people’s life chances weren’t determined by injustice and bad luck and where tax and fiscal policy would enable everyone to lead the best version of their own life.”

In the final panel, on what Kleinbard would have thought of recent fiscal policy and international tax decisions, Clausing called Kleinbard “absolutely irreplaceable.”

“I cannot tell you how much we miss his commentary,” she said. “Ed had a rare credibility. He inhabited all of the world, the academic world, the policy world, the practitioner world.”

# Scholarship & Research

A selection of recent scholarly work and honors of USC Gould faculty

## SELECT RECENT PUBLICATIONS

### SCOTT ALTMAN

“Are Boycotts, Shunning, and Shaming Corrupt?”  
*Oxford Journal of Legal Studies* (2021)

### ROBIN CRAIG

“Re-Valuing the Ocean in Law: Exploiting the Panarchy Paradox of a Complex System Approach”  
*Stanford Environmental Law Journal* (2022)

### DAVID B. CRUZ

“Making Sex Matter: Common Restrooms as ‘Intimate’ Spaces?”  
*Minnesota Journal of Law & Inequality* (2022)

### ERIK HOVENKAMP

“The Antitrust Duty to Deal in the Age of Big Tech”  
*Yale Law Journal* (2022)

### DANIEL KLERMAN (with Anja Shortland)

“The Transformation of the Art Market: Law, Norms and Institutions”  
*Theoretical Inquiries in Law* (2022)

### ERIN MILLER

“Amplified Speech”  
*Cardozo Law Review* (2021)

### DOROTHY S. LUND

“In Search of Good Corporate Governance”  
*Yale Law Journal Forum* (2022)

### DOROTHY S. LUND (with Elizabeth Pollman)

“The Corporate Governance Machine”  
*Columbia Law Review* (2021)

## AWARDS & NOTES

**PROF. D. DANIEL SOKOL** is among the top 10 most-cited law scholars across the country in antitrust, with more than 300 citations over the past five years.

**PROF. RICHARD PETERSON** received the 2021 L. Randolph Lowry Award from the Southern California Mediation Association (SCMA). The award recognizes a member of the dispute resolution community who has honored and inspired others through a passion and dedication to education in this field.

**PROF. TOM LYON** (co-investigator) was awarded a five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health in 2021, to study children’s comprehension and memory, and implications for maltreatment disclosure.

**PROF. ARIELA GROSS**, along with co-author Alejandro de la Fuente, received the 2021 John Phillip Reid Book Award from the American Society for Legal History for *Becoming Free, Becoming Black: Race, Freedom, and Law in Cuba, Virginia, and Louisiana* (Cambridge University Press).

### MARCELA PRIETO (with Sergio Verdugo)

“How Political Narratives Affect the Self-enforcing Nature of Interim Constitutions”  
*Hague Journal on the Rule of Law* (2021)

### THOMAS D. LYON (with Alison M. O’Connor, Micaela Wiens, & Angela D. Evans)

“Use of global trait cues helps to explain older adults’ decrements in detecting children’s lies”  
*Legal and Criminological Psychology* (2022)

### EMILY RYO (with Reed Humphrey)

“The importance of race, gender, and religion in naturalization adjudication in the United States”  
*Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (2022)

### D. DANIEL SOKOL

“Debt, Control, and Collusion”  
*Emory Law Journal* (2022)

### FRANITA TOLSON

“‘In Whom is the Right of Suffrage?’: The Reconstruction Acts as Sources of Constitutional Meaning”  
*University of Pennsylvania Law Review* (2021)

### ABBY K. WOOD (with Abhay P. Aneja and Jacob M. Grumbach)

“Financial Inclusion in Politics”  
*New York University Law Review* (2022)

To view the full list of articles, awards and presentations, visit: [gould.usc.edu/faculty/scholarship/](https://gould.usc.edu/faculty/scholarship/)

**PROF. DOROTHY LUND**’s co-authored article, “The Corporate Governance Machine,” was selected as one of the Top 10 Corporate and Securities Articles of 2021 by the *Corporate Practice Commentator*.

**PROF. ERIK HOVENKAMP** won the 2022 Antitrust Writing Award in the Intellectual Property category for his co-authored article “Antitrust limits on patent settlements: A new approach” (*Journal of Industrial Economics*). Also, **PROF. D. DANIEL SOKOL** won the 2022 Antitrust Writing Award in the Concerted Practices category for his article in *Emory Law Journal*, titled “Debt, control, and collusion.”

**PROF. HANNAH GARRY** filed a SCOTUS amicus brief in 2021 on behalf of torture survivors in the first case to make it to the Supreme Court on the U.S.’s enhanced interrogation program following 9/11.

# HONOR ROLL

**Ali Abugheida (JD 2012)**, was promoted to partner at Buckley LLP and represents corporate and individual clients in a variety of litigation and government enforcement matters, with a focus on complex commercial disputes and consumer class actions.

**Elizabeth Atlee (JD 1993)** of CBRE Group, Inc., **Gavin Galimi (JD 2000)** of Strategem Investments, LLC, **Lisa Harrington (JD 1993)** of Viant Technology, Inc. and **Thomas Wehinger (LLM 2014)** of Regent LP were honored as nominees for the *Los Angeles Times* 2022 in-house counsel leadership awards.

**Jennifer Berson (JD 2001)**, and her public relations mentoring business Profitable PR Pros were honored with the silver award in the Advertising and Marketing category of *Inc. Magazine's* 2021 Best in Business Awards.

**Stephen Blaker (JD 2011)**, has founded a boutique immigration law firm, Blaker & Granet LLP in Los Angeles. The firm provides legal services to individuals and employers navigating the U.S. immigration process for family or employment-based immigration.

**Lance Brady (JD 2000)**, was named partner at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, with a practice focus on representing public and private life sciences and technology companies through all stages of growth.

**Jennifer L. Bryant (JD 2013)**, was named partner at Munger, Tolles and Olson LLP. Her practice focuses on high-stakes complex commercial litigation with an emphasis on legal challenges faced by the entertainment and technology industries, including trade secret, copyright and privacy issues.

**Aaron Chiu (JD 2012)**, and **Darren Guttenberg (JD 2013)**, were named partners at Latham & Watkins LLP.

**Annee Della Donna (JD 1988)**, received the Anti-Defamation League Marcus M. Kaufman Jurisprudence Award and was named in Orange County's Most Influential People of 2021 by the *Orange County Register*.

**Robert Dugdale (JD 1993)**, **Stephen Larson (JD 1989)**, and **David Willingham (JD 1998)**, were named to the *Daily Journal's* Top White-Collar Lawyers of 2021.



**Shaun Gordon (JD 2014)**, was elected shareholder at Weintraub Tobin where his practice encompasses all aspects of the entertainment industry.

**Daniel Guggenheim (JD 2004)** has been elected as a fellow by the American College of Real Estate Lawyers (ACREL), a premier, invitation-only organization of distinguished, nationally known real estate lawyers in the United States.



**Steffi Gascón Hafén (JD 2010)** was named managing partner of Snell & Wilmer's San Diego office, and was selected for inclusion in *San Diego Metro Magazine's* 2022 Women of Accomplishment. This list recognizes outstanding women in the San Diego area.

**Sohrab Izadi (JD 2012)**, was promoted to Tax Counsel III at the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration.



**Amir Kaltgrad (JD 2007)**, joined the Carlton Fields Los Angeles office as counsel, representing businesses and individuals in a variety of commercial litigation matters.

**Mary Kenney (JD 1975)**, is serving as a commissioner on the County of Los Angeles Citizens Redistricting Commission.

**James Kramer (JD 2012)**, was named partner at Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP.

**Joshua Love (JD 2014)**, was promoted to partner at Reed Smith LLP, focusing his practice on the music and entertainment industry.



**Sarah Luetto (JD 2011)** was elevated to partner at Hersh Mannis, LLP, a firm dedicated to family law.

**Amit Makker (JD 2011)**, and **Jonathan Shih (JD 2012)** were promoted to counsel at Latham & Watkins LLP.



**Hon. Margaret M. Mann (JD 1981)**, judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of California, has been appointed as the Bankruptcy Judge Observer to the United States Judicial Conference.

**Juanita E. Mantz's (JD 2002)** young adult memoir *Tales of an Inland Empire Girl* was published in January 2022 by Los Nietos Press.



**Jyoti Mittal (JD 2012)**, and **Stephen E. Baumann II (JD 2011)**, were elevated to shareholders at Littler Mendelson P.C.



**Shawn Obi (JD 2012)**, was promoted to partner at Winston and Strawn LLP, where she focuses her practice on complex commercial litigation.

**Igbodike Obioha (JD 1995)**, joined the Sanders Roberts LLP Entertainment Practice Group in the Los Angeles office.

**Jim Oliva (JD 2001)** was promoted to associate general counsel, litigation division lead at American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

**Amanda Oliver (JD 2005)**, was appointed senior vice president and general counsel for NASCAR LLC.

**Brandon Reilly (JD 2011)**, was recognized by the *Daily Journal* as a 2022 Top Cyber Lawyer.

**Diidri Robinson (JD 2004)** was promoted to vice president, chief ethics and privacy officer at Anthem, Inc.

**Lyndsie Russell (JD 2015)**, has been named equity partner at Miles, Sears & Eanni PC, where she practices civil litigation with an emphasis on plaintiff's catastrophic injuries.

**Jonathan Shih (JD 2012)**, has been promoted to counsel at Latham & Watkins LLP in Los Angeles where he represents private equity sponsors and private and public company borrowers in domestic and cross-border commercial lending transactions.

**Morgan E. Smith (JD 2013)**, was promoted to partner at Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner LLP, where she focuses on trademark, copyright, and false advertising litigation.

**John Snow (JD 2011)**, was promoted to partner at King, Holmes, Paterno & Soriano LLP.



**James C. Suits II (JD 2003)** is now chief executive officer of San Jose, Calif.-based Suits Litigation, Inc., specializing in representing plaintiffs in personal injury matters throughout California.



**Nadine Tan (BA 2012, JD 2015)** was named associate counsel at Green Dot Public Schools California and completed her first year teaching legal profession in the USC Gould School of Law's LLM program.

**M. Mendel Trapedo (LLM 2006)**, was promoted to special counsel at Kramer Levin LLP where he represents clients in a full range of real estate transactions.

**Matthew Wein (JD 1999)**, recently became general counsel of Mustang Bio, Inc., a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on translating today's medical breakthroughs in cell and gene therapies into potential cures for hematologic cancers, solid tumors and rare genetic diseases.

**Alison Weinberg-Fahey (JD 2013)**, was advanced to partner at Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP in Los Angeles, where she focuses on commercial real estate transactions.

**Devi Zinzuvadia (MSL 2020)**, was named public information officer for the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, a municipal enforcement agency in service of equity and nondiscrimination.

**DENNIS FRANKS (JD 1983)**, 64, died on Nov. 28. Professor Franks earned his JD from USC Gould and went on to become a respected and accomplished attorney, achieving notable success in the entertainment law field. In fall 2021, he returned to USC Gould to share his knowledge and expertise inside the classroom, teaching Torts to LLM students.



**JORGE GONZALEZ (JD 1981)**

passed away on March 27 at the age of 66.

Gonzalez was a proud Chicano activist who used his legal education to challenge injustice in the legal system. He encouraged Latinos to be vocal about the range of inequities facing their community and was respected by many. Gonzalez is remembered

as a loving husband to his wife Maribel, a loving father to his three children Monica, Saul and Tali, and “un gran amigo” by those who had the honor of knowing him.



**ROSARIO PERRY (JD 1972)**

passed away at the age of 75.

After graduating from USC Gould School of Law, Perry became a champion of property owners in Santa Monica, representing property owners for four decades. He was a regular speaker at ACTION Apartment Association meetings and was valued for his legal insights as

well as his ability to entertain.

He is remembered by Matthew Millen, a leader of Progressive Landlords of Santa Monica as “a gentleman, an attorney with integrity, and a warrior for rental housing providers.”



**EDILENO “EDDIE” ROMAN (JD 2006)**,

40, passed away on Oct. 5. Roman, born in Brazil and raised in New York, earned a BA at University of Pennsylvania before attending law school at USC. His career took him to both New York

and Minneapolis, and he made special circles of friends everywhere he went. He is remembered as high energy, with a sparkling outlook on life and a great sense of adventure.

Roman is held closely in the hearts of his friends, his partner Craig Kelly, and his family.

**MILTON ZERIN (BS 1949, JD 1951)**, 96, passed away on Oct. 7. His wife of more than 75 years, Helen Zerine, passed away four days later. The Zerins moved to Los Angeles in 1946, following his service in the Army Air Corps during WWII.

Zerine was inspired to become a trial attorney by the accomplishments of famed attorney Clarence Darrow. He enjoyed telling young lawyers that his first position as an attorney paid \$50 a week, but he got to try cases and that is what he loved. He served as president of the Los Angeles Chapter of Legion Lex, and enjoyed teaching evening classes at UCLA Law School.

He is survived by his two children.

**HIRAM WAI KWAN (BS 1949, LLB 1953)** passed away peacefully on Dec. 16, 2021. He was 97. He is survived by his daughter Angelina Kwan.



*Father Greg Boyle hugs Post-Conviction Justice Project client Celia at "Compassion & Transformation," a special conversation celebrating Celia's accomplishments and the work of PCJP. (For full story, see page 18)*

# CLINICAL PERSPECTIVES 2022



# JOYOUS ENDING FOR USC IMMIGRATION CLINIC CLIENT

## After 16 years, court decision opens door to permanent residence in U.S.

By Leslie Ridgeway

**N**erves were high when 2L Sophia Duenas appeared in U.S. immigration court at an administrative hearing in fall 2021 — not just because it was the first time Duenas had ever appeared before a judge, but because her client, a Salvadoran woman living in Los Angeles, had been fighting to remain in the U.S. with representation by the USC Gould Immigration Clinic since 2004.

**“We were so excited in the moment. She was crying. I cried, too. It’s absurd that she had to wait this long but I’m happy she can finally have some peace.”**

— 2L SOPHIE DUENAS ON THE EXCITEMENT OF WINNING A CANCELLATION OF REMOVAL FOR HER CLIENT.

When the judge handed down a much-welcomed ruling that provisionally granted a “cancellation of removal” — a form of relief that removes the threat of deportation and puts the client on a two-year track to earn a green card — it was hard to observe normal courtroom decorum.

“(The client) was in shock,” says Duenas, the last of at least 17 USC Immigration Clinic students to represent the client. “She jumped up and gave me a big hug. We

were so excited in the moment. She was crying. I cried, too. It’s absurd she had to wait this long but I’m happy she can finally have some peace.”

At 16 years, the case doesn’t qualify as the lengthiest one handled by the Immigration Clinic, but the number of delays was out of the ordinary.

“At the end of every academic year, students write transition memos to incoming students,” says Professor Niels Frenzen, co-director of the USC Immigration Clinic. “Yes, it is an extreme hassle that we’ve done 15 transition memos. It’s an outlier, but it is what it is. Things happen to cases and clients that we can’t predict.”

Frenzen, co-director Professor Jean Reisz (JD 2005) and the students were also faced with changes in administrations and laws that affected their approaches. The client initially applied for asylum as a survivor of domestic violence in El Salvador, recognized as a basis for asylum by one administration but not a successive one, and then with the Biden administration, it was again under certain circumstances recognized as a basis for asylum. In 2020, a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Niz-Chavez v. Garland* expanded eligibility for cancellation of removal, allowing the client to also pursue that form of relief.

That decision helped Duenas make a better case for the client to remain in the U.S. because she is caring for her mother, who lives with dementia. Duenas presented testimony from Dr. Laura Mosqueda, Keck School of Medicine of USC professor of family medicine and geriatrics and a widely respected expert on care for the elderly.



*2L Sophie Duenas called appearing in court intimidating, but “a phenomenal experience.”*

“The case turned on this expert witness who could talk about what would happen if the client was removed,” says Duenas. “It was a huge deal to find Dr. Mosqueda. We are a pro bono clinic so we rely on people to volunteer their time and knowledge.”

Pro bono teaching clinics like the USC Immigration Clinic are a lifeline for people without resources. Frenzen estimates the cost of securing a private attorney over 16 years at \$50,000. The client couldn’t even count on holding onto employment with numerous procedural delays and the last-minute nature of hearings.

“She’s a single mom trying to survive and support her kids and care for her mother,” says Reisz. “Not only did she have to wait a long time for relief, but to prepare her case and for

multiple court hearings, she had to take off time from work, and she would sometimes lose her job.”

As the attorney of record, the clinic will continue to represent the client throughout the green card process, and to help her renew her annual work permit.

Frenzen and Reisz designed the clinic to give students experience working with clients who have experienced many types of trauma. Learning to detach while coping with law school and personal lives can be overwhelming, but Frenzen and Reisz impress upon students the importance of keeping a good life balance — always a challenge for attorneys. Still, any good attorney deals with nerves when they’re representing a client, Frenzen says.

“Jean and I get stressed when we go to court because we know what’s at stake and we care,” says Frenzen. “We always say to students, ‘The day I go to court and I don’t have a knot in my stomach means I’m not invested.’”

Duenas says appearing in the courtroom was intimidating but “a phenomenal experience” and gave her the confidence that she can succeed as a lawyer. Still, the ultimate outcome was the greatest reward of all.

“(The client) is so hard working and has this beautiful family, and she took her mother in to care for her full time. She is the image of an amazing American citizen and person,” Duenas says. “There’s no one more deserving — except for every single other immigrant who lives here fearing deportation.” 🍷



# TAKING THE LEAD

The Post-Conviction Justice Project has made juvenile justice system reform a priority, bringing hope to thousands of persons sentenced to life without parole

By Julie Riggott

**T**he juvenile justice system was created to put youth who have violated the law on the track to becoming responsible citizens. It was designed to be rehabilitative, based on the understanding — which brain science has since proven — that children are different from adults. All of that changed in the 1990s.

“With the rise of gangs and violence, young people were increasingly committing very serious crimes, and society saw them as scary, irredeemable monsters,” says Heidi Rummel, co-director of the Post-Conviction Justice Project (PCJP) at the USC Gould School of Law. “Critics were quick to label them super predators and throw them away.”

Kids as young as 14 in California (and as young as 10 in some other states) were thrown into adult court and given an adult sentence, which was, in many cases, life without any real possibility of release on parole.

For the past 15 years, PCJP has focused its energies on changing a system that has harshly treated so many young people — and disproportionately young people of color — with results that will impact tens of thousands. Through litigation and, most broadly, through legislation, PCJP has led the way toward hope for incarcerated youth. Since 2008, PCJP has written or co-sponsored nearly every juvenile justice bill in California.

“I’ve got a hundred stories for you,” Rummel says. One of them is Deandre Moore.

## CHANGING A LIFE

A PCJP client since 2012, Moore is the latest incarcerated person, sentenced to life without parole, whose murder conviction is likely to be set aside, thanks to the efforts of PCJP co-directors Rummel and Michael Brennan and law students like Nina Rosser (JD 2021), who spent two years on Moore’s case.

Moore was sentenced to life without parole for his role in a carjacking that ended in murder when he was 16. Moore didn’t kill or intend to kill anyone. He also could not have imagined that the man he was with would end up shooting someone during the crime. He drove the getaway car. He was found guilty of felony murder and has already served 27 years.



*Nina Rosser (JD 2021), representing client Deandre Moore, won an appeal that created a new legal precedent that will apply to incarcerated youth throughout the state.*

Many factors have come into play in Moore's case. For one, the elements of California's felony murder special circumstance (particularly, "major participant" and "reckless indifference to life") were re-examined in two decisions in the California Supreme Court in the 2010s. For another, PCJP worked on a coalition to pass Senate Bill 1437, which requires the prosecution to prove that a defendant killed or intended to kill to be convicted of murder.

On Moore's behalf, PCJP filed a petition challenging Moore's murder conviction and advancing a novel argument that youth is relevant to culpability for a felony murder special circumstance, first in Superior Court and then in the Court of Appeals; both were denied. PCJP then filed with the California Supreme Court, who sent the case back to the Court of Appeals with instructions to consider whether youth (defined as 26 and younger by California's Youth Offender Laws, also co-sponsored by PCJP) must be considered. After oral argument, the Court of Appeals issued an opinion in their favor in less than two weeks.

"This is significant not only because Mr. Moore's murder conviction will almost certainly be vacated, but also because it applies to thousands of youth convicted of felony murder where their age was never considered," Brennan says.

When Rosser called Moore with the news, he was practically speechless. He told her all he wanted to do was see his family, including his wife, daughters and grandchildren.

Rosser says Moore's case was a tremendous learning experience. "I don't know where else I would have gotten this experience except PCJP. I'm incredibly grateful for the trust of Heidi and Mike, who gave me the autonomy to develop the case and arguments, and for the trust of the client. Being able to say I briefed a precedent-setting appeal in the California Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals, and argued it there, is incredible. I'm going into public defense, so it's been a big leg up."

**“With the rise of gangs and violence, young people were increasingly committing very serious crimes, and society saw them as scary, irredeemable monsters... We were quick to label them ‘super predators’ and throw them away.”**

— PROFESSOR HEIDI RUMMEL, CO-DIRECTOR,  
POST-CONVICTION JUSTICE PROJECT

### SHAPING POLICY

On the legislative side, PCJP has taken a leading role in reforming extreme sentences for youth, co-sponsoring and lobbying for laws in collaboration with other advocate organizations such as Human Rights Watch and the Anti-Recidivism Coalition. PCJP led in passing the first juvenile LWOP bill; and PCJP wrote and advocated for laws and regulations creating the Youth Offender Parole Process.

USC Gould students in Rummel's Legislative Policy Practicum are actively involved in juvenile justice reform as well, working side by side with people with lived experience in the system to write laws and meet with legislators at the Capitol.

The work is life-changing not only for clients but also for students.

"PCJP helped me reframe what winning and losing looks like," Rosser says. "If I can be an advocate for my clients and treat my clients with the dignity and humanity that they are owed as their birthright, then maybe that relationship is the win." ✍️



# A FAMILY'S SAGA

## USC International Human Rights Clinic works to obtain humanitarian parole for Afghans



By Diane Krieger

**W**hen the U.S.-backed Afghan government collapsed last summer, Abdul B. made a desperate call to Chris F. in Texas, a U.S. Army veteran Abdul had worked with on an opium eradication task force in Afghanistan targeting Taliban-backed poppy farms. Once the Americans left, Abdul fled to Pakistan with his wife and their four children to escape retribution.

Penniless and undocumented, they're in hiding, unable to leave the house unless absolutely necessary. Chris wired the family money and reached out to USC's International Human Rights Clinic for legal aid.

The best option for Abdul's family, according to IHRC acting director Henna Pithia (JD 2015) was to apply for humanitarian parole, which provides entry into the United States on humanitarian grounds for people who are otherwise inadmissible or ineligible. Often used in medical emergencies, it's a temporary option when normal visa processing is unavailable.

"You'll often see individuals with family members facing some sort of medical emergency use this avenue to get here quickly," says Pithia, who was an asylum officer with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) before transitioning into private immigration practice in Canada and Southern California. She is currently a USC Gould visiting clinical assistant professor filling in for IHRC Founding Director Hannah Garry who is abroad on a Fulbright research grant.

*\*Source: VOA News – <https://bit.ly/3N1YIBg>*

*\*\*Source: VOA News – <https://bit.ly/368Judn>*

With the Afghan government's collapse, applications for humanitarian parole suddenly spiked in 2021. In a typical year, around 2,000 humanitarian parole applications are filed with USCIS.\* Since August 2021, however, more than 40,000 have been filed by Afghan nationals alone.\*\*

"What's frustrating is that the method of accessing humanitarian parole has not been updated to reflect the current crisis for this particular community," says Pithia. After Afghan applicants started applying for humanitarian parole, more USCIS officers were assigned to adjudicate applications, but existing backlogs put current wait times past the expected 90-day window.

Additionally, the documentation requirements for humanitarian parole are "extremely tricky," Pithia says. Any change in Abdul's family's residence or income — which has happened several times — means the forms need to be revised. Other hurdles include finding a U.S.-based financial sponsor — in this case, Chris — and hefty \$575 per person humanitarian parole application fee — almost \$4,000 for Abdul's family of seven.

Much of the documentation has been handled by 2L Steph Argent, who logged 20-hour weeks in December to prepare the original case filings. She is now assisted by 2L Sophia Dominguez-Heithoff and IHRC intern Claire Fausett, a USC undergraduate majoring in international relations.

Despite a request for expedited review, as of March, the case remains in limbo. The clinic and its students continue to monitor the case, however there isn't much they can do currently, Argent notes. Early in March, Abdul's wife gave birth to their fifth child, requiring the IHRC team to quickly file another humanitarian parole application for the baby. 🇺🇸



# CUTTING THROUGH THE HAZE

## IPTLC student's paper sheds light on legal issues for entrepreneurs who use blockchain technology

By Greg Hardesty

In the rapidly evolving world of the decentralized web — where “blockchain” technology that stores information across a network of independently owned computers has spawned such cryptocurrencies as Bitcoin — regulation is as clear as a Los Angeles morning in June.

3L Camille Brown has penned a white paper, “Crypto Traffic Lights and Crosswalks: An Overview of Existing Decentralized Finance (DeFi) Regulations in the U.S.,” to cut through the haze.



While participating in the USC Intellectual Property & Technology Law Clinic, Brown drafted the 28-page report for Filecoin Foundation for the Decentralized Web, a nonprofit client of the clinic.

Completed last October, Brown's paper details legal issues related to corporate governance, securities regulation and financial compliance for entrepreneurs who use blockchain technology, a decentralized digital ledger system that eliminates much of the security risk associated with systems in which data is held centrally.

“A lot of people and financial organizations are getting involved in this space, and there's a distinct lack of clarity how

it's going to be regulated, what the laws look like now, and what they're going to look like,” said Jef Pearlman, clinical associate professor of law and the IPTLC director.

“It's certainly some of the most cutting-edge work to come out of the clinic, and I think the people working in this area are already finding it to be really valuable,” Pearlman added.

### PROVIDING CLARITY TO INNOVATORS

One of Pearlman's students when he was at Stanford University was Marta Belcher, now an attorney who founded the FFDW in 2020.

Pearlman connected Brown with Belcher as a mentor, and the clinic took on FFDW as a client [for Brown's work].

Brown not only produced the DeFi policy for the FFDW, but she's working part time as a program associate at the nonprofit, writing reports for its nearly all-female executive team — a rarity in the male-dominated blockchain space.

“Technology is moving very fast, particularly in the blockchain/cryptocurrency area, and Camille dove in with both feet and produced a very nice addition to the legal scholarship out there,” Belcher said. “She really helped provide clarity to innovators working in this space who find it difficult to know what the rules are.”

Knowing the rules reduces the liability risks for entrepreneurs who use blockchain technology, said Brown, a theater standout at Chaffey High School in Ontario who later got interested in how artists make a living in non-traditional mediums — particularly digital.

At Stanford, Brown wrote a thesis on how North African hip-hop artists in France utilized digital technology to circumvent restricting state regulations and find overseas audiences who would pay them for their art.

“Laws related to decentralized finance is a ripe area for research,” Brown said, “and people are confused about their rights when it comes to this new technology. It's nice to think my paper might help protect these creators by consolidating a lot of the research that's going on in this area.”



# CHEERFUL CAREER ADVICE

## Small Business Clinic gives healthy meals business peace of mind



2L Megan Ricker gained valuable experience helping client Mackenzie Burgess develop a client services agreement, giving Burgess peace of mind.

By Carren Jao

**W**hen food blogger-turned-registered dietitian Mackenzie Burgess started her business, Cheerful Choices, her goal was to help people eat better with simple recipes using customizable ingredients of their choice. Her clients ranged from busy moms looking for easy, nutritious, family-friendly recipes to young professionals attending meetings all day with little time to fit in a healthy meal.

Burgess' education prepared her for serving her clients' needs, but left much to be desired when it came to the day-to-day demands of entrepreneurship.

"[School] didn't really teach us a ton about running our own business, so I was often just trying things out and seeing what happens," says Burgess. At the time, she was working with a contract that left her feeling

"insecure and not legally protected," but was daunted by the process of developing something better. "It was hard to think of putting thousands of dollars down on [creating] a sound contract," she says.

At a friend's recommendation, Burgess applied to and was accepted as a client by USC Gould School of Law's Small Business Clinic, which has helped more than 2,500 business owners since its launch in 2007. The clinic was exactly what she needed to step up as a business person.

"It was a win-win. It was completely free for me and it also [gives] law students practical experience," says Burgess, who became a client of 2L Megan Ricker.

Ricker helped shape Cheerful Choice's Client Services Agreement, detailing the business' services as well as defining any limitations its business relationship faced.

Burgess' contract now outlines such things as cancellation protocols and clarifies that without proper state licensure Burgess is unable to provide detailed medical nutrition therapy services that patients suffering from diabetes or kidney disease would require. "I learned so much about contracts and language that won't leave you boxed in," says Burgess, adding, "Megan was super professional and timely. The whole process was done in few months."

Ricker got a lot from the experience, too, noting that working with SBC helped her refine her plans for the future. "I loved working with Mackenzie," says Ricker. "It was great to connect with someone who was navigating a new career. I really felt I was giving her tools for success in her business. That was really empowering."

Ricker has since taken on about 15 small business clients under the guidance of SBC founder Professor Michael Chasalow, who praised Ricker's work. "Megan is a hard worker, extremely bright and always goes the extra mile for her clients. In addition, Megan has great instincts that enable her to work effectively with a broad range of client personalities and needs," says Chasalow. 🍷



# INSPIRATION VIA MEDIATION

## Family Law Mediation Clinic students learn by doing during pandemic

By Carren Jao

**W**hen 3L Jonathan D. Prucher signed up for the Family Law Mediation Clinic, he expected the work would be helping people fill out forms, but wound up being part of a pandemic-fueled virtual update of the program.

“I didn’t really understand how much they’re developing mediation and alternative dispute resolution,” he says. “It was so much more robust than what I thought it would be.”

Established in 2016, the clinic, led by Professor Lisa Klerman, director, gives law students experience helping parents mediate customized parenting plans. They do this under the supervision of Southern California Family Mediation (SCFM), an organization boasting an impressive 94% in-person agreement rate between co-parents. Funded through private donations, SCFM was founded by Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner Marilyn Mordetzky after budget cuts in 2014 closed 48 courthouses and eliminated the mediation program at the Edmund D. Edelman Children’s Court. The partnership with USC Gould followed two years later, providing 2L and 3L students experience in co-mediating with SCFM’s volunteer mediators.

SCFM helps divorcing parents agree on a parenting plan detailing how they will share custody of their children, from holiday schedules to handoff protocols. The process is potentially fraught, and March 2020 proved especially challenging because of a sudden closure of the courts due to COVID-19.

“I didn’t expect it to be two years,” says Randy Drew, SCFM co-founder, of the pandemic-related challenges. Mordetzky, fearing a prolonged public health crisis and worried about a case logjam at the children’s court, sounded a call to action. Drew quickly gathered the USC Gould students and SCFM mediators, signed up for Zoom accounts and cobbled together an online version of their lauded mediation program. A mediation process that required a single administrator now took five people and 18 steps, and the program strove to keep the new wrinkles from adversely affecting parents.

“Keep in mind, these are the most underserved and underfunded families in the county. They sometimes need extra handholding,” says Drew. “They need to be informed and they need to understand what’s happening.” SCFM and USC Gould’s students adapted to the needs of the moment, serving more than 600 families on a virtual basis. SCFM now features a self-service booking system hosted on their website, a better developed online dispute resolution process, hard-earned lessons to draw from and a continuous pipeline of inspired students like Prucher. “I can’t really express how important this experience is to someone who’s going to be a lawyer. Law is not always about faceless transactions, rich rewards, damages and repair. This is a chance for us to be of service to people when they need it the most,” he says.

Prucher says the online mediation process can work to the advantage of parents, who find the new virtual mediation appointments more convenient to attend and are more open to dialogue when they are in comfortable environments like their homes. Drew agrees: “We will always keep an online component for sure.” 

## 2022 HALE MOOT COURT SHOWCASES STUDENTS' TALENT, SKILLS

On March 4, the Hale Moot Court Honors Program returned to in-person competition, with Lili Italiane named 2021-2022 Oral Advocate Champion. Other participants included 2021-2022 runner-up Danielle Richardson and finalists Daniel Donohue and MacKenzie Tobin.

This year, the competition covered two topics: whether criminal defendants are entitled to exculpatory evidence prior to pleading guilty; and sentencing concerns including whether judges are allowed to consider a defendant's need for rehabilitation when deciding their sentences, and whether the defendant's sentence should be for abducting a bank employee during a robbery.

The presiding judges were Hon. David F. Hamilton, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit; Hon. Jacqueline N. Nguyen, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit; and Hon. Richard A. Paez, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Tobin was also recognized, along with Joseph Abell, James Robertson and Elle Infante, with the Anthony & Susan Taylor Written Advocacy Award for their top-notch briefs. Best brief runner-ups were Colleen Busby and Danielle Richardson. The Outstanding Participant Award was given to Carli Zimelman and Outstanding Board Member Award went to Samantha Dyar. 🏆



From left, oral advocate champion Lili Italiane, finalist MacKenzie Tobin, runner-up Danielle Richardson and finalist Daniel Donohue.



From left, Hon. Richard A. Paez, Hon. Jacqueline N. Nguyen, Dean Andrew Guzman and Hon. David F. Hamilton.



Lili Italiane, oral advocate champion, in action.



The judges mull their decisions.



*“The great joy for me is watching the students grow. They come in not knowing how to make a legal argument or what the difference between a case and a statute is, and in the course of a semester you see them become fledgling lawyers. You see their confidence grow, and you see them develop their skills. It’s exhilarating.”*

—DEAN EMERITUS AND PROFESSOR EMERITUS SCOTT BICE (JD 1968)

## JOIN THE USC GOULD HERITAGE SOCIETY

Each graduate of USC Gould School of Law has their own story. What the members of **The USC Gould School of Law Heritage Society** share is appreciation for their experiences at Gould, relationships they formed there, and their desire to give back to future generations through philanthropy. **To read some of their stories, please go to <https://uscgould.giftplans.org>.**

To join the growing members of the Heritage Society, please contact the USC Gould Development and Alumni Relations Office to discuss how estate planning can support your family’s financial goals while leaving a legacy that benefits future students. Call (213) 821-3560 or email Margaret Kean, Assistant Dean of Development at [mkean@law.usc.edu](mailto:mkean@law.usc.edu).

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## calendar

### **USC GOULD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 50TH REUNION (CLASS OF 1970, 1971, 1972)**

*California Club*  
August 6, 2022

### **ROTH LECTURE FEATURING JUDGE ROBERT WILKINS**

*USC University Park Campus*  
September 9, 2022

### **USC GOULD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REUNION (CLASS OF 1975, 1976, 1977, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2017)**

*USC Town and Gown*  
Saturday, September 24, 2022

### **USC TROJAN FAMILY WEEKEND**

***Gould Presentation featuring Dean Andrew Guzman***

*USC University Park Campus*  
Thursday, October 6, 2022

### **USC TROJAN FAMILY WEEKEND**

***Gould Presentation featuring Associate  
Dean David Kirschner***

*USC University Park Campus*  
Friday, October 7, 2022

### **CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION**

#### **USC GOULD SCHOOL OF LAW — BEVERLY HILLS BAR ASSOCIATION**

2022 Institute on Entertainment Law and Business  
*USC University Park Campus*  
October 22, 2022

#### **USC GOULD SCHOOL OF LAW 48TH ANNUAL TRUST AND ESTATE CONFERENCE**

*Westin Bonaventure Hotel*  
November 9, 2022

#### **USC GOULD SCHOOL OF LAW — LACBA BUSINESS LAW SECTION**

2022 Institute for Corporate Counsel  
*California Club*  
November 30, 2022

#### **USC GOULD SCHOOL OF LAW 2023 TAX INSTITUTE**

*Millennium Biltmore Hotel*  
January 23-25, 2023

***For details about these events and others,  
please visit: [gould.usc.edu/events](https://gould.usc.edu/events).***