Berkeley Law | Center for Law and Business

#1 2023 BEST BUSINESS LAW PROGRAMS
by U.S. News and World Report
The Berkeley Center for Law and Business is proud to welcome new leadership in 2023. Angeli Patel will become the new executive director and Stavros Gadinis will become the faculty director of the center.

Angeli Patel is an alumni of Berkeley Law and joins us from the Sustainability & ESG practice at Paul, Weiss and currently co-teaches the Business in Society course at Berkeley Law. Prior to her legal career, Angeli served at the White House Office of Management and Budget under the Obama Administration and served as a policy advisor at the Ministry of Finance in the Government of Chile.

Stavros Gadinis joined the Berkeley Law faculty in 2010. His research examines questions in corporate law and financial regulation, both domestic and international. Professor Gadinis is particularly interested in the interplay between companies and regulators, exploring the institutional framework for law enforcement, compliance, and risk management. In the last few years, he has focused on sustainability and social issues as an attempt to expand the scope of corporate governance.

I’ll remain at Berkeley Law as Assistant Dean of Executive Education and Revenue Generation where I’ll continue to support and collaborate with the Berkeley Center for Law and Business.

We also launched two new initiatives in 2022, our Symposium on Art, Finance, and Law at SFMOMA and the Independent Director Initiative. Read on for additional details!

Adam Sterling
Assistant Dean, Berkeley Law

“The Berkeley Center for Law and Business provides a center of gravity for students, faculty, entrepreneurs, investors, and organizations on issues of law and business throughout the world.”

Erwin Chemerinsky, Dean, Berkeley Law
In April, the Berkeley Center for Law and Business hosted its eighth annual Spring Forum on M&A and the Boardroom and in November, the center hosted its seventh annual Fall Forum on Corporate Governance.

Over two thousand attendees participated, virtually and in-person, at the two events.

**PRESENTERS INCLUDED:**

- Delaware Court of Chancery Chancellor Kathaleen McCormick and Vice Chancellors Lori Will and Sam Glasscock.
- SEC Commissioners Allison Lee and Jaime Lazzarga.
- A live taping of the Odd Lots Podcast, featuring Tracy Alloway and Joe Weisenthal of Bloomberg.
- Peter Harrell, Special Assistant to the President of the United States and Senior Director for International Economics and Competitiveness, National Security Council.
- Legendary Investor Jim Chanos on the state of the markets.
- American Airlines Chairman Doug Parker on the future of corporate governance.

The forums were presented with Cooley and Freshfields as Presenting Sponsors. Platinum Sponsors included Davis Polk and Paul, Weiss. Sponsors included Debevoise & Plimpton; FTI Consulting; Gibson Dunn; Gladstone Place Partners; Joele Frank; MacKenzie Partners; Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell; PJT Camberview; Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd; Sullivan & Cromwell; and Wilson Sonsini. Contributing Organizations included Abernathy MacGregor; Fenwick; Latham & Watkins; Potter Anderson & Corroon; Reevemark; SRS Acquiom; Young Conaway; and Weil.
QUICK FACTS

ACADEMICS

25+ core business law faculty members

15+ core business law
45+ elective business law

60+ Berkeley Center for Law and Business faculty members and leading practitioners teaching business law courses

PROGRAMMING

BERKELEY BOOSTS
Our free webinar series covered cutting-edge topics, such as the FTX Crypto Saga, Elon Musk and Twitter, and Fundamentals of Blockchain.

EXECUTIVE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
A quarterly dinner series that brings together a select group of prominent Bay Area general counsel and senior legal officers to discuss topics at the forefront of business and law.

SYMPOSIUM ON FINANCIAL FRAUD
Our annual “Fraud Fest” program brought together thought leaders from the worlds of academia, finance, journalism, law, and more for an intimate discussion of the critical issues, technologies, and policies driving financial fraud around the world.

SYMPOSIUM ON ART, FINANCE, AND LAW
This new symposium explored the latest developments around topics including securitization, fraud, and blockchain. The audience included art professionals, finance executives, artists, investors, tech and entertainment companies, policymakers, lawyers, and scholars from around the world.

“It isn’t just Berkeley Law students that are benefiting from the work of the Berkeley Center for Law and Business, but the entire corporate community in the Bay Area and beyond who have attended the center’s world-class and cutting-edge industry programs.”

ALLISON BENNINGTON, Executive Board Member, Berkeley Center for Law and Business, and Partner, PJT Partners
Business in Society Institute
A Socially Impactful Business Law Program

Investors, regulators, employees, and the public are increasingly asking companies to manage their environmental and social impact. The global pandemic, racial injustice, rising income inequality, and climate change are heightening the demands for capitalism to take account of its stakeholders. As an institute within the Berkeley Center for Law and Business, the Business in Society Institute (BISI) is leading the way in defining and advancing a legal and policy agenda that encourages companies to account for stakeholders and the environment.

Student Opportunities

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES BISI has tackled controversial and original research projects and case studies on emerging ESG topics.


PLACEMENTS BISI works with leading corporations and NGOs to place students in ESG-focused field placements and internships.

Research Highlights

BISI is actively engaged in research projects and case studies on emerging sustainability and ESG topics. Current projects include a series of academic articles on corporate purpose, corporate governance and gender and racial diversity, and stakeholder governance as a vehicle for mitigating risk.

Programming Highlights

THE ESG BEAT A podcast series featuring today’s thought leaders in sustainable capitalism & ESG.

SUSTAINABLE CAPITALISM & ESG ONLINE An executive education course designed for practitioners.

ESG: NAVIGATING THE BOARD’S ROLE An online course designed for corporate board members, offered in partnership with Ceres—a leading sustainability NGO.

ENACTING PURPOSE INITIATIVE A partnership with Oxford Said School of Business to develop a framework for corporate board members on how to embed corporate purpose.

Executive Education
Advancing Careers and Strengthening Organizations

Our executive education platform connects legal practitioners, investors, executives, and nonprofit leaders to world-class in-person and online certificate programs.

Popular Programs

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE INSTITUTE A multi-day program covering the technical, business, and legal aspects of artificial intelligence.

NEW COMMERCIAL CONTRACT FUNDAMENTALS Surveys the basics of commercial contract review, drafting, and negotiation.

CORPORATE FINANCE FUNDAMENTALS Teaches participants how to apply financial information analysis and corporate valuation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMER COURSES A selection of courses taught by Berkeley Law faculty in the areas of business law, technology, and international and comparative law, among others.

GENERAL COUNSEL INSTITUTE Designed for mid-career in-house attorneys who want to gain insight into the skills, techniques, and disciplines of the general counsel role.

NEW INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR INITIATIVE New program designed to train, and help place, individuals from backgrounds underrepresented in venture capital, to serve as independent directors on the boards of venture backed private companies.

LEADERSHIP IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION A virtual business school style course for attorneys who want to advance their leadership, people, and project management skills.

SUSTAINABLE CAPITALISM & ESG ONLINE Explores how to incorporate environmental, social, and governance considerations into business strategy through a combination of focused lectures and case studies, curated readings, and in-depth interviews with over 50 thought leaders.

VC UNIVERSITY Practical training on venture finance for entrepreneurs, investors, attorneys, and anyone else interested in early-stage investing.

“Sustainable Capitalism and ESG Online is a masterful top-to-bottom review of ESG, ranging from the underlying theory and history to the latest in reporting frameworks and board governance. Given its breadth, it provides a solid introduction for newcomers, but also offers enough depth for ESG experts.”

Nicole Diaz, Global Head of Integrity & Compliance Legal, Snap Inc.
As an institute of the Berkeley Center for Law and Business, Startup@BerkeleyLaw serves law students, entrepreneurs, and investors by delivering educational programs and services on critical issues faced by early-stage companies.

“The Startup@BerkeleyLaw’s FORM+FUND Series is a must take, particularly for first time founders like me. Without FORM+FUND, we would sacrifice development time on figuring out legal matters on our own. It significantly accelerates our startup process.”

Weijia Huang, Pengram (Y Combinator Winter 2019 Batch)

BERKELEY RISING 1400+ entrepreneurs and 1200+ funded startups have come out of Berkeley and/or been started by Berkeley alums since 2006 (according to Pitchbook Universities Report 2022)

LAW STUDENTS In 2022, Startup@BerkeleyLaw offered Berkeley Law students a variety of unique courses specifically focused on venture capital finance and entrepreneurship. To obtain practical experience, Berkeley Law students were invited to participate in our Startup Law Initiative—pairing law students with attorneys to incorporate and support new businesses.

FORM + FUND Now in its sixth year, FORM+FUND is Berkeley Law’s workshop series for Berkeley-affiliated entrepreneurs and has supported over 700 founders since its inception. FORM+FUND teaches the core legal, financial, and organizational aspects of starting and scaling a venture-backed business.

VC UNIVERSITY In partnership with the National Venture Capital Association and Venture Forward, Startup@BerkeleyLaw hosts VC University—an online executive education program—with supporting live events in emerging venture ecosystems. The goal of VC University is to democratize access to venture capital and since its inception, the program has supported over 1,500 founders and has awarded over 400 scholarships to participants from historically underrepresented groups.

The Women in Business Law Initiative (WiBL) at the Berkeley Center For Law and Business is designed to address the many challenges to achieving gender equity in law and business. Since its inception in 2016, the WiBL has offered best-in-class career development, mentorship, and networking programs to help students and professionals excel both in their lives and their careers. Beyond mentorship, the Women in Business Law Initiative provides a platform for legal scholars and practitioners to engage in fruitful discussions regarding the challenges to and furtherance of diversity and inclusion in the legal field.

“Startup@BerkeleyLaw’s FORM+FUND Series is a must take, particularly for first time founders like me. Without FORM+FUND, we would sacrifice development time on figuring out legal matters on our own. It significantly accelerates our startup process.”

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“IT has been such a pleasure to get to know these impressive young women as they take steps towards meaningful and fulfilling legal careers. Being able to connect with my mentee and help her navigate that journey has been a privilege. The WiBL mentorship program does a fantastic job at facilitating these relationships and putting their students in a position to thrive.”

Paige von Mehren, attorney at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM In collaboration with Berkeley Law student-led organizations, the mentorship program provides students with the opportunity to connect with practicing attorneys across industries and specialties. By matching law students with professionals, WiBL aims to not only allow students to obtain advice and career guidance from associates, but also to build a network of practitioners invested in the improvement of diversity and inclusion in law.

PROGRAMMING This year, the Women in Business Law Initiative Mentorship Program hosted multiple student-attorney mixers and a two-part career coaching program to help students build their professional skills and networks. The Mentorship Program also conducted a talk with the State Bar of California to discuss the latest report on DEI in the legal field. Beyond mentorship, this year the Women in Business Law Initiative facilitated discussions regarding gender diversity in Business Law.

INFLUENCING INDUSTRY In furtherance of its mission to improve gender equity and diversity in the workforce, the Women in Business Law Initiative invites scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to engage in discussions regarding the current state of inclusion in the legal world and beyond. This year, WiBL invited Leah Wilson, Executive Director of the State Bar of California, to discuss the future of gender equity in leadership. Additionally, the Women in Business Law Initiative released a research compendium describing an overview of gender diversity in Business Law.
The Berkeley Center for Law and Business supports a growing and world-leading business law faculty with wide-ranging expertise. Below is a sampling of recently published and forthcoming scholarship.

**Adam Badawi** – business law, shareholder litigation, and debt finance

**Jonah Gelbach** – law and economics, civil procedure, evidence, securities litigation

**Kenneth Bamberger** – administrative law, regulation of technology, and corporate compliance

**Kenneth Ayotte** – bankruptcy law, corporate finance, and law and economics

**Stavros Gadianis** – financial regulation, antitrust and competition policy, law and development, and distributive justice

**Robert Bartlett** – finance and business law, venture capital, and private equity transactions

**Frank Partnoy** – law and finance, business associations, financial fraud, and securities litigation

**Robert Bartsch** – law and macro interdisciplinary capital markets research

**Abhaya Anjula** – intellectual property law and economics

**Prasad Krishnamurthy** – financial regulation, antitrust and competition policy, law and development, and distributive justice

**Aarón Edlin** – antitrust, business law, finance and intellectual property – law and finance, corporate law and finance, venture finance, impact investing, FinTech, and corruption

**Adair Morse** – consumer finance, venture finance, impact investing, FinTech, and corruption

**Mark Brilliant** – antitrust, federalism, regulation, and social change and globalization, environmental regulation

**Molly Van Houweling** – intellectual property law and open licensing

**Nancy Wallace** – mortgage contracting, pricing, securitization, and market structures, underwriting energy efficiency in commercial mortgages, and the valuation of executive stock options

**Victoria Plaut** – law and psychology and inclusion and diversity in tech

**Molly Van Houweling** – intellectual property law and open licensing

**Panos N. Patatoukas** – micro and macro interdisciplinary capital markets research

**Daniel Rubinfeld** – antitrust, public economics, state and local finance, economics of litigation, and applied econometrics

**Rachel Stern** – antitrust, legal innovation and social change and globalization, environmental regulation

**Katerina Linos** – law and international law

**Manisha Padi** – law and economics and consumer financial contracts

**Joseph Goldstein** – law and economics, civil procedure, evidence, securities litigation

**Nancy Wallace** – mortgage contracting, pricing, securitization, and market structures, underwriting energy efficiency in commercial mortgages, and the valuation of executive stock options

**Ken Bamberger** – law and macro economic, corporate and bankruptcy

**Katie Kuhar** – law and international law and finance, corporate law and finance, venture finance, impact investing, FinTech, and corruption

**Robert Cooter** – civil procedure

**Lina Khan** – antitrust, business law, finance and intellectual property – law and finance, corporate law and finance, venture finance, impact investing, FinTech, and corruption

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**ABBBY ATKINSON** – Economics

RECENT PUBLICATION: Democracy & Distrust in an Era of Artificial Intelligence

**Sonia Katyal** – intellectual property, advertising, and technology

**Prasad Krishnamurthy** – financial regulation, antitrust and competition policy, law and development, and distributive justice

**Anjulaire** – business law, shareholder litigation, and debt finance

**Flash** – How Instructive is the Text of Securities Compliance? Journal of Law, Economics & Organization (forthcoming)

**Kenneth Bamberger** – administrative law, regulation of technology, and corporate compliance

**Molly Van Houweling** – intellectual property law and open licensing

**Mica Varnado** – law and economics and consumer financial contracts

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The Berkeley Center for Law and Business convenes programs and supports research in law and business. We connect scholars, practitioners, and students to address challenges related to capital markets, corporate innovation, and sustainability. In the process, we train the next generation of leaders for the global economy. We aim to be the leading venue for conversations about corporate governance, equity and inclusion, financial fraud, mergers and acquisitions, venture capital, and other important policy issues, consistent with the University of California, Berkeley’s role as the world’s leading public university. If there is a debate about law and business, we want to lead the discussion.

BUSINESS IS AT A CROSSROADS. BERKELEY LAW IS PROVIDING DIRECTION.