# The Highest Stakes

How our Death
Penalty Clinic has
made a transformative
difference in the
lives of clients — and
students — for more
than 20 years.

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# Berkeley Law

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### Update Your Address

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### From the Dean



"It would be unthinkable for a medical school to not have its students see patients. Likewise, law schools must enable students to serve clients under faculty supervision."

# Doing Right By Our Students

I often am asked about my top priorities as dean of Berkeley Law. Two

of them are reflected in this Transcript issue: hiring and retaining outstanding faculty, and enhancing our program of clinical education.

Ultimately, the quality of any educational institution is largely a reflection of its faculty. I am enormously proud of the fact that since 2017, we have hired over two dozen terrific professors. These faculty additions teach and write about every area of law. Each turned down other offers to join us. They bring energy, ideas, and expertise. They are great scholars and great teachers.

Our strategy emphasizes the importance of hiring faculty at all stages of experience. Some professors who joined us were tenured at other law schools and the leading stars in their fields. But we also stress hiring those starting their teaching careers. Berkeley Law has a history of hiring excellent new educators and of wonderful success in helping them become superb teachers and scholars.

I hope you enjoy reading about this large group of "junior" faculty. By every measure, they are outstanding and truly are the future of Berkeley Law.

Another feature in this Transcript issue focuses on our Death Penalty Clinic, which was founded in 2001 and recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. Under the terrific guidance of Professors Elisabeth Semel and Ty Alper and Supervising Attorney Mridula Raman, the Death Penalty Clinic helps students develop legal skills and serve clients facing capital punishment. Over the past two-plus decades, clinic faculty and students have advocated on behalf of death-sentenced clients in 10 states. Students gain a strong social justice orientation and the skills necessary to provide vigorous, professional, and high-level representation to their clients.

The Death Penalty Clinic is one of many clinical opportunities for our students. I have long believed in the importance of clinical education. It would be unthinkable for a medical school to not have its students see patients. Likewise, law schools must enable students to serve clients under faculty supervision.

As dean, I am pleased that we have moved our clinical faculty into tenured or tenure-track positions, provided a model for long-term financial stability for the clinics, and created endowed chairs for several of our clinical faculty. I want to expand our clinical program and, with a commitment from the main campus, we're in the midst of hiring five additional clinical faculty members over the next five years. The Death Penalty Clinic is a model for outstanding clinical education.

I hope you enjoy these and other articles in this *Transcript* issue. It is a really good time for Berkeley Law and I feel tremendously fortunate to be part of it.

Warmly,



**Erwin Chemerinsky** 

Dean, Jesse H. Choper Distinguished Professor of Law



Leadership, Reloaded

### Two of our renowned research and policy centers

recently welcomed new leaders with big shoes to fill and ambitious plans to match.

Berkeley Center for Law and Business (BCLB) Executive Director Angeli Patel '20 is a familiar face: As a student and since graduation, she's worked closely with the center, particularly in the growing sphere of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) guidance for corporations.

At the Human Rights Center (HRC), Betsy Popken joins longtime leader Alexa Koenig '13 as co-executive director. Popken previously co-founded and co-led Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe's business and human rights practice, and also helped launch its ESG practice.

Patel, who worked in the Office of Management and Budget during the Obama administration before law school, sees BCLB as a strong platform to tackle some of society's most pressing issues.

"I'm driven to figure out how to realign incentives of our economy that lead to positive outcomes," she says. "BCLB is well-positioned to bring together powerful,

NEW PATH: Angeli Patel '20 (left) and Betsy Popken recently became the executive directors of our Berkeley Center for Law and Business and our Human Rights Center, respectively.

influential people to talk about how to do that."

Patel replaces Adam Sterling '13, now assistant dean for executive education and revenue generation, who took over BCLB in 2015 and greatly expanded its programming.

"Thanks to her incredible background — as a White House administrator, ESG attorney, and instructor at Berkeley Law — Angeli is the perfect leader to take our program, and business law, into the future," Sterling says.

Popken has worked on United Nations-mediated peace and ceasefire negotiations in Sudan, Syria, and Yemen through the Public International Law & Policy Group, and led that organization's Istanbul office. She's also taught negotiations at Stanford Law School and worked for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Pacific Council on International Policy.

"HRC's leadership and expertise in human rights and technology excites me," says Popken, a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations. "We have such a knowledgeable and passionate team that I'm inspired to

Koenig, who will become co-faculty director with Eric Stover, says they're thrilled with Popken's hire.

"Betsy's breadth of experience and diverse perspectives on human rights is truly stunning, ranging from frontline to government to legal practice," Koenig says. "She's an ideal person to lead our multidisciplinary team into its next decade." — Gwyneth K. Shaw

# **Students Notch Precedent-Setting Victory** in Immigration Case

### Just a few weeks before graduating, Nicole Conrad

'22 and Joya Manjur'22 stepped before a panel of U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals judges to argue against the U.S. Department of Justice. The asylum petition of El Salvadoran Oscar Gonzalez-Castillo hung in the balance.

In Berkeley Law's Ninth Circuit Practicum, students craft and argue cases under attorney supervision — in this instance, from Amalia Wille '13 and Judah Lakin '15. Months later, the panel issued an opinion that closely followed their arguments and broke new ground, expanding the circuit's ability to grant asylum for many others who were previously barred.

"We had spent a year thinking and writing about how our client deserved justice," Conrad says. "It was gratifying to see that come to fruition."

Gonzalez-Castillo left El Salvador in 2014 for the U.S. after police accused him of being part of an infamous gang. In 2020, after the U.S. government moved to deport him, he applied for asylum and relief under the Convention Against Torture.

At his hearing, the government introduced a "Red Notice" alleging his gang involvement during a 2015 incident. The immigration judge denied Gonzalez-Castillo all requested relief, citing the Red Notice as evidence of a serious crime.

Among the notice's many flaws that the students highlighted in court: Gonzalez-Castillo was in the U.S. when the incident happened. Manjur notes that the notices, used increasingly by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in asylum cases, are abused by corrupt governments.

"Having the chance to clarify what Red Notices actually are and help develop the law around them in the Ninth Circuit was really exciting," she says.

Gonzalez-Castillo's case was returned to the Board of Immigration Appeals for further review. Hoping to expedite his removal from detention, Conrad and Manjur are pushing to use the Ninth Circuit's decision to support a request for Interpol to rescind his Red Notice. — Gwyneth K. Shaw



PERSUASION POWER:



# **Public Interest Booster**

#### New improvements to Berkeley

Law's already strong Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) provided welcome but hardly surprising news to Atteeyah Hollie '10.

"Berkeley not only talks the talk

of wanting students to be social transformers, it walks the walk by ensuring they can dedicate their lives to it," says Hollie, deputy director of the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta. "I'm a prime example."

The program's income cap rose from \$100,000 to \$120,000, enabling more public interest graduates to obtain this support. Also, the out-of-pocket contribution decreased from 35% of a partici-

pant's income over \$80,000 to 25% — meaning grads will receive more funding and spend less of their own money on student loan expenses.

"Over the past few years, we've made a number of improvements to this program," Dean Erwin Chemerinsky says. "This is our most impactful policy change yet."

Anyone in law-related, public interest employment can qualify, participants are able to enter and exit the program at will, and the



REASON TO SMILE: Atteevah Hollie '10 says Berkeley Law's latest LRAP improvements are right on brand.

this semester with a whopping 18 new courses. Three tackle hot-button topics within the school's top-ranked business law program.

Sustainable Corporate Governance Colloquium, taught by Professor Stavros Gadinis, right: Confronts the sustainability and ESG (environmental, social, and governance) issues sweeping the corporate world amid new practice groups, regulations, and international considerations. Top scholars present their work and surface varying viewpoints. Students study the tools needed to meet sustainability benchmarks, and how those tools can achieve transparency, accountability, and standard-setting while helping companies improve communication.

FinTech Innovation and Financial Inclusion, taught by Upgrade Deputy General Counsel Tuong-Vi Faber: Explores how FinTech — which uses technologies to reshape how financial products and services are structured and consumed — disrupts the traditional financial sector and provides new opportunities and challenges for financial inclusion. With nearly 40% of U.S. households unable to cover basic expenses for three months if they absorbed an income shock, the course addresses current sector limitations, the U.S. regulatory environment, and innovation areas.

Communication Skills for Business Lawyers, taught by Amazon Studios Senior Business Affairs Executive Paul Marchegiani '03: Enhances oral communication skills needed for business lawyers to effectively connect with clients, close deals, and speak in public. Through group exercises and games, performance theory discussions, and individual assignments, students tap into their unique voice to engage others and better represent clients.

"Berkeley Law remains a national leader in business law not only because of the pathbreaking scholarship of our professors, but also their innovations in the classroom," says Professor Andrew Bradt, associate dean of J.D. curriculum and teaching. — *Andrew Cohen* 



# Other courses being taught at Berkeley Law for the first time this semester:

- Angel Island Legal Histories of Imprisonment
- Anti-Discrimination Policies in Insurance Law
- Asylum Law Seminar and Practicum
- Designing Government Services
- Human Rights Practice Workshop
- Introduction to Supreme Court for 1Ls
- Litigating Class Actions
- Pathways to Carbon Neutrality
- Preparing to Practice Patent Law
- Special Topics in Education Policy: Race, Gender, and Sexuality
- Strategy: Theory, Law and Policy
- The Killing of Jamal Khashoggi and the Search for Justice
- The Legacy of Ruth Bader Ginsburg
- Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Case
- Women's Leadership in the Law

school maximizes support by not considering assets, allowing for dependent deductions, and protecting a portion of side job income.

Director of Public Interest
Financial Support Amanda Prasuhn
calls Berkeley Law's LRAP "assuredly
the best of any public law school"
with "one of the lowest out-ofpocket contribution formulas of any
institution."

The improvements reflect a farreaching commitment to help serve students and the public interest (see infographic).

"LRAP literally paid for my law school and undergraduate loans for 10-plus years," Hollie says. "And now that they've been completely forgiven, I have many more years fighting for transformations in our criminal legal system to look forward to. Without LRAP, I'm not sure I could have lasted this long doing the work I love."

— Andrew Cohen

\$120K

Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) income cap, up from \$100k last year

25%

New level for LRAP out-of-pocket contribution of participants' income over \$80,000, down from 35% 10

New Public Interest Scholar students receiving three years of full California resident tuition and fees, up from 5 last year

310

Students received fellowships to work in public interest positions last summer



# A Partnership Pursuing Responsible AI

### Artificial intelligence — using machines to mimic

outputs of the human mind — is part of our everyday lives. Alexa and Siri help us with tasks and anticipate our choices; chat bots assist with everything from customer service to health care.

This burgeoning technology, however, has hype and fear competing for the dominant public narrative. As Al spreads, two University of California powerhouses are teaming up to examine how to promote responsible innovation: Our Berkeley Center for Law & Technology (BCLT) and the Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society and the Banatao Institute's CITRIS Policy Lab, which draws expertise from several UC campuses.

The Artificial Intelligence, Platforms, and Society

Project, co-led by CITRIS Policy Lab Director and Goldman School of Public Policy Associate Research Professor Brandie Nonnecke and Berkeley Law Professor Tejas N. Narechania, also works closely with various researchers from Berkeley's information and engineering schools. A timely forum for students, academics, practitioners, and tech companies that supports research, training, and a fellowship program, the project focuses on general AI governance, usage, and how new tools can ethically address pressing problems

"We cannot, as a nation, control any AI technology from being developed. We just can't," says BCLT Executive Director Wayne Stacy. "So it really comes down to regulations, implementation, and the ability to follow those regulations."

Complementing and broadening the reach of BCLT's Asia IP & Technology Law Project and its Life Sciences Project, this new initiative will also feed the center's fastgrowing online B-CLE platform for Continuing Legal Education credits.

How should we regulate speech on platforms with significant market power, address discrimination by machine-learning-based algorithms, and balance the individual privacy interests in information against the collective benefits gained from aggregated data?

"It's really important that we get a handle on the governance questions ahead of time, and start to think about how we're going to answer them," Narechania says. — Gwyneth K. Shaw

## Untangling the Web

#### Dean Erwin Chemerinsky is

co-leading a major UC Berkeley initiative to combat online harms. "Our Better Web" examines the prevalence of content promoting deception, discrimination, and child exploitation, and assesses laws pertaining to internet material and online platforms' content moderation strategies.

Chemerinsky heads the project with former U.S. Secretary for Homeland Security Janet Napolitano (who now directs UC

Berkeley's Center for Security in Politics), Graduate School of Journalism Dean Geeta Anand, and three leading campus authorities in data science, digital forensics, and information technology. Some key features of the initiative:

- Enlists top experts in various internet-related disciplines
- Aims to help influence policymaking and legislation to protect children online, boost privacy protections, stop the spread of illegal content, and mitigate online hate that has fueled violence based on race, gender, and sexual orientation
- First project focused on Section 230 of the 1996

- Communications Decency Act, which largely protects online platforms from liabilities associated with user-generated content (published a report on the law's effects, suggested various reforms, and created a public database of all Section 230-related federal legislation)
- Probing how best to neutralize deepfakes, which use artificial intelligence to create seemingly real but deeply deceptive videos of public figures and others
- Launching multidisciplinary research projects, public events, and trainings on effective technology and policy strategies





**GUIDING LIGHTS:** Areeba Jibril (left) and Karla Cruz are part of a huge influx of teaching talent for Berkeley Law's clinics.

# Clinical Program Adds **Depth and Diversity**

Berkeley Law's Clinical Program recently welcomed 14 new hires,

extending its representation of marginalized communities and range of realworld experience in direct services, litigation, counseling, policy advocacy, and research to over 300 students each year.

More hires are expected as the 14-clinic program plans to add three more in-house clinics amid recently starting to hire five clinical faculty members over the next five years. Here are the new additions and their most recent positions:

Environmental Law Clinic: Nazune Menka, supervising attorney, former Berkeley Law Tribal Cultural Resources Project Policy Fellow

New Business Community Law Clinic: Mariana Acevedo Nuevo LL.M. '19, supervising attorney, former housing rights attorney at Legal Access Alameda

Samuelson Law, Technology & Public Policy Clinic: Areeba Jibril, teaching fellow, former ACLU of Massachusetts fellow; Brianna L. Schofield '12, supervising attorney, former executive director of Authors Alliance

East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) Clean Slate Clinic: Shahrzad (Shazzy) Kamali '21, supervising attorney, former law clerk in Legal Aid at Work's Work & Family Division; Brigitte Nicoletti '20, supervising attorney, former post-bar fellow with the Juvenile Defender Unit at Contra Costa County Public Defender's Office

EBCLC Community Economic Justice Clinic: Michael Trujillo, supervising attorney, former Law Foundation of Silicon Valley housing rights attorney

EBCLC Consumer Justice Clinic: Sophia Wang, supervising attorney, former Bay Area Legal Aid staff attorney

EBCLC Education Justice Clinic: Atasi Uppal, supervising attorney (and director, Education Defense and Justice for Youth), former National Center for Youth Law senior policy attorney

EBCLC Housing Clinic: Laura Bixby, supervising attorney, former public defender in the Orleans Public Defenders' Special Litigation Unit

EBCLC Immigration Clinic: Karla Cruz, supervising attorney, former staff attorney at Centro Legal de la Raza; Daisy Ocampo Felt, supervising attorney, former UC Davis School of Law Immigration Law Clinic attorney; Abigail Rich, supervising attorney, former staff attorney at East Bay Sanctuary Covenant

EBCLC Youth Defender Clinic: Ellen Ivens-Duran '21, supervising attorney, former clerk for District of Columbia Court of Appeals Judge Corinne Beckwith — Sarah Weld

### **A-List Guest List**

Spanning all walks of law, Berkeley Law

regularly hosts events with a dazzling roster of prominent guests. Here are just three who recently shared their insights:

### U.S. Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar:

Responsible for conducting and supervising all Supreme Court litigation on behalf of the United States, Prelogar was interviewed by Dean Erwin Chemerinsky. She urged the packed gathering's future litigators to stay authentic when developing their courtroom style: "They say that argument is truth serum — you have to be yourself."

**Uber Senior Vice President and Chief Legal** 

Officer Tony West: Interviewed by Professor Stavros Gadinis, West described leading the global legal, compliance and ethics, security, and cybersecurity functions for a company operating in over 70 countries and 10,000 cities: "I look for people who have the courage to exercise good judgment, even in situations where it's hard to do that."

California Department of Financial Protection Commissioner Cloey Hewlett '79: Interviewed

by Berkeley Center for Consumer Law & Economic Justice Executive Director Ted Mermin '96, Hewlett discussed guiding the regulation of banks, mortgage lending, debt collectors, cryptocurrency, and more. Having grown up in poverty, she told students: "It's OK to challenge yourself. It's in the challenge that you'll find your mission." — Andrew Cohen



LAUGH-IN: U.S. Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar shares a light moment with Dean Erwin Chemerinsky.

# Pulling Up New Chairs

Professors Catherine Crump, Sonia Katyal, and

Jonah B. Gelbach have been awarded faculty chairs for their accomplishments and contributions to scholarship, policy, and legal education.

Crump is the Robert Glushko Clinical Professor of Practice in Technology Law, a new chair funded by a \$2 million donation from Professor Pamela Samuelson and her husband, Robert Glushko.

As director of the Samuelson Law, Technology & Public Policy Clinic — itself established with a donation from Samuelson and Glushko — Crump has emerged as a renowned expert on surveillance technology and its privacy and civil liberties implications.

"Bob and Pam have been longtime supporters of clinical legal education, at Berkeley and beyond, and it somehow seems right that the very first clinical chair is named after one of them," Crump says.

Katyal, who previously held a chair granted by the main UC Berkeley administration, is now the Roger J. Traynor Distinguished Professor of Law. The chair had been held by the late Stephen D. Sugarman.

"I am simply delighted to receive this chair, and even more touched that it is associated with one of the greatest heroes for justice and equality in California," she says.

Gelbach is now the Herman F. Selvin Professor of Law after the previous holder, Professor Robert Cooter, moved to emeritus status. An empiricist who was an economics professor before earning his J.D., Gelbach's scholarship and teaching focus on civil procedure, evidence, statutory interpretation, and law and economics.

"To follow in my friend Bob's footsteps is a great honor, as anyone who knows him or his tremendous footprint on the field of law and economics knows," he says. — *Gwyneth K. Shaw* 







# Student Veterans Groups Build Community Through Art

It sounds like the start of a joke: A guy walks into a bar and meets a man who's made more than 25,000 ceramic mugs ...

But 2L Mark Mabry's chance encounter with Ehren Tool led to a seriously gratifying and cathartic event for the members of two Berkeley Law student organizations for active military and veterans. Just weeks before randomly meeting Tool at a local watering hole, Mabry's girlfriend had sent an article about his work connecting veterans through art.

For over two decades, Tool has helped fellow vets create and design mugs that resonate with their military experience. The senior lab mechanician for ceramics at UC Berkeley's Art Department, he has shown his work across the United States and Europe.

"We introduced ourselves and Ehren immediately offered to put on a ceramics event for the law school's veterans," says Mabry, a former Marine who co-leads Military Veterans at Berkeley Law (MVBL). "He did a great job and everyone had a blast."

Students in MVBL and the group Legal Obstacles Veterans Encounter attended with alumni veterans and friends. The mugs were displayed before the Cal-Stanford football game through Platform, a UC Berkeley Art Department initiative featuring collaborative projects and pop-up exhibitions.

Reflecting camaraderie, discipline, commitment, and more, the mugs — some more playful, others more solemn — align with the diversity of the veterans' experiences.

"The cups become a place to speak about unspeakable things," Tool says. "I just make cups. The vets, their families, and their stories make them something more." — Andrew Cohen

HANDS ON: Ehren Tool (center in photo above) helped veterans like 2L Mark Mabry (right) connect and commiserate.



### Sonic Boom

### Berkeley Law's pro bono culture is a well-known

draw for students and a crown jewel of the school's public mission. Now, the "Power of Pro Bono" podcast adds to that tapestry — and to our robust lineup of audio shows. Pro Bono Program Director Deborah Schlosberg envisions it "expanding access to legal information and highlighting the importance of pro bono work."

Leaders of Arts & Innovation Representation (one of our Student-Initiated Legal Services Projects) produced the first three "Power of Pro Bono" episodes, which cover music sampling, international restitution, and COVID-19's impact on live theater.

"We wanted to ensure rigor and integrity, but at the same time make the podcasts easily understood by creatives who are trying to understand the various ways the law can affect their rights," says group Co-Director Ross Moody '23.

Other recent highlights from our podcast library:

- On "More Just," Dean Erwin Chemerinsky spoke with U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge M. Margaret McKeown about her book on the environmental activism of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas.
- The Berkeley Center for Law & Technology's "Careers in Tech Law," hosted by Executive Director

- Wayne Stacy, talked to experts about how life sciences patent prosecution differs from other patent work.
- The "California Law Review" podcast presented interviews with authors of articles published in the student-run journal, including Elizabeth Heckmann '22 on felon disenfranchisement and the 24th Amendment.
- In four new episodes of "Be the Change," Thelton E. Henderson Center for Social Justice Executive Director Savala Nolan '11 interviewed guests including Professor Khiara M. Bridges and Environmental Law Clinic

Supervising Attorney Nazune Menka. Her goal: "Help folks be brave and envision their lives, their gifts, and their work as expansive and transformative ... to nudge them toward taking a real crack at being the change they want to see." — Gwyneth K. Shaw



SOUNDING OFF: (From left) Rainy Ren LL.M. 22, Shen-Min Chen LL.M. '22, and Kalvn Adiekweh '24 discuss the pandemic's effect on live theater with producer and lawyer Doug Nevin.

# **Political** Office **Pioneers**

### Two alums made area history

in the 2022 November election.

Pamela Price '82 was elected as Alameda County's first Black district attorney in the position's 170-year history. She vowed to work to reduce gun violence, end mass incarceration, and root out racial, socioeconomic, and gender disparities within the county's criminal legal system.

The first person in nearly a century to assume the job without having worked in the county DA's Office, Price was a longtime civil rights lawyer who started her

own firm in Oakland in 1991. She represented victims of retaliation, wrongful termination, sexual assaults, and discrimination based on sex, age, religion, disability, and race. A survivor of the Ohio juvenile justice and foster care systems, Price was emancipated at age 16.

Janani Ramachandran '20 is Oakland's new City Council member for District 4 — the youngest person ever elected to the council and





safety, clean streets and flourishing parks, reduced homelessness, affordable housing, and thriving small businesses. A member of the California Commission on Asian and Pacific

Islander American Affairs, Ramachandran has been an attorney at legal nonprofits and on the boards of violence prevention nonprofits across Oakland.

— Andrew Cohen

### **TRAILBLAZERS:** New Alameda County

District Attorney Pamela Price '82 (left) and new Oakland City Council member Janani Ramachandran '20



# **International** Influx

### This school year, 246 LL.M.

students from 41 countries are bringing a vast array of experiences and perspectives that greatly enrich the school. Here are three members of the talented class:

PURE ENERGY: Elizabeth Simanjuntak has relished her LL.M. experience in Berkeley.

### Elizabeth Simanjuntak, President's Legal Analyst for Energy and Environmental Law, Indonesia

Moving to a polluted city at a young age, Simanjuntak recalls being affected by issues surrounding energy and clean technology. She now helps analyze and draft laws on energy policy in line with Indonesia's shift towards a sustainable future, and is pursuing an Energy and Clean Technology certificate at Berkeley Law.

"It will enable me to deliver more profound legal advice to other ministries on issues such as energy tax incentives, pricing schemes, and low-carbon policies."

### David Garzón García. Legislative Work Unit Coordinator, Senate of the Republic of Colombia

Aspiring to become a judge on Colombia's Constitutional Court. Garzón García is earning a Public Interest and Social Justice Law certificate. Senator Jorge

Londoño's former chief of staff, he sees global threats to fundamental rights as a call to action.

"Challenging times serve as catalysts for social movements to find new ways and strategies. I wanted to study in a place with a strong position of respect for and unwavering defense of disadvantaged groups' rights."

### Anneke Bossard, Public Defender, Australia

Bossard clerked for the Supreme Court of the Australian Territory's chief justice and was a junior public defender in the remote outback serving Indigenous Australians. Learning about the U.S. civil rights experience, she aims to develop strategies and arguments that help indigent clients.

"It's time to step outside and gain a new perspective on problems that both the U.S. and Australia face: mass incarceration. police violence, entrenched racism, and a broken justice system."

Marissa Gutierrez



TECH SAVVY: Irene Liu '06 brings a sparkling record to her new role at Berkeley Law.

### **News Nibbles**

Irene Liu 'o6 was named our Executive Education Program's first executive in residence. She will develop a webinar series on Berkeley Boosts and lead General Counsel Institute programs, among other projects. The Hypergrowth GC founder has built and scaled tech companies to multi-billion dollar valuations through M&A deals, financings, and investments.

### Five experts from our **Center for** Law, Energy & the Environment

led several events at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Egypt, largely to advance partnership and dialogue between the U.S. and China.

Best-selling author **Heather** McGhee '09 launched "The Sum of Us" podcast, which presents stories of people working together across racial lines to improve their communities.



### 'The Respect They Deserve'

### A recent Berkeley Law Library project sought to

confront bias and advance inclusion within its storied stacks: Reclassifying books, periodicals, and other materials about America's Indigenous people to their own place on the shelves.

Cataloger Kate Peck was inspired by an American Association of Law Libraries presentation last summer, NEXT CHAPTER: Berkeley Law librarian Kate Peck led a recent project to reclassify materials about America's Indigenous people.

which stemmed from the Library of Congress expanding the classification system for Indigenous materials within the class for law materials in 2014.

The original 1969 schema had just 28 call numbers for all works involving Indigenous law, pushed to a tiny space at the bottom of the main category — treatment criticized by some catalogers as "ghettoization" and echoing the societal exclusion and erasure of tribal nations and sovereignty issues. By comparison, Peck says there were 148 call numbers for federal income tax law and 90 for laws involving the U.S. Postal Service.

The project's motivation is "treating Indigenous materials with the respect they deserve," she says. "Reclassifying our Indigenous law materials allows them to exist in their own context, acknowledging the sovereignty and independence of people who have been marginalized and isolated for too long."

Peck and fellow catalogers Irina Migal, Shelly McLaughlin, and Enedina Vera found about 860 physical items that met the review criteria, examined each title's catalog entry, and decided whether to keep it in its existing classification or move it to a new one.

"We reclassify or reorganize materials for a variety of reasons," Law Library Director Marci Hoffman says. "To make like materials easier to locate, to organize materials based on a more logical system, or to better address political, social, and economic realities in society." — Gwyneth K. Shaw

Our Berkeley Center for **Consumer Law & Economic** 

Justice and a group of legal scholars including Dean Erwin Chemerinsky and Professor Jonathan D. Glater filed amicus briefs opposing challenges to President Biden's student debt cancellation plan.

Steven Feldstein '04 won the University of Louisville's annual Grawemeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order. The \$100,000 prize honors his book,

The Rise of Digital Repression, which showed how governments use internet shutdowns, facial recognition, and other tools to intimidate critics and spread propaganda.

Our Berkeley Center for Law and **Business** recently launched Canvas, a newsletter on the art world and its intersections with law, finance, technology, and culture.

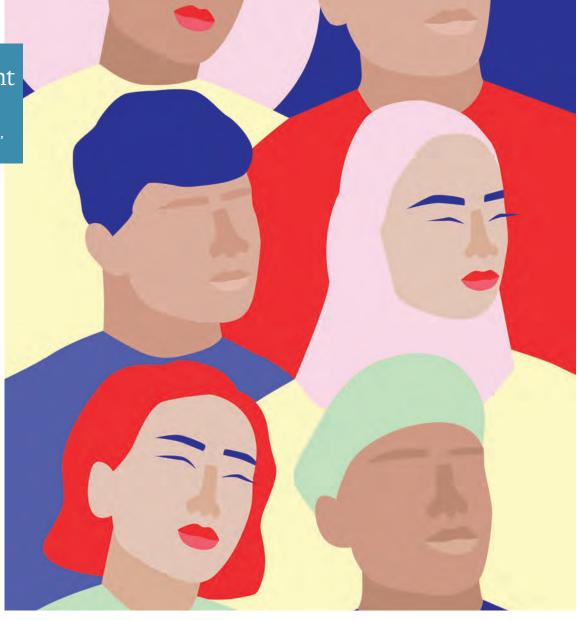
Hailed for supporting fellowships, implicit bias conferences, and

other social justice efforts, litigator Elizabeth Cabraser '78 and Berkeley Law lecturer **Henry Hecht** received Champions of Justice awards at the Equal Justice Society's annual gala. The event also served as a retirement party for founding president and civil rights icon Eva Paterson '75.

Pro Bono Program Director Deborah Schlosberg won an Emerging Leader Award from the Association of American Law Schools.

### Forefront

Leadership in Research, Service, & Education



# Clerkship Connections

### **Berkeley Judicial Institute confronts nagging lack** of diversity in judges' chambers

### The federal clerkship hiring process is famously

high stress and opaque — and a near-certain careermaker for those who nab a coveted spot.

But the demographics of these clerks lag even the composition of law school cohorts, despite years of good intentions and earnest effort. Informal studies

show the ranks are dominated by white men who went to top law schools, particularly Yale and Harvard.

Researchers from the Berkeley Judicial Institute (BJI) set out to understand why the mix has been so difficult to change. In a groundbreaking study featuring interviews with 50 federal judges, they teased out some trends and

potential new practices for hiring — and found that "diversity" doesn't mean the same thing to every judge.

Retired judge Jeremy Fogel, the institute's founding executive director, joined Pepperdine Law Professor Mary Hoopes and California Supreme Court Associate Justice Goodwin Liu on the project, leveraging their connections to both design the study for maximum participation and land the interviews.

Fogel is a former U.S. District Court judge for the Northern District of California who spent seven years leading the Federal Judicial Center, the federal courts' education and research agency. Liu, a former Berkeley Law professor, clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Hoopes earned her Ph.D. from Berkeley Law's Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program and was BJI's research director when the study began.

Their combined experiences gave the researchers a unique advantage, Fogel says.

"Two of the authors each have many years of judicial experience, and all three have trusting relationships in the federal courts," he says. "Those relationships, and the confidential interview format used instead of a more typical survey, allowed the participating judges to speak candidly and thoughtfully about their hiring processes.

"Their contributions not only reflect the complexity and sensitivity of the issues, but also underlie the concrete best practices we propose."

The group of judges included 35 men and 15 women; 32 judges appointed by Democrats and 18 appointed by Republicans; and 30 who identified as Black, Asian American, or Hispanic.

They said they value diversity, although the dimensions vary, and try to build an ensemble of complementary clerks in each cohort. Republican appointees tend to weigh socioeconomic diversity more heavily than their Democratically appointed counterparts. And judges who prioritized racial diversity reported difficulty hiring Black and Hispanic clerks.

"The judges who hired the largest number of minority clerks are the ones who make a conscious effort to bring diverse candidates into their hiring pool, or value candidates based on components other than grades or class rank," Fogel says.

The study, which will be published later this year in the Harvard Law Review, suggests how to diversify the clerk pool and urges judges to discuss hiring.

"Judges are likely to be most receptive to the views and practices of their peers," the authors write.

- Gwyneth K. Shaw

# Rare Feat

### Five students chosen to present their research at major international forum

### Every year, the American Society of International

Law receives abundant submissions for its annual research conference. Predictably, those selected are almost always faculty scholars.

But Berkeley Law recently flipped the script with five current or recent students chosen to discuss their work: Anthony Ghaly '23, Helena von Nagy '22, Simone Lieban Levine '21, and Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program Ph.D. students Haley Anderson and Daimeon Shanks.

"It was so impressive to have so many of our students present," says Professor Katerina Linos. "It represents the cumulative efforts of many Berkeley Law faculty over the years."

Shanks and Anderson, who both worked at the United Nations' International Law Commission, presented research in response to the book *Invisible* Atrocities by University of Hawaii Law Professor Randle DeFalco. The author invited them to submit pieces, present during a conference roundtable, and participate in an otherwise all-faculty scholar workshop.

Ghaly and von Nagy developed their papers in the Human Rights and Social Justice Writing Workshop taught by Eric Stover and Carolyn "Patty" Blum. Ghaly's focused on forced sterilization against the Uyghurs in Xinjiang, and grew from studying similar sterilizations in



**TEAM EFFORT:** faculty mentors for helping to shape his selected paper.



Peru — with Levine on Zoom — as a student researcher at Berkeley Law's Human Rights Center.

"Simone graduated during the pandemic, so we didn't actually get to meet in person until this conference," says Ghaly, now collaborating with her on other projects. "Helena and I have also known each other throughout law school. Having the two of them there at the conference was really meaningful. It was comforting and encouraging to have such a supportive community with me."

In 2019, von Nagy was studying in England when Shamima Begum — who left the U.K. four years earlier at age 15 to join ISIS in Syria — had her citizenship revoked while trying to return. Frequent discussions about it with British classmates fueled her interest in studying the issue more broadly.

"When I came to law school, I learned more about the process of denaturalization for human rights offenders following Alien Tort Statute cases, and decided to turn back to Shamima's story and write about the surge in denationalization in Northern Europe," von Nagy says.

Levine studied a case in Professor Khiara M. Bridges' Reproductive Rights and Justice class in which 10 Latina women unsuccessfully sued a Los Angeles doctor — as well as other medical providers and government officials — who sterilized them without their informed consent. Comparing racist stereotypes around hypersexuality and hyperfertility with the histories of involuntary sterilization for Roma and Latina women, Levine wrote a "more practical than academic" article to help guide U.S. policy initiatives and litigation strategies.

"Berkeley Law is a serious power-house in churning out international legal scholars," she says. "Being affiliated with its reputation, resources, and connections has proven to be the best investment I've ever made." — Andrew Cohen



**GAME ON:** Rick Trachok, a renowned figure in international gaming law, makes a point in his Secured Transactions – Article 9 class.

# Faculty Fuel

Deep roster of lecturers brings career success and expertise to the classroom

### Olga V. Mack's Blockchain for Lawyers course

started as an intimate one-credit seminar.

But months before it was even scheduled to start this semester, Berkeley Law students were lobbying her to increase enrollment — to a whopping 85 slots. The course is now less hands-on, but Mack appreciates that her pupils share her excitement about the technology.

"I love this tech because it's powerful and will transform our work and lives in our lifetime," she says. "So, I've been on a mission to educate students and the public."

Vice president and CEO of Parley Pro at LexisNexis, Mack is just one of Berkeley Law's incredibly deep bench of lecturers. Their primary jobs are as lawyers, advocates, policymakers — even a judge — and they bring a vast spectrum of expertise into the classrooms.

Many niche offerings, from Mindfulness for the Legal Mind to Wine Law, are taught by these part-time faculty members. Some teach only one course; others, like Robert Infelise — a pillar of the school's environmental law curriculum — teach a variety.

Often beloved additions to a student's law school experience, many have become icons over long careers teaching at Berkeley Law: Those who serve the school for more than 20 years, and complete 20-plus semesters of teaching, earn the title Dean's Emeritus Lecturer. Infelise is one, as is disability rights legend Arlene B. Mayerson '77 and Henry Hecht, who was an assistant special prosecutor on the Watergate Special Prosecution Force.

"Our lecturers exemplify the diversity, challenge, and impact of the legal profession," says Professor Andrew Bradt, the school's associate dean of J.D. curriculum and teaching. "Their dedication to our students, alongside their leadership in an array of fields, is inspiring and critical to our mission."

McDonald Carano Senior Counsel Rick Trachok has forged a storied career in international regulatory and gaming law. As compliance chair for the German gaming group Gauselmann AG, he helped secure gaming licenses in 200 jurisdictions worldwide. He also chairs the Global Compliance and Governance Committee for the U.K.-based International Game Technology, the world's largest gaming manufacturer and lottery company.

Trachok has taught throughout his career, and when the opportunity arose in 2017 to come to Berkeley, he jumped at it. This year he's teaching Gaming Law: Gambling, Fantasy Sports, Online Wagers; Secured Transactions - Article 9; and Contracts & Sales for LL.M.s.

"Being able to draw on a diverse legal career in teaching highly intelligent and motivated students is very rewarding," Trachok says. "Teaching at Berkeley Law is a career highlight for me. We have the best students and an incredibly talented and collegial faculty. What could be better?"

Mack agrees. Former students tell her the class was life- and career-changing, and that they're applying the principles they learned from her daily.

"The hunger for learning and having an impact from day one of practicing law is unparalleled," she says.

— Gwyneth K. Shaw

# Stepping Up for Veterans

### Students provide wide-ranging advocacy for deported former service members

### Since 2009, students in Berkeley Law's Veterans

Law Practicum have helped former service members solve an array of problems.

Now, they're tackling a new issue: The deportation of veterans after criminal convictions, often stemming from mental health conditions related to their military service. Hundreds of former service members have been sent to Mexico, with many others now in Jamaica, various countries in Africa, and elsewhere across the globe. Lecturer and practicum leader Rose Carmen Goldberg,



SUPPORT SQUAD: Veterans Law Practicum leader Rose Carmen Goldberg (left) guides students including 2L Eric Wright, who served two tours in Afghanistan with the U.S. Army, in assisting former military members with myriad issues.

who supervises students working with an alliance of legal aid organizations, immigration law experts, a former judge, and affected veterans, calls it "an underrecognized and long unaddressed injustice." She adds, "First, they face incarceration. Then, they face the second punishment of exile. These veterans deserve mental health care and support — not banishment and separation from their families."

Assessing the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's "humanitarian parole program" for deported people to return to the U.S. temporarily for urgent needs like health care, Goldberg's students craft proposals to restructure the program and make it more accessible and efficient, as so many requests are based on time-sensitive health issues.

The students are also pursuing policy reforms so deported veterans can access vital U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs health care and disability benefits to which they're entitled to by law — but are largely out of reach overseas, sometimes with dire consequences. In addition, the students interview deported veterans around the world in order to ground recommendations in their lived experiences and highlight their conditions in jail and immigration detention.

3L Joe St. Clair and 2L Eric Wright, who served a combined six tours in Afghanistan, say service members are taught to prioritize operations over their physical and mental health.

"You could look at a deported veteran and say this is a person who has broken the law and is a criminal and has no right to be here," St. Clair says. "Or instead, you could say this is someone who sacrificed everything and then was punished for trying to simply survive the aftereffects of the trauma the military put them through."

While working at the intersection of veterans law, immigration law, and criminal law, students chip away at institutional roadblocks.

"Our common lived experiences with veterans, even if generations apart, really help start the conversation from a position of trust," Wright says. "When a veteran entrusts you with a memory they've never shared with anyone in their lives, it's such a powerful moment."

"They've lived for decades with the shame of being told there was something wrong with them and that they're inherently flawed despite the fact that they've made more sacrifices for our society than nearly anyone else," St. Clair says. "Acknowledging what they've been through ... completely changes the narrative of their lives and gives them the peace that they never thought was possible." — Gwyneth K. Shaw

# Globe Trotting

### **Field Placement Program delivers** coveted experience and wisdom around the world

### Kenya is nearly 10,000 miles from campus, but 3L

Brock Williams found a purpose there that hit close to home.

One of a record 228 students in Berkeley Law's Field Placement Program this school year, Williams worked with the United Nations Environment Program Law Division in Nairobi, Kenya's capital.

"The United Nations and what it aspires to has long inspired me," he says. "I was excited to work with this organization, especially on some environmental agreements I'd only learned about in class."

Field Placement Program students spend a semester doing legal work at a nonprofit or government agency,



supervised by a lawyer, for academic credit in the Bay Area, around the country, and across the world.

Williams' projects addressed recognizing the rights of nature, avoiding and mitigating space debris pollution, and supporting multilateral environmental agreements. He lived in a pool house cottage and walked less than a mile to his office.

"People from around the world live in Nairobi, and I loved interacting with so many different cultures, seeing animals I'd only seen in zoos, and experiencing the city's amazing culinary offerings," Williams says.

Long interested in international human rights, 3L Quincy Blair applied after seeing a report on prison conditions in Italy conducted partly by the nonprofit No Peace Without Justice, which protects and promotes human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. She emailed the organization — which led to an interview, a written evaluation, and eventually a placement in Belgium.

Blair helped run social media accounts on ecocide, published daily news reports to the organization's website, ran a biweekly news radio show in Italian, and pursued grants. She also drafted reports on European Parliament meetings and helped coordinate an event on the harmful effects of global warming and natural resource exploitation in the Amazon region.

"The skills I learned will be invaluable as a lawyer: how to write persuasive arguments, synthesize complex information in a concise and coherent manner, and use our platforms as lawyers as a tool for advocacy," Blair says.

After spending years working to reform criminal justice systems, 3L Spencer Perry found an optimal field placement fit at the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals in The Hague, Netherlands. He investigated ethnic cleansing operations, assisted prosecution strategies for national governments, and developed legal research resources for war crimes prosecutors.

Perry biked to the tribunal each day through woods and over canals — a stark contrast from working in a place that confronts genocide and how a community addresses its perpetrators.

"It presents a hope that cycles of violence can be broken and evil can be held to account in a courtroom instead of a battlefield," Perry says. "I was challenged every day and felt a deep sense of purpose and fulfillment. This field placement made me a better advocate and a better person." — Andrew Cohen





#### WORLDVIEW:

3Ls Quincy Blair (near European Parliament in Brussels), Spencer Perry (with his dog Shadowfax in The Hague's Old Town section), and Brock Williams (enjoying the wildlife in Nairobi) all savored their time in the Field Placement Program.

# Revving Up Recharge

### \$2 million grant spurs Berkeley Law center to take its water policy work national

### California's tremendous thirst for water poses a

grave challenge to its future, from an everyday perspective and the longer battle of combating climate change — and is a bellwether for the rest of America. A team led by our Center for Law, Energy & the Environment (CLEE) recently won a \$2 million grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency to take its longstanding work on water policy national, guiding efforts to recharge aquifers and improve groundwater sustainability.

The ground beneath our feet holds a significant portion of the Earth's water, and is a critical source for people worldwide. California and other states where water is scarce have long tapped more groundwater particularly for agriculture — than goes back in through the natural recharge process, in which water from rivers, lakes, streams, and rain flows into the ground.

Groundwater deficits have other implications, too: When the pores in the rocks, gravel, and soil we walk



on are empty, it can degrade water quality and even cause the earth's surface to sink. This damage can be permanent, making aquifers unsuitable for groundwater storage and compounding the problem.

"We made a mess of this system," says Michael Kiparsky, director of CLEE's Wheeler Water Institute and the grant's lead researcher. "To manage groundwater better, you can do two things: Pump less of it, or add more water to the ground. Ideally, both are necessary."

The idea of adding water back, known as Enhanced Aguifer Recharge, isn't new, but many questions remain. Uncertainties include what to use for the water supply, how to match the best physical techniques to local conditions, and how to navigate water storage legalities.

Kiparsky's CLEE team has worked on the issue for years with researchers from elsewhere at UC Berkeley and from UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, and UC College of the Law, San Francisco. The new grant will help expand the reach of that work across the country.

"It's an opportunity to take recharge to a different scale," Kiparsky says. "And it lets us do one of the things we do best: synthesis and integration, and the context-specific blending across disciplines that's targeted at real-world impact."

The grant's main outcome is a lifecycle map for enhanced recharge, with solutions and pathways outlined to help state and local governments plan their own projects, maximizing benefits and avoiding unintended consequences. Combined with original research to fill key knowledge gaps and deep engagement with experts and stakeholders, this project seeks to catalyze adoption and diffusion of enhanced recharge to benefit water systems nationwide.

"This is just one example of how CLEE's water team develops leading interdisciplinary solutions to build innovative and resilient water systems," says Louise Bedsworth, the center's executive director. "Working across the system's complex governance, finance, and technical dimensions, it's an opportunity to leverage their knowledge, expertise, and partnerships to implement groundwater recharge activities in other geographies and landscapes." — Gwyneth K. Shaw



PEAK PERFORMANCE: Michael Kiparsky, founding director of Berkeley Law's Wheeler Water Institute, leads a research team tasked with guiding groundwater sustainability improvements.





water into an aquifer. assumed to function like a central bank

Users "deposit" "Deposits" are associated with a right to withdraw water at a later time

Water bank might not account for subsurface migration of groundwater

Bank may be challenged to deliver water when it is most needed, during a drought when inputs are reduced

### **Recharge Net Metering**



infiltrate excess surface water

rewarded on the basis rebate on of quantity of water infiltrated each vear

Participants Participants Infiltration generates pumping or other use fees

No right to withdraw infiltration water is implied

Benefits accrue to the entire basin

Pumping - Rebate = Recharge Net Metering





FROM THE START: With a relentless commitment to people facing capital punishment and Berkeley Law students, founding director Elisabeth Semel has led the Death Penalty Clinic to national prominence.

Four alums describe the impact of the Death Penalty Clinic's influential work — and inspiring leaders — on their soaring careers

### BY ANDREW COHEN

The work is blindingly intense, the issues are often convoluted, and the stakes could not be more dizzying. Yet over time, a clearer picture develops for students in Berkeley Law's Death Penalty Clinic: of the criminal justice system, of capital punishment, and, invariably, of themselves.

Founded in 2001, the clinic helps people facing execution. Along the way, under the deft leadership of Professors Elisabeth Semel and Ty Alper and Supervising Attorney Mridula Raman, students reap abundant and often transformational opportunities for hands-on experience.

They develop vital legal skills, gain a strong social justice orientation, and hone the tools to give clients vigorous, high-level representation.

And when the students leave, their track record of making a major impact continues to astound.

"It's stunning in terms of the number of graduates who have thriving public interest careers or are devoting significant time in their practice to pro bono legal services," Semel says. "We teach our students to be reflective about who we represent and why, as well as how they, as future lawyers, fit into the perpetuation of racism and inequality that birthed and continues to sustain capital punishment."

Clinic faculty and students have advocated for clients in Alabama, Arizona, California, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, North Carolina, Texas, and Virginia — helping fill the void of qualified and adequately funded counsel for people who are on death row or facing the death penalty at trial.

"We will represent clients in any court in any state," Alper says. "The common thread is that our clients are facing the worst punishment our system imposes and they're in desperate need of quality legal representation. Our goal is to work with students to provide the best lawyering to the people who need it the most."

The clinic also files amicus curiae briefs in U.S. Supreme Court and California Supreme Court cases involving challenges to discriminatory jury selection, race discrimination in the administration of the death penalty, and execution methods. Its recent detailed reports on racial bias in jury selection helped propel a 2020 California bill that dramatically revamped the process in state criminal trials.

A companion clinic seminar teaches students substantive capital punishment law, habeas corpus practice and procedure, and the fundamentals of death penalty litigation — investigating facts, interviewing witnesses, and finding mitigation evidence. Meanwhile, evidence of the clinic becoming a springboard to success is overwhelming.

"It's gratifying and inspiring to know that our alums internalized the clinic's dedication to representing human beings whom many would discard or eliminate," Semel says. "Clinic graduates are the next generation of changemakers whose ambitions for a reimagined justice system extend far beyond the death penalty."

### **MARITZA PEREZ '15**

Of the many traits that have fueled Perez's rapid rise, mincing words is decidedly not among them.

"People forget that criminal justice reform is a civil rights issue," she says. "We have a punishment-based system with deep roots in U.S. slavery. It criminalizes people who are marginalized, like poor people and people of color, which I believe reflects how society treats disempowered people generally."

As director of the Drug Policy Alliance Office of Federal Affairs in Washington, D.C., Perez leads the organization's wide-ranging efforts to end the drug war. She spearheaded a coalition that successfully pushed for passage of the Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement Act, the first time a House chamber voted to decriminalize it.



POWERING PARTNERSHIP: Maritza Perez has become a key figure in coordinating organizations to fight against punitive drug laws that disproportionately harm low-income people of color.

"Just a few years ago, passing a marijuana legalization bill that centers the people most harmed by prohibition and leads with social justice would be unimaginable," Perez says. "Our organizational strategy, particularly in my federal office, must change with each election as the makeup of Congress or the administration changes. It's important to continue to push for progress and reform, even if incremental, no matter who's in power."

Perez credits her time with the Death Penalty Clinic for accelerating her drive, advocacy skills, and commitment. While crafting a mitigation history for a client, she relished learning about his roots — and about the value of building a more robust and fair picture of a case.

"It really illustrated how strong communities are essential to helping people build healthy lives where their needs are met," she says. "In my work today, I try to lead with empathy but also try to connect drug policy to other facets of a person's life, such as housing, food insecurity, and their ability to make an income. It's important to understand how these issues connect in order to help solve some of society's most pressing problems."

Perez had already confronted many of them, as a Center for American Progress senior policy analyst addressing marijuana policy, policing, and sentencing reform, and as a Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund staff lawyer pushing to end mass incarceration.

At graduation, she received Berkeley Law's highest distinction for pro bono after working at the clinic, the Post-Conviction

# **CLOSE-KNIT** COMMUNITY REVELS IN WARM MEMORIES, LIFE-CHANGING **EXPERIENCES**

rom the overflow turnout and lively setting to the dynamic discussions, shared stories, and emotional reunions, the strength of Berkeley Law's Death Penalty Clinic community was on full display last fall.

More than 100 devoted clinic alumni gathered in October to pay tribute to and reconnect with their beloved Co-Directors Elisabeth Semel and Ty Alper, each other, and the intense experience that has steered their longterm career choices and worldview.

The pandemic-delayed 20th anniversary celebration, featuring an event at the Women's Faculty Club and a picnic the next day at Tilden Park, honored founding donors Nick McKeown and Peter Davies and included remarks by Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, alumni, and past fellows and supervising attorneys.

"I live by the motto, 'What would Lis do?" said Shannon Rozner '02, one of the clinic's inaugural eight students in 2001. Now general counsel and senior vice president of community relations at the Chautaugua Institution, she added: "I couldn't have imagined what this clinic has turned into. Thank you for what we have become."

The clinic's founding director, Semel built it into a Berkeley Law institution and a national leader in representing people facing the death penalty and advancing related policy. The clinic has steadily seeded public defender offices and other criminal defense positions nationwide, with more than half of its alumni working in public interest or government jobs.

"I would not be what I am without everything the clinic provided me," said Joe Breyer '11, a deputy public defender in Alameda County. "I don't think I would have survived law school without it. It was a refuge, a safe haven. I owe that all to Lis, Kate [Weisburd, former clinical supervising attorney and teaching fellow], and Ty."

The appreciation between faculty and past students is overwhelmingly mutual.

"We choose this work because of you all," Alper said during the main reunion event. "You all are amazing people doing really fascinating work."

"Unlike some of the decisions I have made in cases, I have never secondguessed the choice I made 20-plus years ago," Semel said. "I have the best imaginable occupation. Whether I keep at it for two more years or 20 - not - I will be grateful for everything it has allowed me to give and everything it has given back to me"

Now an associate professor at George Washington University School of Law, Weisburd summed up the collective feeling in the room: "Once you're in the clinic, you're in it for life. It continues to be a career-defining experience that is not like any other. This work is important and cannot be done alone. We are so lucky to have the clinic bond us."

— Sarah Weld

ROUSING REUNION: (From top) Co-founding donor Peter Davies and Co-Director Ty Alper, Clinical Supervising Attorney Mridula Raman, former Clinical Supervising Attorney and Teaching Fellow Kathryn Miller '07, Shannon Rozner '02 with Professor Chuck Weisselberg, co-founding donor Nick McKeown and Co-Director Elisabeth Semel, and Waseem Salahi '15.













Advocacy Project (helping her incarcerated client gain parole), and the East Bay Community Law Center's Immigration Clinic (assisting clients to apply for DACA relief and avoid deportation). Perez also interned at the ACLU of Northern California, at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and for then-Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

Named one of the Hispanic National Bar Association's Top 40 Lawyers in 2019, she now sits on the board of directors for the District of Columbia's Hispanic Bar Association and American University's National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project.

"I understand how horrendous our criminal legal system is and how it affects people in this country on a mass scale," says Perez, who's regularly featured in major media outlets such as the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Latino USA, CNN, and Politico. "As a low-income immigrant woman of color, I get what it feels like to be treated this way. This inspires me to want to fight for change and justice."

### **SALOMON ZAVALA '05**

### Raised in South Central Los Angeles, Zavala took issue

with the death penalty at an early age after seeing "the racial disparities of whom it's applied to and the fact that numerous people have been found innocent after being sentenced." He believes all people are capable of personal transformation, and should not solely be judged by the worst thing they've ever done

"The Death Penalty Clinic is one of the main reasons I attended Berkeley Law," Zavala says. "I knew I wanted to join, to learn about death penalty litigation, and to better understand how I could be an advocate for the abolition of capital punishment."

Leading his own Los Angeles civil rights firm for the past 10 years, he now focuses on wrongful convictions, police brutality cases, prison litigation, and movement lawyering — work that also includes incarceration reform efforts and promoting Indigenous peoples' rights.

"The clinic was key in enhancing my practice as I embraced the importance of treating each client as a human being, and the importance that everyone deserves justice no matter what they've done in the past," Zavala says.

He has led legal training sessions in the U.S. and Mexico on incarceration alternatives, which elevate restorative justice and trauma-informed approaches to enhance community safety and reduce the prison population. Zavala also provides direct services to deportees, helping them reintegrate into society after serving long prison sentences and confront adverse childhood experiences to lower recidivism rates.

An experienced negotiator, Zavala has delivered seven-figure settlements and other great results for clients from across California, including victims of police abuse and negligent wrongful death actions. He has also successfully represented organizations on myriad legal issues, including employment



GIVING BACK: In addition to running his own firm, Salomon Zavala maintains a busy pro bono caseload, including representing minors in

and complex immigration matters, and serves as general counsel for several small businesses and nonprofits.

Even now, he calls on the lessons of visiting a clinic client on death row. During one meeting, the client was tearful about missing his daughter's teenage years and losing out on memorable moments such as teaching her how to drive. "It reminded me of the humanity of incarcerated people despite being in such a dark place," Zavala says.

Active in many pro bono cases and a member of various nonprofit boards, he finds clinic work important because it affords law students invaluable experience that pays longrange dividends.

"In the Death Penalty Clinic context, it really allowed me to advocate on behalf of real clients — in cases with real-life consequences — while developing my lawyering skills in an area of the law I was passionate about," he says.

Zavala still carries that passion today, and tries to model it as the leader of his firm. It's a lesson he took from Semel, who also served as his writing requirement faculty supervisor and provided insightful feedback on his paper about dismantling gang databases because of racial biases.

"Lis was an unwavering advocate for her clients and her commitment to justice was admirable and inspirational," Zavala says. "I was always impressed by her compassion toward our clients despite them being accused of such serious crimes. She was also an excellent teacher and mentor."

# **GOING ALL IN:** STUDENTS STEP TO THE FOREFRONT **OF HIGH-STAKES ADVOCACY**

t's a tricky tightrope walk: Death Penalty Clinic students need room to navigate their assignments and develop vital lawyering skills, but they also need help handling thorny legal issues — and the emotional weight of representing people facing the ultimate stakes.

"I appreciate both that autonomy and support," says 3L Chantel Johnson, hailing the guidance of clinic Co-Directors Elisabeth Semel and Ty Alper and Clinical Supervising Attorney Mridula Raman. "We have incredible leaders, and it's truly great being able to learn from them."

Johnson wrote about the clinic in her Berkeley Law application, "so it feels full circle that I'm here," she says. Raised in the South, she cites "vicariously seeing the ugliest parts of our criminal legal system" as a driving force for "wanting to see where my advocacy may fit between it all."

Working on a clinic pretrial motion to bar death qualification in a capital trial, she researched how racial discrimination manifests in the state's history and described its impact on today's application of the death penalty. Those efforts showed how historical discrimination in education, housing, and policing makes Black prospective jurors more skeptical of the criminal system — and therefore subject to frequent removal from capital cases.

"If making juries reflect the communities they serve is an honest goal, maybe we should think more about

**DEEP DIVE:** For 3Ls Chantel Johnson (left) and Monica Van, their time with the Death Penalty Clinic has been both sobering and inspiring.

who we are boxing out of these decisions, and how we can make juries more inclusive," Johnson says.

Classmate Monica Van helped draft a clemency petition "under the expert guidance of some of the best death penalty lawyers in the country," she says. With the client's case now out of court, her focus shifted from relevant case law to more creative approaches for persuading Alabama's governor to grant relief.

Van has procured mitigation evidence, prepared witness declarations supporting the petition and highlighting the client's abusive childhood, and advanced a pleading on why the Sixth Amendment

requires a unanimous verdict to sentence defendants of a serious offense. Last fall, she spent four days in Southern California interviewing witnesses to gain insights about the client and paint a fuller picture of his life.

Despite jumping into a case closer to execution than any in the clinic's history, Van credits clinic leaders for making the work both manageable and gratifying.

"They remind us that it's not just about the forest — getting our client relief — but the trees," she explains.

"Finding a witness who remembers our client when they were in juvenile hall together 40 years ago. Hearing about our client's love for his childhood pet pig. The investigative trip was a good reminder that being a lawyer doesn't just mean understanding case law and writing forceful briefs. It also entails being an effective storyteller and connecting with people on a human level." — Andrew Cohen





### LILLIANA PARATORE '17

Having grown up near San Quentin State Prison, Paratore quickly developed a passion for criminal justice reform.

"From the moment I decided I wanted to go to law school, being a part of the Death Penalty Clinic was a dream for me," she says.

Paratore vividly recalls working with peers on jury and social history investigations, knocking on doors with an investigator to learn more about what led to a client's conviction, and being mentored by former Clinical Supervising Attorney and Teaching Fellow Kathryn Miller '07, who now co-directs Cardozo School of Law's Criminal Defense Clinic.

As the managing attorney at UnCommon Law in Oakland, Paratore works — sometimes while supervising students in Berkeley Law's Post-Conviction Advocacy Project, which assists her organization — to help people navigate California's parole process. In 2021, she won the school's Kathi Pugh Award for Exceptional Mentorship.

UnCommon Law provides trauma-informed legal representation, mental health counseling, legislative and policy advocacy, and in-prison programming led by those who have gone through the process themselves.

"Our clients remain incarcerated for years and sometimes decades longer than necessary because commissioners, judges, and legislators refuse to see them for more than who they were in the worst moment of their lives," Paratore says. "At the clinic, I learned how to think about advocacy strategically and with a broad vision. I bring this skill to my work at UnCommon Law every day. While it's incredibly frustrating to work within a system that treats years of peoples' lives as disposable, focusing on viable long-term solutions for my clients gives me hope."

Clinic lessons about perseverance, accountability, and creativity — and the importance of client relationships — have become

CARING CATALYST: Deeply grateful for the clinic's guidance during her student days, Lilliana Paratore is now a valued mentor for Berkeley Law students working to improve California's parole system.

weapons to fight a parole process Paratore says is plagued by the same problems infecting the overall criminal legal system: racism, misogyny, and ableism.

She notes that being a person of color sharply reduces the likelihood of being granted parole, that domestic violence survivors are often blamed for being victimized and then incarcerated for longer because of it, and that cognitively impaired elderly applicants are granted parole at the same rates as all other applicants — even though the law requires the parole board to provide special consideration of their advanced age. Between January 2018 and January 2021, California applicants represented by appointed lawyers received parole less than half as often (17.8%) as those represented by private lawyers (36.3%).

Now litigating an innovative habeas petition in the California Court of Appeal aimed at transforming the parole board's attorney appointment process, Paratore says, "We're also sharing our clients' stories and experiences to attempt to hold the parole board to account and help the public better understand the people caught up in this arbitrary and capricious process."

Working with three other clinic alums at UnCommon Law, she sees hope in the type of lawyering Semel and Alper cultivate.

"They establish a culture of learning, collaboration, and passion," Paratore says. "Lis and Ty also helped me see that having a public interest career was possible, and that it could be deeply fulfilling, challenging, and aligned with my values. They instill that feeling in everyone who's part of the clinic, and we all carry that with us well after law school."

### SAFA ANSARI-BAYEGAN '20

Working on post-conviction and pre-trial death penalty cases in

Texas before applying to law school, Ansari-Bayegan had long heard about the clinic "and specifically about the incredible lawyers who run it." She applied to Berkeley Law in large part because of that.

Substantively, the clinic surpassed her admittedly high expectations. Emotionally, it transcended them. When Ansari-Bayegan's mother passed away, Alper became a vital source of strength and stability.

"Not only is he one of the most creative and dogged attorneys I know, he's also such a kind and thoughtful mentor," she says. "When I faced my mother's loss, Ty was so caring. When I navigated tough job decisions, he provided instrumental guidance. And I'm so grateful that I can continue to turn to him well after araduation."

Ansari-Bayegan parlayed her clinic experience into being selected as an E. Barrett Prettyman Fellow. Awarded annually to just three 3Ls from hundreds of applicants, the coveted two-year LL.M. fellowship at Georgetown Law funnels resources toward

> CAPITOL GAIN: Safa Ansari-Bayegan's clinic experience helped her land a coveted fellowship and later a public defender position in Washington, D.C.

developing outstanding indigent defense counsel through rigorous training.

Fellows try cases and sharpen their skills under close faculty supervision during their first year, take classes in clinical teaching and supervision, then provide classroom instruction and supervise students in three criminal justice-focused clinics.

"I often reflected back on my time in the clinic, especially when I supervised students," says Ansari-Bayegan, now a public defender in Washington, D.C. "In those moments, I was filled with renewed admiration for how Lis and Ty achieve the balance of giving students autonomy while providing such attentive feedback, and the intentionality behind how they run such a fantastic clinic. It is not easy to do, but they make it look easy."

They encourage students to pursue creative ideas and share new perspectives, she explains, vital for a law student or young lawyer to observe and learn from. Ansari-Bayegan worked on a case that generations of clinic students contributed to, and still gets updates on it from current students.

Working in the District of Columbia Public Defender Service's Special Litigation Division, she now handles wide-ranging tasks to vindicate her clients' constitutional and statutory rights — and to challenge pervasive unfair criminal justice practices. Attorneys in her unit practice across division lines, whether civil or criminal, juvenile or adult, pre-trial or post-conviction.

For Ansari-Bayegan, who organized a Berkeley Law conference on participatory defense with classmate Abbey Flynn as a 3L, the versatility she gained as a clinic student has been paramount.

"The needs of the clinic case I worked on required a lot more than just legal research, drafting pleadings, and other forms of traditional lawyering," she says. "We pushed the boundaries of our advocacy, including by building relationships with an array of partners. Being able to navigate that process gave me the confidence in my current role as a public defender to always think outside the box ... and to always write strong topic sentences and confirm receipt of emails, which also go a long way.

"I could not have imagined a better capstone to my legal education than the privilege of joining the clinic."



# **MAKING A TANGIBLE** DIFFERENCE

ueled by expert leaders dedicated to top-rate client representation and transformational student training, the Death Penalty Clinic has been a national leader in serving people facing capital punishment for more than two decades.

The clinic handles capital trials, direct appeals, state postconviction proceedings, federal

habeas corpus proceedings, clemency proceedings, amicus curiae briefs, litigation initiatives aimed at structural change, and policy advocacy.

As the clinic's influence continues to grow, here's a bythe-numbers snapshot of its advocacy — and impact since launching in 2001.

clients the clinic has represented or helped represent

WHITEWASHING THE JURY BOX

states in which the clinic has litigated on behalf of clients

students participate every year; 8 were enrolled in the inaugural cohort

>330

students have participated since the clinic's inception

of clinic alumni work in public interest or government jobs across 15 states

California counties with new jury selection procedures due to a 2020 state law sparked by a clinic report

### Photo Essay

Law School Life Through the Lens

# Sworn In

### EVENT EMCEES

(From left) Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, U.S. District Court Judge Trina Thompson '86, California Courts of Appeal Associate Justice Jon B. Streeter '81, and Berkeley Law Alumni Association representative Nicole Ozer '03 ushered in the newly minted lawyers.

On Dec. 13, Berkeley Law's Development and Alumni Relations team feted graduates who recently passed the California Bar Exam with a spirited swearing-in ceremony and reception at the law school.





STANDING TALL

Beatrice Nybert LL.M. '19, an associate at DLA Piper in Stockholm, returns to Berkeley.



### HIGH FIVES

(From left) LL.M. graduates Yu-Hsuan Cheng '16, Ashka Vora '16, Shih-Ya Huang '22, and Sumedh Rishi '22 take the California state court oath.

# Student Life

If a picture is worth 1,000 words, Berkeley Law's robust student life is worth 1,000 photos. Here are just a few that showcase some of the many wide-ranging experiences our students enjoy on and off campus.





### **JOLLY GOOD FELLOWS**

1L Anna Judson, who worked with the National Foster Youth Institute last summer, takes part in a Human Rights Center fellows reception.

### **GOTHAM GLADIATORS**

2Ls Kira Nikolaides, Danny Drane, and Theo Curie, led by coach Ted Pelletier (left), competed in the National Moot Court Competition in New York City after winning their regional rounds in Orange, Calif.





### SIGNING UP

Berkeley Law students, more than 95% of whom do probono work before graduating, list their reasons for volunteering time and expertise at a national Pro Bono Week event.

### **TALKING SHOP**

Jamal Jackson (right), a Public Resources Defense Council litigation fellow, speaks to students at our Public Interest Career Fair.



# Small Mods

The first year of law school can be quite an adjustment. Berkeley Law faculty members ease that transition by coordinating an array of fun outings and activities for 1Ls in their small mod groups.

### **FOOD WITH A VIEW**

classmates in Professor Jonathan D. Glater's mod (below and right) savor a food truck outing at Berkeley's Cesar Chavez Park.





### NAMASTE

Professor Khiara M. Bridges wastes no time imparting the need for self-care: "I know that the received 'wisdom' is that during their first year of law school, 1Ls should stop doing everything they've once loved and instead spend every waking hour briefing cases, outlining, and panicking about final exams. I think that's the worst thing for 1Ls to do. I chose to do yoga with my students because I wanted to encourage them to take care of themselves — physically, mentally, emotionally. They should definitely spend time figuring out *mens* rea and accomplice liability. But they should also make time to do things that simply make them happy."



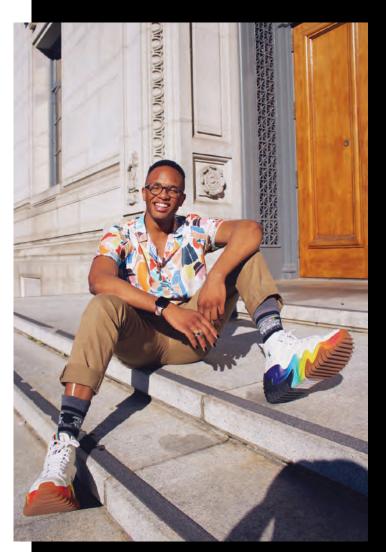


### **HOME COOKING**

Professor Chuck Weisselberg (right) hosts his 1L mod for a Sunday afternoon lunch.

# Brains of Berkeley Law

Our new series on Instagram celebrates the voices of students, faculty, and staff who make the school so extraordinary. Meet some of them here.





### **DEMYSTIFYING DIVERSITY**

Growing up in predominantly white spaces, 3L Kendrick Peterson was made aware of his identities as a queer and Black scholar at a young age. His 2018 TEDx talk addressed how institutionalism propels the importance of celebrating diversity in all forms, something he has done throughout his law school endeavors: on pro bono projects, as Student Association at Berkeley Law co-president and California Law Review associate editor, and through activities with Berkeley Law's Queer Caucus, Law Students of African Descent, and Mock Trial Team.

In his commercial practice, he hopes to focus on private sector litigation, white collar investigations, and higher education regulatory work, and impact federal advocacy on behalf of marginalized groups. Says Peterson: "We cannot continue to operate as if victories on behalf of vulnerable communities are set in stone."

### **CLIMATE CHANGER**

An Indigenous lawyer and environmental activist, Nazune Menka helps Berkeley Law students take a broad view of their legal work as a supervising attorney at our Environmental Law Clinic. Having advocated for policy reforms at both the Alaska and Hawaii state legislatures, she brings valuable expertise in areas such as Indigenous human rights, tribal sovereignty, and climate change management.

"For Indigenous peoples around the world, climate change has long been more than an abstract, futuristic possibility," Menka says. "It has been a reality affecting the harvesting of our traditional foods and ability to hunt and fish, affecting our ability to live on our ancestral homelands, and changing a way of life that we have been living since time immemorial.'

#### **CIVIL RIGHTS SCHOLAR**

2L Traelon Rodgers was one of 10 incoming law students born or raised in the South who were selected to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund's Marshall-Motley Scholars Program in 2021 out of 400-plus applicants. It gives full scholarships, training, and post-grad fellowships to students who commit to working for at least eight years on civil rights in the South after getting their J.D.s.

was elected its youngest ever national assistant secretary, Rodgers works for social justice through many service and activism pursuits. "Leadership is compassion, vision, and direction," he says.
"Leadership means to press on even when it doesn't feel fun — but most importantly, leadership means that someone is counting on you. A leader with no followers is merely talking a walk."

#### **FILLING A VOID**

Latinas make up less than 2% of America's lawyers, and less than 1% of partners at U.S. firms. Mariana Acevedo Nuevo LL.M. '19, a supervising attorney at our New Business Community Law Clinic, aims to help change that while pursuing her career assisting immigrant entrepreneurs. "As a clinic student, I realized how impactful our work was: We help people kick-start their companies and give them tools to realize their dreams and make a living."

Before moving to the U.S., Acevedo Nuevo represented clients before the Mexican Economic Competition Commission, including Latin America's leading e-commerce technology company and one of Mexico's five busiest container ports. She now relishes "trying to bridge the immense gap in access to legal services" by helping "people who don't have the resources to hire lawyers.





# Early-Career Excellence

How our powerhouse junior faculty are making a sizeable scholarly impact across many legal fields

BY GWYNETH K. SHAW





#### ABHAY ANEJA

J.D., Stanford Law School (2018) Ph.D., UC Berkeley Haas School of Business (2019)

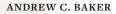
Research focus: How legal institutions affect economic and social inequality, with particular interest in the law of democracy, criminal justice, and law and inequality.



J.D., Harvard Law School (2009)

Research focus: The law of debtors and creditors as it affects marginalized communities, including the widening racial and gender gap.





J.D., Stanford Law School (2017) Ph.D., Stanford Graduate School of Business (2021)

Research focus: Empirical study of the law and legal institutions, in particular corporate governance standards and securities regulation and litigation.



Ph.D., Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (2019)

Research focus: Quantitative analysis of criminal justice policy to illuminate how different racial and ethnic groups interact with the state, how and when public policy represents public preferences, and how governments distribute scarce resources.





school's intellectual property scholars — Professors Pamela Samuelson, Peter S. Menell, and Robert Merges, whose work he knew well — made him more than a little nervous to be stepping into the same arena.

"Pam, Peter, and Rob are titans of the IP field. They're largely responsible for creating the field, and a huge part of the reason I decided to come here was to learn from them," Narechania says. "But I was definitely intimidated. It's a part of the early faculty experience, I think — to be awed by the most prominent people in your field. But then you go talk to them, and remember that they're humans."

Academia, particularly in the early, pre-tenure years, has a pressure-cooker reputation. New professors are mastering high-level teaching while simultaneously juggling a research agenda that's essential to their success, all under the watchful eyes of students and their tenured colleagues. Their performance over a set period of time dramatically impacts the trajectory of their careers, as the tick-tock of the tenure clock looms over the seasonal rhythms of the law school.

But Narechania, who joined the faculty in 2016, says the culture among Berkeley Law's "junior" professors has made the journey far smoother.

"It's a testament to not only our really supportive community, as it exists today, but a legacy and tradition of building that for junior scholars, going back many years," he says.

Professor Abbye Atkinson, who was hired the same year as Narechania, agrees.

"I have been nurtured as a scholar at Berkeley," she says. "There is a norm of honest and supportive academic engagement that has been crucial to my development as a scholar."

The Junior Working Ideas Group [see Group Dynamics, page 40], which functions as an informal but regular way for untenured faculty to discuss their scholarship, is "a really special place," Atkinson says. She calls it "a place to bring your honest self to get insightful feedback on the earliest ideas to a full draft of work, and to share the challenges and precarity of life as a junior."

"Special" is the word that many of the school's junior

professors use to describe their experience, both with one another and with the rest of the faculty, students, and staff.

#### Close-knit cohort

Starting out in the academy with such a wonderful cohort of colleagues has made a big difference, Professor Rebecca Wexler says. She came to Berkeley Law in 2019 along with Professors Jonathan S. Gould, Rebecca Goldstein, Manisha Padi, and Abhay Aneja.

"There's so much to learn about being a new prof, independent of one's scholarly field, and just having those peers there to share experiences and perspectives is really fun," Wexler says. "It's also great to have the chance to learn scholarship from another field or explain your scholarship to someone in another field. It helps one sharpen ideas."

Professor David Hausman, who arrived on campus last summer, says he's leaned on his junior colleagues for everything from hacks for finding his way among the school's labyrinthine halls to advice on how to solve a tricky empirical problem.

"They help with every small thing that you're wondering about, from where to find office supplies to how to think



ON THE RISE: Professor and federal legislation expert Jonathan S. Gould won the Association of American Law Schools' 2020 Scholarly Papers Prize for best work by a faculty member in their first five years of teaching law.

## Terrific Teachers

he backbone of a professor's tenure case is their scholarship. But teaching is also a major compo-

nent, and highly valued at Berkeley Law. Junior faculty say their colleagues, and the school's administration, are extremely supportive and helpful when it comes to their courses.

"People are very happy to share materials, to talk about approaches to a class and how to deal with difficult or tricky cases," Professor Tejas N. Narechania says. "And there's no one way to do it some people lecture, some people use the Socratic method, but everyone's comfortable with you doing what makes the most sense for you."

He says he has benefited greatly from formal and informal discussions about pedagogy, and also been encouraged to craft his own courses.

Professor David Hausman taught Civil Procedure last fall, and says he was heartened both by his colleagues' valuable assistance and the way the students welcomed him.

"The very best thing about Berkeley Law is the students," he says. "I just love the way I'm learning from them as well."

For Professor Manisha Padi, who was trained as an economist and also has a J.D., it's been challenging but fun to strike the balance between the disciplines with students.

"I've loved teaching Berkeley Law students," she says. "They are incredibly passionate and willing to question the status quo."

Students are equally enthusiastic about learning from these newer professors. Spencer Perry '23, who took Professor Rebecca Wexler's Evidence course in fall 2021 and her Secrecy: The Use and Abuse of Information Control in the Courts course

the following spring, says she "changed my life" and gave him a model he hopes to emulate in his own career. He lauded her expertise, empathy, and dedication to advocating on students' behalf.

"She meets and exceeds the qualities that define the Berkeley Law faculty: She is brilliant, evocative, and engaged," Perry says. "Professor Wexler infused her research and practical experience reckoning constitutional guardrails with emerging technologies. She supports each of her students with a personal, thoughtful touch."

Professor Emily Rong Zhang says she already misses her fall Civil Procedure students, and that she's also grateful for the generosity of her fellow teachers.

"There is such an incredible transformation that happens to first-semester 1Ls, and it's wonderful to be able to be a part of and witness that process," Zhang says. — Gwyneth K. Shaw





**CONSUMER PROTECTORS:** Research by Professors Rebecca Wexler (left) and Manisha Padi have helped advance safeguards for the public in multiple areas.



**NEW CREW:** (From left) Emily Rong Zhang, David Hausman, and Andrew C. Baker became Berkeley Law professors this past summer.

about your committee assignments," he says. "And then there's the academic side — if you have a question about your standard errors, it's like having an arm of the economics department right down the hall. If you want to think about the theoretical implications of what you're doing, there are just as many people you can talk to."

Hausman and many of the others also laud Berkeley Law's senior faculty for their welcoming and helpful manner.

Professor Andrew C. Baker, hired alongside Hausman and Professor Emily Rong Zhang last year, says his experience has exceeded his already high expectations. Despite his short tenure, he quickly felt accepted and integrated into the law school community.

"I've already had such helpful senior mentorship," Baker says. "During my first couple months here, I was invited to countless lunches and coffee meetings with people well outside my area to talk about settling in and life as a young professor, which has been amazing.

"I've also had the immense pleasure to get to know the illustrious Dick Buxbaum well, who is just a few offices down from me and the archetypal example of how to be an amazing professor and thoughtful human."

Narechania echoes those sentiments. Despite their own hectic schedules — teaching and helping to shape the IP world, both inside the academy and in the courts and policy realms — Menell, Samuelson, and Merges have consistently offered assistance and support, even as he's forged his own path in the IP canon.

"They were always very eager to read drafts of my work," Narechania says. "They didn't always agree, and they would tell me when they didn't agree. But that's part of being a scholar, and an important part of my experience has been to learn from them, but also to learn how to be a scholar in community with them.

"You're being encouraged to become the scholar you want to be, which I think is a unique and special quality of Berkeley Law."

## Group Dynamics

or years, Berkeley Law's untenured faculty have found an intellectual haven in a

regular meeting with a distinctive name: the Junior Working Ideas Group, affectionately known as J-WIG. It's a place to catch up with colleagues, share ideas, and workshop scholarship in progress, in a low-key space where creativity and risk-taking are highly encouraged. The sessions are so validating that some faculty who have graduated to the tenured "senior" faculty meetings still talk wistfully of the experience.

"It offers a strong and tight-knit academic and social community for junior scholars to find their way in the world with mutual support and a home-team cheering squad," says Professor Emily Rong Zhang, who's in her first year at the school. "We're lucky there's institutional support for the junior community. We get to trade advice,

#### Outsized impact

The culture of encouraging junior faculty has paid hefty research and policy dividends, too.

Atkinson has blazed a trail exploring how debt — especially high-cost borrowing, such as payday loans — can further marginalize and impoverish already poor people and communities. She's testified before the U.S. Senate Banking Committee, and won the American Constitution Society's inaugural Ruth Bader Ginsburg Scholar Award last year.

Gould, whose studies of the relationship between politics and law drew particular interest during Senate filibuster battles and then-President Trump's impeachment, won the Association of American Law Schools' 2020 Scholarly Papers Prize for work by a faculty member in their first five years of teaching law for "Law Within Congress."

His research on progressive constitutionalism, legislative representation, constitutional norms, legislative procedure, and the politics of regulation has been published in over a half-dozen top law journals, including the Harvard Law Review and Yale Law Journal.

"Some of my closest friends in Berkeley are fellow junior faculty members, and I've also been very lucky to get to know our wonderful dean and senior faculty members at Berkeley Law and across the university," Gould says. "Add in terrific students and a vibrant school culture, and this is a special place to be."

Wexler's work on data, technology, and criminal justice has caught the attention of policymakers at the state and federal level. She's currently senior policy advisor for science and justice at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and has also worked with U.S. Rep. Mark Takano, a California Democrat, on legislation to help rebalance a system that frequently bars criminal defendants from subpoenaing online communication content — even when it could exonerate them.

Her Harvard Law Review paper exposing some of those issues, "Privacy as Privilege," also earned her the 2020 Reidenberg-Kerr Award.

#### JONATHAN S. GOULD

J.D., Harvard Law School (2016) Ph.D., Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (2020)

Research focus: The relationship between politics and law, with special attention to Congress and the legislative process, drawing on a variety of methods.



#### DAVID HAUSMAN

J.D., Stanford Law School (2015) Ph.D., Stanford University Department of Political Science (2020)

Research focus: Empirical study of U.S. immigration enforcement using government data.



tips, and — when necessary — sympathy over Gregoire's fabulous sandwiches and famous potato puffs on a weekly basis."

Professor David Hausman, also a newcomer, says he knew he'd enjoy the formal workshops, with presentations of current research. But he finds the less structured conversations just as valuable.

"That's the part of it I wasn't anticipating: That relatively often, we don't discuss a paper but instead just chat with each other about our work," he says. "That informality is so helpful, to be able to run

something by my junior colleagues without having to present something that's fully formed."

Professor Tejas N. Narechania vividly remembers J-WIG, which includes assistant clinical professors Stephanie Campos-Bui '14 and Erik Stallman '03, during his first year. Several members were close to going up for tenure, and he admired and respected them greatly. Now that he's in the same position, he says he's trying to be as generous and supportive to his younger colleagues as they were to him.

"I think it's easy to look at everybody else's accomplishments and think that they're all doing so much and I'm not doing enough — to feel a little bit of that impostor syndrome," Narechania says. "Part of my own journey has been coming to the understanding that if you just keep doing the work, especially in a job like this that you love, you'll gain the experience and the knowledge that you need to be successful. And I'm trying to pass that down." — Gwyneth K. Shaw

#### MANISHA PADI

J.D., Yale Law School (2017) Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology Department of Economics (2017)

Research focus: The law and economics of consumer financial contracts, using empirical methods to evaluate the role of regulation on consumers.





#### ASAD RAHIM

J.D., Harvard Law School (2012) Ph.D., UC Berkeley Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program (2019)

Research focus: Constitutional law, critical race theory, and employment discrimination



M.Phil., Cambridge University (2006) J.D., Yale Law School (2016)

Research focus: Data, technology, and criminal justice, particularly evidence law, criminal procedure, privacy, and intellectual property protections.





#### EMILY RONG ZHANG

J.D., Stanford Law School (2016) Ph.D., Stanford University Department of Political Science (2022)

Research focus: How the law can promote political participation and representation, especially of individuals from historically disadvantaged communities.

Narechania, too, has seen his academic work used in real-world applications. He examines questions of technology, law, and policy from an institutional perspective, an interest seeded during his time as a clerk for then-U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer and a stint at the Federal Communications Commission. Narechania has written extensively about telecommunications, particularly access to broadband internet service.

His 2021 Berkeley Technology Law Journal article "Convergence and a Case for Broadband Rate Regulation," which showed that customers served by monopoly providers — roughly 20% of the country pay more for worse service than those in a competitive market, was cited by a White House executive order aimed at promoting greater economic competition.

Narechania, like Wexler a faculty co-director of the Berkeley Center for Law & Technology, recently became the co-leader of the Artificial Intelligence, Platforms, and Society Project [see page 6]. The new initiative will work with students, academics, practitioners, and technology companies to explore the best ways to support responsible development and use of artificial intelligence.

#### Diversity and depth

Those are just a few examples. Goldstein, Aneja, Padi, Baker, Hausman, Zhang, and Professor Asad Rahim have also scored placements in top law reviews and peer-reviewed journals, including work expressly focused on using the law to analyze and combat inequality [see page 43].

Dean Erwin Chemerinsky says he's "tremendously proud" of the faculty the school has recruited in recent years, including those who have begun their teaching careers here. Since 2017, Berkeley Law has hired 29 new professors.

"Our 'junior' faculty are spectacular. They have distinquished themselves as wonderful classroom teachers and as prolific and influential scholars," he says. "In many ways, these faculty are the future of Berkeley Law and it is a future that could not look brighter or better."

That flurry of hiring has helped make an appealing place even more desirable, says Aneja, an economist who studies how legal institutions affect economic and social inequality.

"What I think sets Berkeley apart from our peers is being very active on the rookie market every year," he says. "Robust junior hiring has helped me in a few ways: First, I have many peers who can teach me about norms in the profession. Second, I get to see a lot of very bright junior scholars present their best work to my colleagues; this has taught me a great deal about legal scholarship and what constitutes good research."

The group includes a number of empiricists like Aneja.

He, Padi, Goldstein, Rahim, Hausman, Zhang, Baker, and Gould all hold a Ph.D., reflecting the larger trend in legal academia of scholars adding intensive social science training to their law degree. That expertise also mirrors a large slice of the senior faculty — particularly those working in the Ph.D.-granting Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program — and complements and augments the school's historically strong cohort of law and economics scholars.

"It's been a huge pleasure to be around a lot of likeminded scholars who come at similar questions from different directions with varying methodologies," Padi says. "The faculty is very generous, providing guidance on research as well as forming a community that I can rely on during this early stage in my career."

Wexler says the bottom line is simple: This is a great place to be.

"I love being a junior faculty member at Berkeley Law," she says. "My interactions with my colleagues — junior and senior — invariably leave me energized and inspired to dive into scholarship, teaching, and service."



STAIRWAY TO SUCCESS: Professors Tejas N. Narechania and Abbye Atkinson have quickly become leading voices in their respective scholarly fields.

## Spotlighting Inequality



cross numerous fields, many of Berkeley Law's junior faculty have used their

scholarly work to probe the causes and results of inequality in our society, bolstering the school's public missionoriented reputation.

Their toolboxes vary: Professor Abbye Atkinson's perspective on consumer credit and the widening racial and gender gap is influenced by her expertise as a Contracts teacher. Professor Rebecca Wexler is focused on evidence and privacy and their intersection in the criminal justice system. Professors Abhay Aneja, Manisha Padi, Rebecca Goldstein, Emily Rong Zhang, and David Hausman leverage empirical methods for their analysis. Professor Asad Rahim draws from constitutional law and critical race theory.

But regardless of their approach, each is finding places where the law

 past, present, and potentially future has caused or exacerbated unfairness, often among race and class lines.

"Inequality is particularly important to study because fair and equitable laws must serve all types of people," says Padi, who studies the law and economics of consumer financial contracts. "It's a field that allows scholars from a variety of backgrounds to focus on the fields that interest them and resonate with their life experience."

Aneja, who like Padi holds a Ph.D. in economics, looks at how legal institutions affect economic and social inequality. His research includes an exploration of the cost of employment segregation, using President Woodrow Wilson's move to separate the civil service corps and how that decision affected white and Black workers' incomes in the ensuing decades, and an analysis of the glaring racial gap in campaign contributions.

"My interest in this area is probably due to a combination of being the child of

immigrants and growing up in the South, a region with a complicated history of racial subjugation," he says. "Since college, I've had an ongoing interest in understanding how institutions create opportunities for shared prosperity in multiethnic democracies like ours."

Atkinson's trailblazing scholarship includes addressing how Congress has encouraged debt among socioeconomically marginalized groups — and how that debt burden causes wealth to flow out of disadvantaged communities. Her research is already nationally known, says Berkeley Center for Consumer Law & Economic Justice Executive Director Ted Mermin '96, who's worked closely with Atkinson, including teaching the Consumer Law and Economic Justice Workshop with her last spring.

He says her work "serves as a guiding light for her colleagues around the country and, as I can personally attest, inside the law school."

- Gwyneth K. Shaw

#### Fast Forward

**Powerful Student Action Figures** 

#### **Angélica César '25**

## Striving to Lead by Example

#### When Angélica César was 10, her

mother immigrated from Mexico City to Arizona, desperate to give her two daughters a better life. But arriving at the peak of the state's anti-immigrant movement — when law enforcement agents regularly partnered with federal agencies to execute workplace raids and enforce policies against the undocumented — came with a cost.

César's sister was deported. Her family remains separated.

"Experiencing the devastating impact of that at a young age led me to engage in community organizing and policy advocacy efforts," César says. "With the right tools, we can shift the course of law and public policy as it pertains to immigration. That's why I'm here."

Her commitment was evident well before she applied to Berkeley Law, as she partnered with leading civil rights organizations on multiple fronts to benefit immigrant, Latinx, and BIPOC communities. Recognized for those and other efforts. César landed on the latest 30 Under 30 list in Hispanic Executive, which amplifies the voices of Latinx leadership in America.

Last year, she co-created programming and led advocacy training sessions for UnidosUS's 2022 Líderes Avanzando Fellowship cohort, which supports the next generation of Latinx civil rights leaders. As a prior cohort fellow, she drafted op-eds and policy memos and met with congressional staffers to push for policies that advance Latinx prosperity.

César also helped lead a campaign that trained more than 2,000 people working for educational equity on

behalf of undocumented students. Four years of work later, with the Arizona State Legislature passing Proposition 308, such students there will now receive in-state tuition and statefunded scholarships.

"It was a transformative experience that taught me the critical importance of centering the leadership and experiences of impacted people in policy and law," César says. "I also learned that pursuing change in the policy arena requires persistence, courage, and a deep commitment to a mission greater than yourself."

Taking advantage of Berkeley Law's unique opportunities for 1Ls to dive into pro bono work right away, César now participates in the Post-Conviction Advocacy Project and helps to represent incarcerated people appearing before the California Board of Parole.

Also elected as one of two 1L representatives for the Student Association at Berkeley Law, César and her co-rep Caleb Charles have secured funding for and helped elevate various 1L-led community-building initiatives, supported professional development and readiness programming, and worked to improve access to academic support.

"As a first-generation law student and Latina, I recognize that people like me have been historically excluded from academic and legal institutions," says César, noting that less than 2% of U.S. lawyers are Latina. "I'm committed to fostering a culture of belonging, transparency, and accountability in the communities I'm part of, and I take my role in ensuring that we co-create that culture for all very seriously."

— Andrew Cohen



"With the right tools, we can shift the course of law and public policy as it pertains to immigration. That's why I'm here."

> STEP BY STEP: Named to Hispanic Executive's 30 Under 30 list, Angélica César balances patience with persistence in her community organizing and policy advocacy.



**Nathaniel Whitthorne '23** 

## Sampler Platter Offers Tasty Synergies

#### Good luck trying to label Nathaniel

Whitthorne, who has tried just about everything at Berkeley Law.

Business law? Check. Tenant and housing rights? Check. Negotiation competitions? Check. And the list goes on.

As a University of Arizona undergrad, his wide-ranging activities included leading a spring break public service trip,

competing for the school's ballroom dance team, and interning at the International Rescue Committee. Whitthorne brought that same unquenchable approach to Berkeley Law.

"I've consistently found that different experiences build on each other in unexpected ways," he says, "so I seek out a wide variety of opportunities to try to



VERSATILITY 101: An open-minded and open-hearted approach has enabled Nathaniel Whitthorne to get the most out of his Berkeley Law experience.

learn things I couldn't otherwise."

Whitthorne immediately joined the Berkeley Business Law Journal and is now co-editor-in-chief — which he credits for having the greatest impact on his law school experience.

"Student-published journals give us an opportunity to have a finger on the pulse of a particular area, and even, to some

extent, have some influence on the direction of legal scholarship," he says.

Editing an article about how local municipalities can finance climate resistant infrastructure through derivative products, he realized that journal work can indeed affect the real world.

"Here's a way to turn existing financial instruments into buildings and flood barriers in a way I thought was really interesting," says Whitthorne, who worked at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett in Palo Alto last summer and will soon clerk for Delaware Court of Chancery Vice Chancellor Paul Fioravanti Jr.

Staying "rooted amid a world of abstract legal concepts," Whitthorne also co-chairs the student group Catholics at Berkeley Law.

"Our faith is a very important part of who we are as people and as future lawyers," he says. "We ask questions and reflect together on what it means for us to be complicit in a larger legal system and how that interacts with our faith."

Whitthorne also dove into Berkeley Law's vast pro bono opportunities. He has worked with the Tenants' Rights Workshop and the East Bay Community Law Center's Housing Clinic, creating forms to help tenants bring counterclaims for unpaid rent in small claims court.

Participating remotely in a 2021 Berkeley Law Alternative Service Trip for people in rural Kentucky, Whitthorne developed a pre-lease signing checklist to help renters secure key rights — like habitability, which local laws did not guarantee — and also wrote part of an appellate brief.

From journals to affinity groups to pro bono outlets, Whitthorne calls Berkeley Law's robust engagement opportunities "outstanding."

"I had some really cool moments where I'd get out of Contracts class, then go into the Tenants' Rights Workshop and advise someone on the very contractual theory that I'd just learned about," he says. "These kinds of synergies are part of why I like trying so many things, and having these opportunities is what sets Berkeley Law apart." — Sarah Weld



**ENABLING ACCESS:** KeAndra Hollis says her law school motivation comes from being raised in a low-income community "where navigating the legal process or affording an attorney seemed impossible for almost any matter.'

#### **KeAndra Hollis** '24

## A Multifaceted Quest for Equity

#### Growing up in Detroit, KeAndra Hollis

saw inequality up close, her city struggling while its wealthy suburbs thrived. That experience honed a passion for using law to foster inclusive growth and equitable access to opportunities.

Even before arriving at Berkeley Law, Hollis felt its strong sense of community through alumni she spoke with before enrolling. That close-knit feeling has only increased.

"The network and mentorship I received as a 1L is something I now rave about to others out of gratitude,"

And she's paying it forward: Hollis works to connect students with alumni mentors and professors through her role as faculty and alumni co-chair for Law Students of African Descent, and serves as a mentor herself for fellows with the Startup Law Initiative, one of the school's Student-Initiated Legal Services Projects.

The program pairs 1Ls with law firms to provide free legal incorporation services to low-income Bay Area startup founders and local entrepreneurs. Hollis saw a perfect outlet for learning to use the law to increase opportunity and accessibility for underrepresented entrepreneurs.

That rewarding experience opened other doors: through the group, she worked with an education technology company founder under the supervision of a startup and venture capital lawyer. Following her 1L year, Hollis snagged a summer gig working at Gunderson Dettmer as a 1L Diversity Fellow, gaining more valuable exposure to emerging companies and venture capital law.

She is also interested in corporate governance, particularly the movement toward greater ethical consciousness in the boardroom known as ESG (for environmental, social, and governance matters). Hollis has steadily built her

knowledge base as submissions editor of the Berkeley Business Law Journal and through the law school's wide range of classes on the subject, including Business in Society.

"I found that it tied closely to my passion for problem solving and understanding how both companies and government actors may work together to create efficiency, fairness, and inclusivity while keeping shareholders and stakeholders in mind," she says.

Hollis has found purpose in a different side of the law school, too: She sits on the Faculty Interview Committee, a panel of students that gets to evaluate potential professors as they move through the hiring process.

"Interviewing and sharing my perspective on future faculty who will shape Berkeley Law's community has been a superb experience," she says.

Hollis' many facets continue to help her get the most out of law school while staying true to the ideals she

"It's given me more training to work with a range of individuals in different capacities when interpreting the rules of law or when advocating for changes in law," she says. "These activities allow me to envision different ways that I may leverage my legal training to advance inclusive and healthy communities - through sustainable and equitable solutions — while increasing diversity in both the legal and business sectors." — Gwyneth K. Shaw

"Interviewing and sharing my perspective on future faculty who will shape Berkeley Law's community has been a superb experience."



## Valued Voices Across the Legal Landscape

#### **Faculty Honors:**

Self-promotion may be a way for law schools to showcase the strengths of their faculty's teaching, research, and initiatives. But it's far more telling when organizations outside that tent enlist and honor such expertise. As usual, Berkeley Law faculty are in great demand and routinely recognized these days while guiding several areas of law.

Here are some recent examples.

**TECH TITANS:** The White

House tapped professors Catherine Crump and Rebecca Wexler for high-level roles to influence federal technology policy. Crump, director of our Samuelson Law, Technology & Public Policy Clinic, is a White House Domestic Policy Council senior policy advisor. The council drives the development and implementation of the president's domestic agenda in the White House and across the federal government.

Wexler is a senior policy advisor for science and justice at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. The office works to maximize the benefits of science and technology to advance health, prosperity, security, environmental quality, and justice for Americans, advising the President and the executive branch on such matters.

#### **PUTTING THE PRO IN**

**CIV PRO:** Professor Andrew Bradt was appointed Associate Reporter to the Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Civil Rules by U.S. Chief Justice John

Roberts for a five-year term that began Jan. 1. It's a prestigious role for the renowned scholar, Berkeley Law's associate dean for J.D curriculum and teaching and faculty director of its Civil Justice Research Initiative. He will help shape the next evolution of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, which govern noncriminal proceedings in U.S. district courts.

"For a proceduralist, it's really like manna from heaven to be on the ground of the rulemaking process," Bradt says. "The chance to collaborate with such an incredible committee on this important work is irresistible."

#### A VIP IN IP ANALYSIS:

Professor Sonia Katyal won multiple honors for "From Trade Secrecy to Seclusion," written with Charles Graves. which probes how trade secrecy laws thwart the release of information in ways that raise public policy questions. The article received the first Law Science and Innovation/IP Program Prize from Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, and Jotwell named it one of the best works in recent intellectual property law.

The article shows how trade secrecy laws — traditionally used to protect IP from misappropriation — have expanded against public disclosures for journalists and whistleblowers, government usages of private technologies for artificial intelligence, and diversity and workplace harms in labor and employment.

#### THE DEAN'S STATELY

**HONOR:** Dean Erwin Chemerinsky received the Ronald M. George Public Lawyer of the Year Award, given annually by the California Lawyers Association to a wellregarded practitioner "who has provided outstanding service to the public and possesses an exemplary reputation in the legal community and the highest of ethical standards."

Chemerinsky, president of the Association of American Law Schools in 2022, was hailed for his work illuminating how the U.S. Constitution and the rule of law are vital to democracy. The nation's most cited constitutional law scholar, Chemerinsky is a prominent Supreme Court analyst and his op-eds and columns frequently appear in leading journals and newspapers across the country.

#### **SUPER-CITED SCHOLARS:**

Nine Berkeley Law professors are among the 75 most cited law professors with Google Scholar pages in a recent study that factors in both their number of publications and how often their works are cited by others. This doesn't include Chemerinsky and some other top scholars who do not have a Google Scholar page.

The new list was compiled by Brian Leiter, a professor at the University of Chicago Law School. Berkeley Law faculty members on the list include professors Alan Auerbach, Daniel Farber, Orin Kerr, Jonathan Simon '87, Pamela Samuelson, and John Yoo, as

well as professors emeriti Robert Cooter, Daniel Rubinfeld, and Franklin Zimring.

#### **PRIVACY POWERHOUSE:**

"Privacy and/or Trade," a University of Chicago Law Review article by Berkeley Law Professor Paul M. Schwartz with Anupam Chander, was named a winner of the annual Privacy Papers for Policymakers awards. Given by the nonprofit Future of Privacy Forum, the awards honor scholarship that's useful to policymakers within the U.S. Congress, federal agencies, and international data protection authorities.

Schwartz and Chander trace how international privacy and trade law, which developed together, have diverged and now conflict with one another. Upon finding that a whopping 61 countries outside the European Union have created their own "adequacy" standards for international data transfers, a splintering that threatens global data trade, the authors propose various policy solutions.

#### **CALIFORNIA TEAMING:**

David A. Carrillo '95, executive director of Berkeley Law's California Constitution Center, was elected chair of the California Law Revision Commission for 2022-23. Appointed in 2019, he now heads the agency that studies problem areas in the state's law and proposes reforms. The commission is currently engaged in studies of antitrust law, environmental reforms, and the Equal Rights Amendment.

After making preliminary

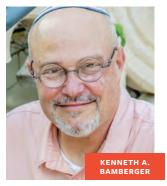
decisions on how to reform a law, the commission issues a tentative proposal, solicits public comment, considers that input, and typically makes a final published recommendation to the legislature and governor. Historically, over 90% of its recommendations have been enacted into law, affecting more than 22,500 sections of California statutory codes.



#### **Faculty Papers:**

Now more than ever, in our dizzying and at times disillusioning click-bait world where harmful misinformation runs rampant across the digital terrain, objective research matters. Astute analysis matters. Nuanced scholarship matters. When **Berkeley Law professors** put pen to paper (OK, these days fingertips to laptop keys), their writing reflects what makes their school stand out. Tackling critical issues and breaking new ground, they bring an exceptional level of passion, detail, and acumen to their work.

These articles from the past few months show the depth of our faculty's research on a broad range of important topics.



KENNETH A. BAMBERGER WITH ARIEL EVAN MAYSE

#### Revisiting a Jurisprudence of Obligation

Touro Law Review

The authors argue that a nuanced adaptation of Robert Cover's landmark theory of "incumbent obligation" as Jewish law's organizing feature can help policymakers develop new approaches to information privacy and environmental ethics. Their paper calls the theory especially valuable in contexts where success has been elusive in locating a language or strategy that sufficiently addresses overwhelming modern problems at the juncture of individual and community.

#### **ERIC BIBER**

WITH SHELLEY HE, HELEN AKI, **MARIBETH HUNSINGER, &** STEPHANIE PHILLIPS

#### How Does Restructuring of **Electricity Generation** Affect Renewable Power?

#### Energy Law Journal

Compiling a comprehensive dataset of different electricity generation restructuring policies since the 1990s, the authors note that some advance renewable energy development (regulatory changes for siting facilities in one state increased its capacity levels by 50%). But their paper

also finds little impact on other core areas, and warns that a utility system's public versus private status won't likely impact renewable investment or be a key driver of outcomes.



#### KHIARA M. BRIDGES

#### Race in the Roberts Court

#### Harvard Law Review

Invited to write the foreword of Harvard Law Review's annual issue on the Supreme Court's most recent term, Bridges argues that the Roberts Court only remedies racism against people of color when it encounters something resembling the pre-civil rights era, from poll taxes to eugenics. She writes that the Court provides no relief to injured parties unless the racism in the challenged law or policy "is so closely tied to white supremacy that it would be embarrassing for the Court to do nothing."





#### **SETH DAVIS**

### Empire in Equity Notre Dame Law Review

Davis describes how a contest for empire helped form the types of matters American federal courts can adjudicate. Showing how a 1793 English Court of Chancery decision came to be cited by U.S. lawyers and judges for the principle that courts won't address political questions — and that equity won't intervene to protect political rights — his paper emphasizes the ruling's impact on entrenching the notion that equity should stay out of contests over political power.

## DANIEL FARBER WITH ROSEMARY LYSTER & RORY MCFADDEN

## Climate-Induced Wildfires and Strengthening Resilience in Electricity Infrastructure

Utrecht Law Review

Recent climate-induced disasters have destroyed human and non-human communities and ecosystems around the world. Studying electricity grids, the authors collate the latest climate science, relating it to how wildfires have affected electricity infrastructure in Australia and California. Their paper compares how these jurisdictions

approach grid governance and the stark contrast in their approach to risk management, and explains how that impacts their resilience strategies.



#### **JONATHAN S. GOULD**

#### Puzzles of Progressive Constitutionalism Harvard Law Review

How should progressives think about our constitutional order? Two common answers focus on the courts and the Constitution's role in public discourse. Gould shows the dangers of these paths, arguing that each can impede progressive politics. He instead contends that efforts to reform government structure — the ways in which the Constitution and law more generally shapes the power of institutions — represent the most promising path forward for progressives.





RACHEL STERN
WITH JIEUN KIM, BENJAMIN L.
LIEBMAN, & XIAOHAN WU

#### Closing Open Government: Grassroots Policy Conversion of China's Open Government Information Regulation and Its Aftermath

Comparative Political Studies

While known for its tight political control, China sparked a surge of political-legal activism in 2008 with its Open Government Information (OGI) regulation. Studying 57,095 OGI lawsuits, interview data, and government documents, the authors reveal how the regulation helped define new legal labels that revamped court access. Their paper underscores how procedural rules and frontline judges can shape possibilities for political participation under authoritarianism.

#### KATERINA LINOS WITH ELENA CHACHKO

#### Ukraine and the Emergency Powers of International Institutions

American Journal of International Law

International institutions are resorting more to emergency powers to address global crises, but the study of this process is in its infancy. Asserting that the European Union has used these powers most ambitiously, the

authors consider its legal and policy responses to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. They say the EU has pushed through unprecedented legal reforms in many areas, and that the techniques used may be replicated in other organizations and in other emergencies.

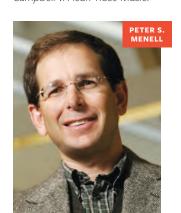


PETER S. MENELL WITH SHYAMKRISHNA BALGANESH

#### Misreading Campbell: Lessons for Warhol

Duke Law Journal Online

The Supreme Court is set to revisit its most salient fair use precedent, which introduced the idea of "transformative use." During oral argument in the case, the justices focused on how the transformativeness of a work might be considered as part of the fair use doctrine and reconciled with copyright's right to prepare derivative works. The authors say the answer to these questions lies in the logic and careful analysis of a seminal 1994 case, Campbell v. Acuff-Rose Music.



#### **SAIRA MOHAMED**

#### Abuse by Authority: The Hidden Harm of Illegal Orders

Iowa Law Review

When a leader orders a subordinate to commit a crime, how should the law and a society respond? Leaders who give such orders are either held blameless or considered a party to the crime committed by the subordinate. Focusing on the military, Mohamed argues the illegal order is an abuse of the authority the leader holds over their subordinate, and that an illegal order should be understood as a distinct wrong committed by the superior against the subordinate.



#### **DYLAN PENNINGROTH**

#### Race in Contract Law University of Pennsylvania Law Review

Modern contract law is rife with ideas about race, slavery, and cases involving African Americans, but that presence is hard to detect. Penningroth offers a rich historical account of when, where, and why legal professionals have highlighted race in contract law. He writes that the "whitening" of contract law allowed it to form as a distinct, coherent body of



law, but at a steep cost to its doctrinal and conceptual integrity, to the law school curriculum, and also to students.

#### **EMILY RONG ZHANG**

**Questioning Questions** in the Law of Democracy: What the Debate Over Voter ID Laws' Effects Teaches About Asking the Right Questions

UCLA Law Review

Voter identification laws remain hotly contested, with critics derisively calling them voter suppression laws. Zhang reveals how they have become a pain point for a historically close, collaborative community of social scientists, lawyers, and legal scholars. Using social science literature and descriptive evidence revealed during litigation, her paper offers the first account of why empiricists have consistently failed to detect a turnout effect from voter ID laws.



#### STEVEN DAVIDOFF SOLOMON

WITH RACHEL S. ARNOW-**RICHMAN & JAMES HICKS** 

Do Social Movements Spur Corporate Change? The Rise of 'MeToo Termination Rights' in CEO Contracts

Indiana Law Journal

Dissecting a novel dataset of CEO employment agreements from before and after the #MeToo movement, the authors shed new light on whether social movements trigger corporate change. Their



paper contends that the rise in "MeToo termination rights" holds instructive lessons for corporate governance, executive contracting, and gender equity — as evidenced by increased corporate control of CEO behavior and more institutional accountability for sexbased misconduct.

#### **Faculty Book Spotlight:**

## Exploring Unlikely Activism

he seed for Kathryn Abrams' new book sprouted at a Berkeley Law faculty retreat. After she presented an almost-completed article on emotion's role in social movements — ideas squarely in line with her far-reaching scholarship rooted in feminist theory — fellow Professors Ian Haney López and Leti Volpp suggested a new frame to her piece: Arizona's battle over anti-immigrant laws, particularly the one authorizing police to ask anyone they suspected of being undocumented to show their documents, during the course of any legal stop.

Abrams started digging.

"I quickly realized that this wasn't a frame for my article, it was a new piece altogether," she says. "I said to myself, 'I wonder what would happen if I actually went down there?""

One trip became many and Abrams spent years with activists, slowly gaining their trust. Her article became a book, published by the University of California Press last



fall: Open Hand, Closed Fist: Practices of Undocumented Organizing in a Hostile State, which tracks organizers' efforts to fight anti-immigrant legislation and tackle related causes.

"It was the most energizing thing I've done in my career," she says.

The title comes from Carlos Garcia, then the leader of Puente-Arizona, a group Abrams spent extensive time with.

"The 'open hand' is the process of bringing people into community, and making them feel there are others who share their experience," she says, describing a dual sense of personal empowerment and collective protection. "You learn that the same person who can make you feel at home by mirroring your experience can also put in a bunch of calls to Immigration and Customs Enforcement and supporters to get you out of detention if you get arrested during an action.

"The 'closed fist' is the practices that enable you to resist, advocate for change, and model public commitment to a political community and speak to decision-makers and the public."

Not a political prescription, Open Hand, Closed Fist describes

a way of bringing to action people whose legal status and past experience make them unlikely activists. Professors at Berkeley Law's interdisciplinary Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program helped chart Abrams' methodology, as she took courses with Kristin Luker on interviewing and Calvin Morrill on ethnographic observation and got advice from Catherine Albiston '93.

In Arizona, Abrams embedded herself into organizing groups: Listening, interviewing leaders, and observing protests, meetings, and activists knocking on doors to tell their stories.

Immigrant activists sought to answer anti-immigrant laws and rhetoric with concrete examples of contrasting action, Abrams says.

"You say we're a burden on the economy? We'll show you we're very hard workers who give and don't take. You say we're outsiders to the political system? We'll register voters, or march 60 miles into the desert to protest immigrant detention. In some cases, we'll let ourselves get arrested — even when it might lead to deportation — to protest what's happening. These actions made an impression on the public, even as they moved the state or country toward political or legal change." — Gwyneth K. Shaw

## **Joyful Connections**

Updates from Development & Alumni Relations Over the last weekend of September, Alumni Reunion Weekend returned as an in-person event for the first time since 2019, drawing a crowd back to Berkeley Law for the chance to reconnect with classmates and see what's happening now. Alumni celebrated with dinners, receptions, and tours of the school. They also had the chance to earn Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits through courses across a variety of topics, from the history and future of our Death Penalty Clinic to the legal thicket then ensnaring Twitter and Elon Musk.

Dean Erwin Chemerinsky taught his own CLE course recapping the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark 2021-22 term, and held a town hall meeting to hear from our graduates.









A: Juan Cornejo '92, Abraham Escareno '12, Gloria Juarez, Irma Rodriguez

D: Janice Reicher '12 and Nan Joesten '97. E: 1997 classmates Stacey Knox and Jerry Canada. F: Quyen Ta '03 and John Kuo '88. G: 2007 classmates John Le, Madelene Sun, Tim Yoo, Eric Ow, Arthur Liou, Tam Bui, Anne Shaver, Emily Bolt, and Jim Keenley. H: Richard Rahm '87, WIlliam Bloch '87, Avril Ussery Sisk '87, and Rachel Corona

Alumni of the school's affinity groups also took the opportunity to gather. The reunion was particularly poignant for Asian American and Pacific Islander alumni, and those who were members of Berkeley Law's Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA) chapter, who met for the first time face to face since the denaming of Boalt Hall in January 2020.

APALSA-affiliated students and members of the Berkeley Law Asian American Alumni Association were active in the

long process of responding to the discovery of the racist anti-Chinese writings of John Henry Boalt. John Kuo '88 says the group reflected on the three years since their last meeting and the impactful work of Quyen Ta '03 and the Alliance for Asian American Justice, as well as the school's efforts to split from Boalt's legacy.

"There's still much to be done, but reconnecting with old friends in person and the camaraderie of our shared alumni experience buoyed us all," he says.

— Gwyneth K. Shaw









## Save the Date!

Reconnect with classmates. Revitalize your law school friendships. Rediscover Berkeley Law. We look forward to seeing you September 22-23!



The Development and Alumni Engagement office would like your feedback regarding the annual Alumni Reunion program. Visit law.berkeley.edu/reunionsurvey to share your thoughts!

## A \$5.5 Million Gift for Criminal Justice

Berkeley Law recently received a \$5.5 million gift that will create an additional faculty position at the school: The Barry Tarlow Chair in Criminal Justice.

Providing endowed support for a Chancellor's Chair, which will be awarded to a tenured professor, the gift will expand the school's influential teaching and research in the field.

"This will allow us to strengthen our already outstanding criminal justice faculty, which are widely regarded as among the very best in the country," Dean Erwin Chemerinsky says. "Barry Tarlow was an

eminent criminal defense attorney and I am thrilled that we will honor his legacy by having a permanent chair named in his memory."

Berkeley Law's faculty includes renowned criminologists, experts in domestic and international criminal law and criminal procedure, top practitioners, and leading scholars. Long at the forefront of research and advocacy guiding criminal justice reforms, the school offers

students vital practical experience through its clinics, centers, practicums, Field Placement Program, and Student-Initiated Legal Services Projects.

Tarlow, who died in 2021, had designated fellow prominent criminal defense lawyer Marcia Morrissey as successor adviser to his charitable trust, which he wished to donate to one of four law schools and outlined various options. Deciding that a criminal justice chair at Berkeley Law "would best fulfill Barry's intent," Morrissey hopes to see some of its students follow in his footsteps and sustain the school's tradition in the field.

"An advanced course in criminal law or a criminal law clinical program for those with an interest in this area ... can be professionally life-changing," she says. "And, hopefully, it will inspire students to participate in and generate meaningful change in the criminal justice system."

A leading authority in the defense of RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act) prosecutions, Tarlow was named a California Super Lawyer every year from 2005 to 2018, profiled among "Ten of the Best Winning Trial Lawyers" in America by the National Law Journal, and named the top "gunslinger" among Los Angeles County's 40,000 lawyers by Los Angeles Magazine.

Tarlow also won a National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers lifetime achievement award and the Century City Bar Association Criminal Defense Lawyer of the Year Award, among many other honors. The author of over 325 articles and books dealing with criminal practice and procedure, he also represented numerous celebrities and was counsel in several appeals which had major implications for the criminal defense bar.

"When someone who has given so much of his life to the pursuit of criminal justice makes this kind of investment in the future of that struggle, it is an extraordinary event," says Lance Robbins Professor of Criminal Justice Law Jonathan Simon '87. "But this also comes at an extraordinary time when California is at the forefront of reform and Berkeley Law is an engine of new thinking in the field." — Andrew Cohen



**QUITE A LEGACY:** A new professorship will be named in honor of the late Barry Tarlow, a standout criminal defense attorney.

## Fellowship on Many Levels

It started with three simple goals: Connect Berkeley Law's Asian and Pacific Islander (API) alumni, honor deserving graduates, and provide financial support to public interest attorneys. Sixteen years later, the Dale Minami Public Interest Fellowship has become so much more.



"We have 1Ls making connections with people at firms that lead to job offers, connections from different classes leading to lateral movements and in-house offers, and friends getting to see each other every year at our annual gala," says Bryan Springmeyer '10. "Similar to myself, I've heard from others that they were inspired by their first gala to become more active in the community."

An iconic 1971 Berkeley Law graduate, Minami has long pursued social justice for minorities and litigated major lawsuits to enforce civil rights. That list includes a leading role in overturning Korematsu v. United States 40 years after the Supreme Court upheld a conviction for refusing to obey exclusion orders aimed at Japanese Americans during World War II.

Co-founder of the Asian Law Caucus, the first nonprofit firm dedicated to API legal advocacy, Minami also helped start the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area, Asian Pacific Bar of California, and Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans. When class of 2009 members Vina Ha, Eunice

Koo, and Daniel Kim hatched the fellowship idea and asked to name it after him, Minami was intrigued — but also skeptical.

"The call came out of the blue," he says. "Students can easily lose interest in a project, so my thought was that they could help some students for a few years, then we'd all go away. I didn't envision the longevity nor interest generated, but we're still celebrating and giving grants."

Springmeyer planned the second gala as a 2L, helped transition new event chairs the next year, and now coordinates the fellowship with Ha and current students. Many prominent alumni and law firm sponsors have supported the fellowship, which has built a \$200,000 endowment with over \$200,000 distributed to recipients.

"I was moved by the event and Dale's career," Springmeyer says. "It's a lot of work by all parties involved, but seeing the success and helping provide financial support to public interest attorneys is really rewarding and inspiring."

This latest gala on Feb. 24 honored California Magistrate

Judge Donna Ryu '86 and MacArthur Justice Center Supreme Court & Appellate Counsel Easha Anand '14, and gave the annual fellowship funding to 3L Myka Yamasaki. Having led student initiatives focused on Native Pacific Islander rights and the creation of a 9th Circuit pro se immigrant guide, Yamasaki will join the Legal Aid Society of New York as a criminal defense attorney after graduating.

"It's now challenging to fulfill your dreams of practicing public interest law because of the financial deterrent," says Minami, who recalls paying just \$342 a year for tuition. "So anything we can do to encourage students to enter this critical area of social justice work is fulfilling to me. The fellowship reaffirms our connection to Berkeley Law and each other." — Andrew Cohen



COMMUNITY CAUSE: (From left) Stephanie Clemente '23, Dale Minami '71, Angela Lim, Natasha Suterwala '24, and Yvonne Lee enjoy the festivities at last year's gala.



## Class of '87 Offers a Hand Up

When Kenton King '87 and fellow members of his class reunion committee started planning their milestone gathering for 2022, the conversation repeatedly turned to the enormous gap between what they paid to get a Berkeley Law degree and what today's students owe.

"We all recognized how we were huge beneficiaries of a state-funded legal education when we were in law school," King says. "Tuition was \$750 per semester. We understood that the burden is now substantial — and sometimes, without some form of aid, out of reach."

To give back, and help current and future students enjoy some of the benefits they shared, the committee members decided on funding a class scholarship. Pledges exceed \$360,000 so far, including a seed gift from King and substantial pledges from other members. Any Berkeley Law student with a demonstrated financial need will be eligible for the aid.

King says he's long felt moved to give because of Berkeley Law's public mission, diversity, and the "transformative impact" it had on him. He fondly remembers the influence of Professor Melvin Eisenberg, and the many great interactions with other students, from intellectually vibrant discussions over finer points of the law to joking around over a Zachary's pizza.

"Our tuition was probably the best ROI I ever made and it feels only right to give back," King says. "More financial aid and scholarships are required to allow Berkeley Law to continue to fulfill its public mission, and our gifts can play an impactful role."

Classmate Dana Shilling Rieger agrees. She remembers how the class learned during orientation it had the highest percentage of women students in school history. Three years packed with a rewarding variety of classes and activities "gave me the confidence to think I could do a number of different things with my degree, and I have!" says Rieger, whose experiences include time as a labor and employment litigator to commercial real estate and trust

transactions, along with pro bono work as a patient advocate and as a board member of her children's public schools.

"Thirty-five years is a long time from graduation," she says. "Participating in this fund seemed a way to say Berkeley Law is still relevant to my life."

Dean of Admissions Kristin Theis-Alvarez says supporting financial aid programs is one of the most impactful ways alumni can help the school. In the last several years, Berkeley Law has maintained both needand merit-based aid, growing its number of scholarship programs.

"Our alumni community is an integral part of the network that attracts, recruits, and supports students," she says. "These are now signature initiatives, and they are in large part how we've maintained both excellence and access."

Donations of all sizes matter, Rieger notes, helping to build the tradition of public school alumni giving — and to improve lives.

"It would be wonderful if all students were able to choose careers that are personally and professionally rewarding, even if those choices might not be as lucrative as others," she says. "If we can, let's help mitigate crushing student debt for Berkeley Law students." — *Gwyneth K. Shaw* 

## Giving Back While **Looking Forward**

From geography and demographics to practice areas and pro bono pursuits, the Berkeley Law Alumni Association reflects the school's vast universe.

Two "new" members are back: Federal Judge Charles Breyer '66 and Skadden partner Kenton King '87 return to the board of directors after prior stints, joining rookies Irma Rodriguez Moisa '92, Noah Ickowitz '17, and Armilla Staley-Ngomo '08.

The partner in charge of Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo's main office in Cerritos, Calif., Rodriguez Moisa has increased her activity with the school since serving on her 30-year reunion committee last year.

"I had tons of fun reconnecting with my fellow classmates," she says. "I'm inspired by what they have accomplished."

Named a Super Lawyer by Southern California Super Lawyers magazine every year since 2004, Rodriguez Moisa believes Berkeley Law graduates "are the most interesting, innovative and communityoriented alumni of all law schools across the country ... I wanted to work with this talented and diverse group."

A litigation associate at O'Melveny & Myers in Los Angeles, Ickowitz co-founded Berkeley Law's first regional alumni chapter there and has spearheaded many community-building events.

"Reminding alumni about how Berkeley Law can still impact their lives, and how they can still impact Berkeley Law, is most rewarding," says Ickowitz, who has participated in mock and real interviews of students, informally mentored some at his firm, and promoted fundraising campaigns. "As government funding continues to dwindle, instilling the importance of alumni giving becomes more and more important to sustaining the law school."

Serving on the alumni association board is a natural fit for Ickowitz, who was

co-president of the Student Association at Berkeley Law and received the school's Student Service Award.

"Alumni engagement is more than just a line on a bio," he says. "It keeps Berkeley Law as a core part of our alumni's lives."

Staley-Ngomo, recruited to join the board by friend and classmate Monique Liburd '08 and fellow Los Angeles County Public Defender Ricardo Garcia '95, remained closely involved with the school while living in the Bay Area for two years after graduating. She attended Admitted Students Weekend and Alumni Reunion events, stayed connected with Law Students of African Descent, and was a panelist during For People of Color's law school seminars.

Now, Staley-Ngomo welcomes a new chance to help chart Berkeley Law's future.

"It's important to be an engaged alum for mentoring, networking, and fundraising purposes," she says. "Current law students depend on alumni to serve as mentors as they navigate the legal field. And the school needs financial support in order to implement plans, recruit stellar professors, and continue offering amazing courses, clinics, and events."

As for the top priorities, the newcomers sound similar notes: "Recruiting the best and the brightest," Rodriguez Moisa says, "and raising enough funds to keep our premier law school affordable so that our graduates can pursue the legal career of their choice." — Andrew Cohen

> FRESH FACES: (From top) Irma Rodriguez Moisa '92, Noah Ickowitz '17, and Armilla Staley-Ngomo '08 are the newest members of the Berkeley Law Alumni Association's board of directors



## Class Notes

#### Your Classmates Want to Hear From You!

#### Contact Us

By Email

classnotes@law.berkeley.edu

#### By Mail

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



#### 1968

#### Leroy Wilson Jr.

took part in a celebration at West Point for a monument honoring the Buffalo Soldiers (a group of Black U.S. Army members who helped protect America's westward expansion after the Civil War) 50 years after Black cadets protested

against President Richard Nixon's desire to place a monument to Confederate soldiers there. Leroy represented the cadets in resolving any legal issues that surfaced related to a sickle cell anemia benefit concert on May 20, 1972 — the first charity event ever held at a military service academy, which was part of the cadets' 13 demands for changes at West Point. He also helped bring in Stevie Wonder and The Supremes to perform.

#### 1973

John Burris, preparing to hand off the reins of his longtime civil rights practice, was profiled in an Associated Press feature. John, who has represented over 1,000 police misconduct victims, helped win a \$3.8 million jury verdict for Rodney King after his 1991 beating by Los Angeles police was captured on video, and helped negotiate \$2.8 million for the family of Oscar Grant, killed by a Bay Area transit officer in 2009 in one of the first police shootings recorded on a cell phone. His work helped spark reforms or new police policies in the use of deadly force, canines, tasers, public strip searching, and treatment of the mentally impaired.

Peter Welch was elected to the U.S. Senate from Vermont. The state's congressional representative from 2007 to 2023, at age 75 he is the oldest person to become a first-time senator.

Natalie West was elected to the city council of South Portland, Maine. A retired city attorney and a political newcomer, she received the most votes among the four candidates.

#### 1975

#### Judy Droz Keyes,

a partner at Davis Wright Tremaine, was named San Francisco's **Employment Lawyer** of the Year by Best Lawyers and U.S. News & World Report. It is her second time in the past decade receiving this recognition, which goes to one person annually in each of several highprofile practice areas in major legal markets via

confidential evaluations by other lawyers.

#### 1977

Emily Vasquez, who recently retired as a Sacramento County Superior Court judge, received the Ohtli Award from the Mexican government in honor of her commitment to justice and public service. The winner of numerous honors for her judicial and community achievements, she also joined Judicate West as a neutral mediator/arbitrator for matters statewide.

#### 1978

Holly Fujie was among six judges representing diversity in the judiciary who were honored with a National Judicial College "Making the World a More Just Place" award at a program featuring diversity pioneers on the bench. A Los Angeles County Superior Court judge, Holly was the third woman and first Asian American to serve as State Bar of California president and now cochairs the Multicultural Bar Alliance of Southern California.

Doug Letter is the new chief legal officer at Brady, where he oversees the organization's legal work to end America's gun violence epidemic. He was general counsel of the U.S. House of Representatives from 2019 to 2022 after a 40-year stint as a U.S. Department of Justice attorney, where he ultimately served as director of the Civil Division's appellate staff. During that time, he also served as associate counsel to President Bill Clinton, deputy associate attorney general, and senior counselor to Attorney General Eric Holder.

#### 1979

#### **Andrew Demetriou**

joined the Los Angeles office of Husch Blackwell as senior counsel and works in the firm's Healthcare. Life Sciences & Education industry group and Corporate/M&A practice team. He has been a business and legal advisor to health care organizations for over three decades, and has a long history of leadership service in the American Bar Association.

#### Harry Litman '86

#### **Hunger for Nuance** Leads to Rare Podcast Heights

In 2016, with America seemingly polarizing at warp speed, Harry Litman saw a disturbing byproduct: political talking heads "issuing confident sound bites as if the answers were clear, when typically they were more nuanced."

A renowned litigator and former U.S. Attorney, Litman was making the rounds himself on MSNBC, CNN, and Fox News. But with each appearance, he yearned for a new paradigm. Enter the weekly "Talking Feds" podcast, which he launched in 2019 and quickly vaulted to prominence.

"I wanted more authentic, dynamic discussions that better captured the complexity of actual decision-making in a prosecutor's office," he says. "But little by little, it broadened into a law and politics survey with the caliber of guests you might see on a Sunday national talk show."

Senators. Members of Congress. Leading news anchors. Top journalists. Nobel Prize-winning academics. Usually focusing on the week's events, "Talking Feds" also produces topical episodes, for example on big agriculture (with New Jersey Senator Cory Booker) and economic policy (with Paul Krugman and Larry Summers).

In addition, midway through each episode a celebrity guest explains a basic legal concept. "Sidebar" A-listers have included Robert DeNiro, Frances McDormand, Judd Apatow, and Martina Navratilova, among other big stars.

By independently producing and distributing "Talking Feds," Litman maintains editorial control. In March 2020, Marie Claire named it America's second-best political podcast to prepare listeners for that year's presidential election.

"I'm a little perplexed by how the stars have aligned so well," Litman says. "I feel ridiculously fortunate, especially because this whole thing was completely new to me when I created the podcast."

He recently added "Talking Books," a new



franchise where Litman interviews authors of prominent current books such as Adam Schiff, Maggie Haberman, George Will, and Elie Mystal.

A former California Law Review editor-in-chief who clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justices Thurgood Marshall and Anthony Kennedy, Litman quickly rose as a prosecutor and then as a whistleblower attorney.

"A law school professor I greatly admired, Jan Vetter, told me that the secret to being happy in law practice was to want what your client wants," he recalls. "When your client is a whistleblower with evidence of widespread fraud that knowingly cheats taxpayers, it's easy to want what your client wants."

Litman has worked with prominent whistleblower firms while still maintaining his own practice, writing as a legal analyst for the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and other top publications, and teaching at several law schools. Now the Los Angeles Times' legal affairs columnist, he's listed in Best Lawyers in America for commercial litigation, white collar criminal defense, and qui tam law.

"They didn't tend to diagnose it when I was a kid, but I think I have ADHD," Litman says. "It just seems to suit me to be continually moving from one thing to another." — Andrew Cohen



#### 1982

#### Kathryn Ma

authored the novel The Chinese Groove. named a most anticipated title for 2023 by Goodreads, a "big" literary novel for 2023 by Library Journal, and given a starred review by Kirkus Reviews. Set in San Francisco's Sunset District, which once



had restrictive covenants to keep out nonwhite buyers, the book focuses on an

optimistic immigrant with big dreams, dire prospects, and a fractured extended family in need of his help — even if they don't know it yet. Kathryn's interest in housing issues stems from San Francisco's current housing crisis and her childhood experience of moving every few years as her immigrant parents tried to gain footing in America's middle class.

#### 1985

Eric Britton, who recently retired after more than 31 years at Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, was included in the 2023 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for Employee Benefits (ERISA) Law.

#### 1986

#### George Moore, a

scientist-in-residence at

the Middlebury Institute for International Studies' James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies in Monterey, gave multiple presentations at international conferences around the world last year. He also recently took a group of policy master's degree students to Czech Technical University's VR-1 research reactor in Prague and to the International Atomic Energy Agency and Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization.

#### 1987

#### Alison Dundes Renteln

(JSP) recently published two books. She coauthored International Human Rights: A Survey, with Cher Weixia Chen of George Mason University and co-edited The Ethical University: Transforming Higher Education with Wanda Teays of Mount St. Mary's University. A

University of Southern California political science professor, Alison also won the school's Dornsife Raubenheimer Award for outstanding teaching, research, and service.

#### 1988

**Glen Googins** was named the new city attorney for Santa Clara. He recently served 12 years as Chula Vista's elected city attorney, and is experienced in municipal real estate transactions, entertainment venues, and publicprivate partnerships.

#### 1991

Julio Esquivel, a partner at Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, was included in the 2023 edition of The Best Lawyers in America for corporate governance law as well as mergers and acquisitions law. Working in the firm's Tampa office, Julio has vast experience representing buyers and sellers in M&A transactions in a wide range of industries.

#### 1993

Kelly Dermody, a partner at Lieff Cabraser, was honored with an Award of Merit by the Bar Association of San Francisco for her work on behalf

of Legal Alliance for Reproductive Rights. She helped recruit firms from around the country to join the organization, among other notable contributions.

#### 1994

Cathy Ostiller was appointed to serve as a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge, assigned to the Edelman Children's Court (Dependency) in Monterey Park. An Assistant U.S. Attorney for nearly 22 years in the Central District of California, Cathy also worked for the U.S. Department of Justice, at Sidley & Austin, and as a federal judicial law clerk.

#### 1996

Marian Gaston was nominated to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. A San Diego Superior Court judge since 2015, she spent nearly 20 years before that as a deputy public defender with the San Diego County Public Defender's Office.

#### 2000

#### Jennifer Riley

joined Duane Morris' Employment, Labor, Benefits, and Immigration Practice Group in its Chicago office and is vice chair of its newly formed Workplace Class Action Group. A former partner at Seyfarth Shaw who has defended businesses faced with significant complex litigation matters for over 20 years, she has been recognized by JD Supra as one of the top 10 thought leaders in the area of class actions

#### 2001

#### **Anita Starchman**

Bryant was appointed as the first woman judge in Mariposa County Superior Court. Previously a sole practitioner since 2018, she was a partner at Starchman & Bryant Attorneys at Law from 2005 to 2018 and an associate at Downey Brand from 2001 to 2004

Josh Stanbro joined Elemental Excelerator, a leading climate tech nonprofit investor, as deputy director of its Policy Lab. Based in Washington, D.C., he works to help connect federal climate policies and funding opportunities to climate tech projects developed in partnership with local communities.

#### 2003

#### Paul Marchegiani

joined Amazon Studios

#### Yun-Hsien Diana Lin '02 LL.M., '04 J.S.D.

#### A Catalyst for Equal Treatment in Taiwan

as senior business affairs executive, where he negotiates talent and rights deals for Amazon television shows. He has also been teaching Presence and Performance Skills for Lawyers as an adjunct professor at UC Berkeley and the University of Chicago.

#### Mary Beth O'Connor

published her memoir, From Junkie to Judge: One Woman's Triumph Over Trauma and Addiction, describing the child abuse that led to her teenage meth addiction, the chaos it caused, and her eventual recovery that led to becoming an administrative law judge. She has appeared on television, radio, and podcasts regarding the book, and has published several essays including one in the Los Angeles Times.

#### 2004

#### Jennie Wang VonCannon has

joined the Los Angeles office of Crowell & Moring as a partner in its White Collar and Regulatory Enforcement and its Privacy and Cybersecurity practice groups. She also chairs and is a founding member of the Los Angeles County Bar Association Privacy and Cybersecurity Section.

For Yun-Hsien Diana Lin, the divisive issue comes down to a fundamental premise: Everyone deserves equal treatment under the law.

The main architect of a 2019 bill that made Taiwan Asia's first nation to legalize same-sex marriage, Lin returned to Berkeley in December to receive the university's prestigious Elise and Walter A. Haas International Award, which honors a UC Berkeley alum from another country with a distinguished record of service to that nation.

"I'm deeply honored to receive this award and also humbled, especially after viewing the profiles of past recipients," says Lin, a law professor at National Tsing Hua University since 2005. "To me, it's a major recognition that what I've been doing exemplifies the values of UC Berkeley."

Lin, who wrote her LL.M. thesis on legalizing same-sex marriage, published leading articles about legal issues faced by lesbian couples in Taiwan who wished to become parents. Consulted by Taiwan's Ministry of Justice about legal amendments in family law, she was commissioned to study and draft the country's landmark Same-Sex Partnership Act during 2016-17.

After studying other nations' laws, interviewing family law professors, holding focus groups with experts, and arranging consensus conferences across Taiwan, Lin drafted a report of more than 500 pages detailing the formation, dissolution, rights, and responsibilities of same-sex partnership. She also answered questions about it before Taiwan's Congress and Legal Affairs Bureau.

"It was absolutely the most difficult research project I've ever accomplished, but very rewarding," Lin says.

She dedicated the honor of being the bill's main drafter to the late Herma Hill Kay, Berkeley Law's first woman dean. Kay taught at the school for 57 years, served as Lin's faculty advisor, and supervised her LL.M. and J.S.D. theses.

"She was the one who encouraged me to become a professor in pursuit of gender equality," Lin says. "I would email her my latest draft of an article and she'd send me her comments within a few days."

An expert in family law, reproductive justice, and gender equality, Lin occupies leading roles in Taiwan to combat human trafficking, racial discrimination, and involuntary sterilization of the mentally disabled. In addition, she advises the Ministries of Justice, Interior, and Health and Welfare, and teaches courses for the Taiwan Judges Academy, Taipei Bar Association, and various government departments.

Lin also takes great joy in seeing steadily growing acceptance of same-sex couples.

"To most Taiwanese people, legalizing same-sex marriage is the right thing to do, even to be proud of," she says. "When more and more same-sex couples participate in their children's school activities and voluntary work, other parents and society as a whole will gradually realize that they are just as 'normal' as any other parents in their school district." — Andrew Cohen



#### Mehdi Ansari '08

#### New Deal: Adaptability Fuels **Tech Triumphs**

These days, Mehdi Ansari is a master of the intellectual property-based transaction. A partner in Sullivan & Cromwell's New York City flagship office and co-head of its IP and technology group, he's closed deals with clients ranging from Merck to Kodak to the online gaming giant DraftKings.

But when Ansari left Iran to attend UC Berkeley, he had a very different plan: Major in electrical engineering and computer science, get a Ph.D., and become an engineer.

Ansari was also a kid who liked to talk, and a decent writer. One day, a professor suggested law school, introduced him to a friend at Berkeley Law, and encouraged him to sit in on a class or two

"Very quickly, I realized given both my interests and my background, the intellectual property field made the most sense," Ansari says. "So when I started applying to law schools, obviously Berkeley topped the list."

At the time, most offered just one or two IP courses, Ansari recalls. Berkeley had a smorgasbord, and he took many of them. But his 1L Contracts course, taught by Professor Robert Berring '74, made an outsized impression.

Super smart but also kind, Berring was very clear about the elements of a well-done contract — including clear drafting — which still resonates with Ansari.

"It changed my career," he says.

IP litigation was hot during his time at Berkeley Law, and many firms wanted to push him in that direction. A summer associate stint after Ansari's 1L year convinced him that wasn't the right fit, but a partner doing IP transactions piqued his interest. That partner has been his closest mentor ever

Ansari has never looked back: as a young lawyer he moved to Sullivan & Cromwell, which encourages its lawyers to be generalists within



their field, an approach he believes makes him a better practitioner.

"It keeps my life interesting — I don't always do the same thing, I don't always think about the same issues," Ansari says. "You can also learn a lot of things from one sector that can be applied to other sectors. You're not always solving the same problem."

It's clearly worked for him: Ansari has been named an "IP Trailblazer" by the National Law Journal and one of the world's leading patent professionals by IAM Patent 1000. But it's also a way to avoid burnout.

"The broader you are, the more you'll learn and the more fun your practice will be," he says. "This job has a lot of challenges, the hours can be tough, and there are going to be difficult days. What you should do at a minimum is find something you like within the law — it'll make it a lot easier when you're dealing with hard people or hard days." — Gwyneth K. Shaw

#### 2005

Jeffrey Danley joined Bracewell's intellectual property practice as a partner in the Seattle office. Most recently a partner with Seed IP Law Group, he represents companies in IP enforcement, defense, and litigation matters across a range of technologies, and is a registered patent attorney.

#### 2006

#### Anna Tsiftsoglou

(LL.M.) recently co-edited Democracy After Covid: Challenges in Europe and Beyond. The book provides the first comparative constitutional law and policy analysis of COVID-19-related democratic challenges, assesses cutting-edge topics, and launches an international discussion on future pandemics and global democratic backsliding.

#### 2007

#### Corrin Drakulich has been named global head of litigation at Fish & Richardson, overseeing a nearly 200-lawyer litigation practice group across 14 offices in the U.S., Germany, and China. Focusing on complex intellectual property cases, she also engages in extensive pro bono work and has held several leadership roles at the firm, serving on its

management committee and co-chairing its professional development subcommittee.

Bryant Yang received the Eastern Bar Association of Los Angeles County's Judge of the Year Award at its annual holiday luncheon. The organization, established in 1917, is composed of attorneys who practice in the county's East District. Bryant is assigned to Los Angeles County Superior Court's Family Law Division.

#### 2008

Chris Springer was recently made partner at Keller Rohrback in the firm's Santa Barbara office. A member of the Complex Litigation Group, he focuses on data privacy and other consumer protection litigation and is experienced in cases involving consumer protection, data security, environmental protection, disability access, employment rights, and ERISA.

#### 2010

**Sonia Farber** writes that Perkins Coie acquired Kluk Farber Law, a New York-based emerging companies and venture capital (ECVC) firm she cofounded. Kluk Farber's 11 lawyers and five business

#### Mourning Three Major Losses

#### Babette Barton '54,



Berkeley Law's third woman professor, died on Oct. 16. A popular tax, consumer protection law, and estates & trusts teacher at the school from 1961 to 2004, she

finished first in her class all three years as a Berkeley Law student. Still, no local law firm offered her a job, so she clerked for California Supreme Court Chief Justice Phil Gibson. A prolific author, Barton co-founded the California State Bar Tax Section and chaired many UC Berkeley Academic Senate committees.

#### Lauren Edelman '86,



a beloved Berkeley Law professor since 1996, died on Feb. 7. She held many important positions at the school, such as director of our Center for the Study of

Law & Society and associate dean of our Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program, and won many awards for her seminal scholarship on employment law issues. Elected to the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences last year, Edelman was also a past Law and Society Association president.

#### **David Lieberman**



died in a tragic hiking accident on Sept. 10. A revered professor, eminent scholar, and trusted colleague, he had taken emeritus status on July 1. Lieberman

joined Berkeley Law's faculty in 1984, and later served as associate dean of the school's Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program. He quickly became a renowned legal historian and noted legal theory expert, received numerous honors and fellowships, and chaired several Berkeley Law committees.

#### In Memoriam

Robert M. Cole '42 Eleanor Jackson Piel '43 Babette B. Barton '54 Coleman A. Blease '55 Robert J. De Fea '56 Noel B. Gassett '56 Harriet W. Lee '57 Francis A. McEnaney '57 Spencer W. Strellis '58 Gordon S. Baca '59 Charles L. Corman '60 Miles Snyder '60 Howard Wiggins '60 Joseph W. Hagler '61 Sheldon H. Wolfe '61 James S. Milch '62 Laurence D. Kay '63 Gerald S. Mulder '63 Gary R. Rinehart '63 Charles W. Runnette III '63 James M. Woodside '63 Verlyn N. Jensen '64 Frank S. Bayley III '65 Ross E. Stromberg '65 Lawrence E. Alioto Sr. '66 Ross A. Phelps '66 David L. Wilkinson '66 Robert L. Nolan '67 William S. Bethard '68 Stephen C. Johnson '68 Michael E. Stone '69 Howard D. Coleman '70 Gregory L. Gonot '72 Bruce N. Gray '72 Howard L. Wu '73

Darolyn Lendio '83 Barbara M. Cohen '84 Anthony J. Dragun '84 David C. Gurnick '84 Lauren B. Edelman '86 Elizabeth E. Hunter '05

Sandra B. Allen Susan Bisgeier Maria Boone Cranor Jane Simmons Edginton Diane Ehrman Mary E. Fine Anne W. Gathegi Gerold M. Grodsky Richard P. Hafner Marny Harris Jennifer C. Hartle Mildred M. Kennedy David P. Keyes Rosanne Levitt David Lieberman Alexandra P. Londahl Lucy N. O'Connor Jack B. Owens Ronald C. Peterson Michael C. Phillips Sheldon A. Schaffer George F. Sensabaugh Jr. Barbara J. Shapiro Mary K. Sparks Marjorie Hauck Sproul Katherine W. Thompson Herman A. Trutner Joan N. Williams

#### Correction:

Susan B. Schapiro '78

The last Transcript issue mistakenly included Clyn "Bud" Smith III '72 and Bruce D. Fong '80 on its In Memoriam list due to a reporting error from central campus. We deeply regret the error and apologize for any harm it caused.

professionals will lead Perkins Coie's New York ECVC practice.

Mallika Kaur authored a recent piece in her Negotiating Trauma and the Law series for the American Bar Association Journal. It's a Q&A with Abby Abinanti, the first tribal woman admitted to the State Bar of California, who has been a San Francisco Superior Court judicial officer for nearly two decades and a Yurok tribal court judge since 1997.

#### Joshua Weigensberg

was elected partner at Pryor Cashman. A member of the firm's Litigation and Media + Entertainment groups, he litigates copyright and trademark matters and other complex commercial disputes for clients in industries including music, technology, art, consumer goods, information services, and real estate.

#### 2011

Karlina Paredes, senior counsel at Hoover
Krepelka in San Jose, earned the designation of Certified Family Law
Specialist. The California
State Bar bestows this designation to about
10% of family law attorneys in the state who meet various standards that authenticate expertise and dedication

specific to family law practice.

Joseph Rose was promoted to partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. A litigator in the firm's San Francisco office, he focuses on high-stakes employment disputes, commercial litigation, class actions, antitrust matters, and law firm defense.

Tania Valdez started a tenure-track faculty position at George Washington University School of Law. She also reports that Katharine (Katy) Lum was recently appointed as a judge on the Colorado Court of Appeals.

#### 2012

#### Hannah Haksgaard

(née Alsgaard) has received tenure and been promoted to full professor at the University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law.

Britt Lovejoy was elected partner at Latham & Watkins. A member of the firm's Connectivity, Privacy & Information Practice and Litigation & Trial Department, she represents technology and digital media companies, including software developers, music broadcasters, and internet platforms in matters at the intersection of

competition, copyright, and commercial litigation.

Cora Rose was received as a religious sister at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Annual Assembly of the Deaconess Community, becoming the first lawyer Lutheran sister in North America. Her work serves people living in vehicles or outdoors in securing human and civil rights in rural Oregon.

**Geoffrey Thorne** was named a partner at Higgs Fletcher & Mack. He represents individuals and businesses ranging from local enterprises to Fortune 500 companies, defends clients across California in business and employment disputes, advises employers on best practices, conducts workplace investigations, and trains management and workforces on employment law updates.

#### 2013

#### **Brian Corman** was

named to the partnership of Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll. A member of its Civil Rights & Employment Practice Group, he helps spearhead the firm's fair housing litigation efforts, representing fair housing organizations, tenant unions, and those unlawfully denied housing or otherwise discriminated against.



Dan Mistak was named a 2023 fellow at the Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity, part of the Fitzhugh Mullan Institute for Health Workforce Equity based at George Washington University. He is among 20 chosen leaders from around the world who are striving to combat health disparities and promote equity. Acting president and director of Health Care Initiatives for Justice-Involved Populations at Community Oriented Correctional Health Services, Dan connects community systems of care to services provided in jails and offers policy guidance to improve care for systems-involved people.

#### 2014

#### Haley Bavasi has

been elected to partner at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati in the firm's Seattle office. She focuses on advising digital health companies across a range of privacy, transactional, research, and healthcare regulatory issues.

#### 2015

#### Katie Lynn Joyce was

elevated to partner at Keker, Van Nest & Peters. She has handled high-stakes commercial and intellectual property matters in varied industries and litigations, including for Netflix, Crexi, Google, Zscaler, Instacart, and Kitty Hawk.

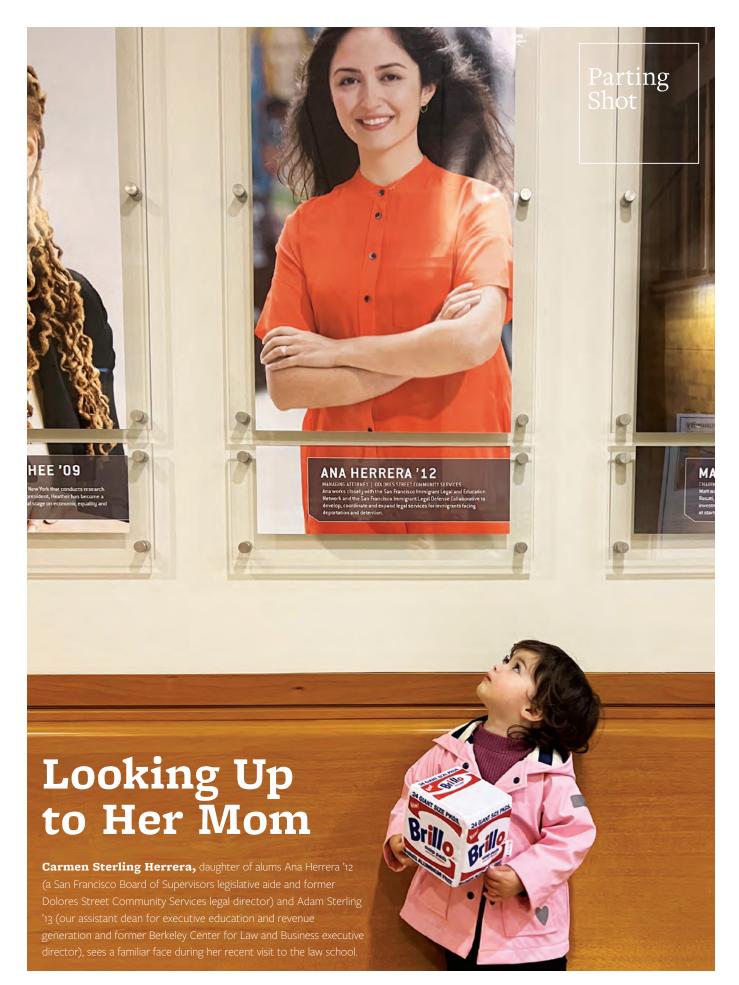
#### 2020

Diler Cavdar joined
Shook, Hardy & Bacon as an associate in its New
York office. Experienced in intellectual property litigation and transactional matters, she also maintains an active probono caseload.

#### Samantha Hamilton

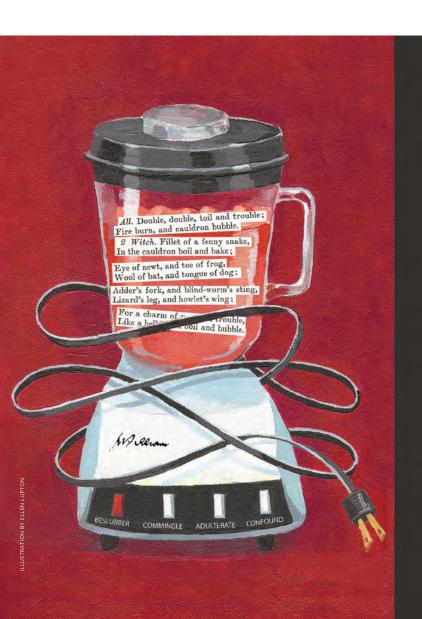
is the New York
Times' 2022-23 First
Amendment Fellow,
covering issues relating to the Freedom of
Information Act, libel,
copyright, court access,
and other litigation
matters. She's been a
fellow at the civil rights
firm Loevy & Loevy
and at the University of
Georgia School of Law's
First Amendment Clinic.

Jonathan Pai (LL.M.) joined Foran Glennon's newly established San Francisco and San Jose offices as an associate. He concentrates his practice on casualty defense.





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