

UC Berkeley Law

Recent Faculty Scholarship

2025



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Letter from Dean Erwin Chemerinsky



The most recent St. Thomas Law School study on law school scholarly impact, in 2024, placed UC Berkeley Law's faculty sixth among all law schools in the United States. Many of our faculty were among the most cited in their fields. This reflects UC Berkeley Law having a prolific faculty who write in many different disciplines. This brochure provides you a description of what our faculty members have written recently.

Why does it matter? A crucial function of a major research university is advancing knowledge. That is why a core responsibility of faculty members is producing cutting edge scholarship.

Legal scholarship by faculty takes many different forms. Many of our faculty members have produced casebooks and treatises that are primarily directed at law students and other instructors. Some of these are widely used at law schools across the country. These allow us to educate a wider audience of law students than just those in our classrooms.

Often scholarship is written primarily for judges and lawyers, considering crucial areas of legal doctrine, seeking to illuminate it and guide its future. Countless positive changes in the law and our legal system have been the result of scholarship by Berkeley law professors.

Sometimes scholarship is intended for other academics, engaging in a scholarly dialogue that enhances understanding of the law. In addition to advancing knowledge, these scholarly discussions often ultimately come to shape the law in profound ways.

And sometimes law professors write for a general audience, seeking to inform and educate non-lawyers as well as attorneys about the law. Several members of the UC Berkeley Law faculty have written award-winning books.

Although this brochure focuses on books and articles, many of our faculty members also write op-eds, pen blog posts, do social media commentary, and produce podcasts that influence public understanding and opinions about the law. Through all of these media, UC Berkeley Law faculty are writing about the most important legal and social issues of our time.

I hope you enjoy learning about our faculty's scholarship and perhaps are inspired, as I was in perusing this, to read some of the articles and books that are listed. I am sure you will see why I am so proud to be the dean of UC Berkeley Law.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erwin Chemerinsky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'E' and 'C'.

Erwin Chemerinsky
Dean and Jesse H. Choper Distinguished Professor of Law
University of California, Berkeley School of Law

Flourishing Faculty

New hires bring expertise and enthusiasm across a broad spectrum

UC Berkeley Law once again had a banner hiring year, adding seven new professors across a wide range of fields and disciplines to an already stellar faculty.

Four senior scholars — Professors Brian Galle, Joy Milligan Ph.D. '18, Bertrall Ross, and Kevin Washburn — join Assistant Professors Jason Ferguson and Ryan Sakoda and Clinical Professor Alina Ball as the school's new hires. They're the latest in a transformative wave of hiring since Dean Erwin Chemerinsky arrived in 2017.

"We had a spectacular year in faculty hiring. We've added terrific faculty in many different fields who will be great classroom teachers as well as influential scholars," Chemerinsky says. "We are tremendously fortunate to have them join us."

It's a homecoming for several: Ross and Milligan return to the law school after four years at the University of Virginia School of Law, Ball is an East Bay native, Ferguson got his Ph.D. in UC Berkeley's Department of Sociology, and Sakoda was an undergraduate at the university.

"My time away helped me remember and appreciate the unique qualities associated with Berkeley Law," Ross says. "I was drawn back because I love the people there: those who were there when I left and the many new additions I've had the fortunate opportunity to spend time with since I left."

"Berkeley Law tends to draw a type of person who is intellectually curious beyond the bounds of ordinary legal discussion, who is serious yet does not take themselves too seriously, who cares about the world beyond the institution, and who is generally just fun to be around."

Others were eager to join the faculty because of the school's storied history as a leader in many areas of legal academia and its commitment to serving the public.

"It's a wonderful public law school," says Washburn, a specialist in Indian law who counts the late Professor and fellow Indian law expert Philip Frickey as a mentor. After a distinguished career — including stints as law school dean at the University of Iowa and the University of New Mexico, and service as the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior under President Barack Obama — the school's public mission focus was alluring.

"I have always been a public servant in one way or the other, with my entire career in the federal government or in public law schools, and that really appealed to me," Washburn adds. "Berkeley's just such a strong law school."

Here's a look at each of these accomplished new additions.

CLINICAL PROFESSOR ALINA BALL

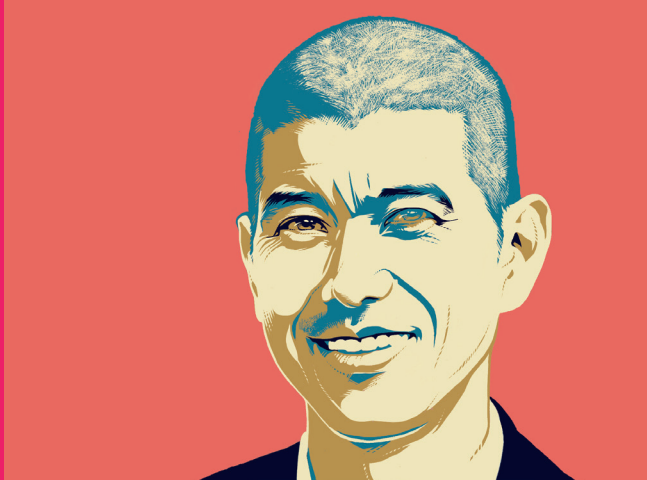
Ball, who started at the law school in January, leads the new Social Enterprise Clinic in the growing Clinical Program. Students work as outside counsel for local businesses with a social or environmental mission, assisting with corporate governance, regulatory compliance, formation issues, and contract drafting.

"This is an opportunity to build on the work that I've been doing over the last decade, but now I can take that to a deeper level," says Ball, who ran a similar clinic at UC Law San Francisco.

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

"Lawyers have been doing this type of work for a really long time, but there weren't ready-made pathways to how to do this — there wasn't a guide of how to be a transactional social justice lawyer."

— Professor Alina Ball



From top left to right: Joy Milligan, Ryan Sakoda, Brian Galle, Bertrall Ross, Jason Ferguson, Kevin Washburn, Alina Ball.

Illustrations by Ivan Canu.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR JASON FERGUSON

Ferguson will teach and advise students in the law school's Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program (JSP), which he calls "one of the most unique Ph.D.-granting programs in the country" and a big draw for him.

"When I was a Ph.D. student, I was fortunate enough to learn about this extraordinary interdisciplinary program in law and society housed inside the law school," says Ferguson, who spent four years teaching at UCLA and last year at the Harvard Society of Fellows.

JSP and the broader institution is an ideal place to further his research, Ferguson says.

Ferguson's book, *The Great Refusal: The West, the Rest and the Geopolitics of Homosexuality*, is under contract with Princeton University Press.

PROFESSOR BRIAN GALLE

A tax law expert, Galle says he's looking forward to being in the middle of UC Berkeley's campus, where he can engage with "an incredible set of law colleagues" as well as scholars from the university's Department of Economics, which is consistently ranked among the best in the country. He holds a J.D. from Columbia and earned an LL.M. from Georgetown, where he later taught for a decade, and has also taught at Boston College and Florida State.

Galle co-authored a study with UC Berkeley Professor Emmanuel Saez examining California's recent wealth tax proposals and is currently at work on a monograph called "How to Tax the Rich" — a salient topic given the giant tax package recently passed in Congress and signed by President Donald Trump.

"This bill will create a gigantic fiscal mess, and greatly enrich the Americans who are already the richest," Galle says. "So how do we get out of that? We raise a lot of money, probably from those people.

"The book is about how to do that, efficiently and legally."

PROFESSOR JOY MILLIGAN

Milligan was a UC Berkeley Law professor from 2017 to 2021 and earned her Ph.D. from JSP, so she knows the school and many of her colleagues deeply.

Milligan, a former civil rights lawyer who holds a J.D. from NYU, shifted to teaching constitutional law at Virginia. Her scholarship has moved in a parallel direction, expanding from civil rights and legal history to constitutional theory. In the coming academic year, she will be on sabbatical and working on a book with Ross, *Democracy and the Constitution: Addressing the Legacy of Exclusion*, while both are Steven M. Polan Fellows in Constitutional Law and History, a program run by the Brennan Center for Justice.

"It's been fun to start that new line of both teaching and research," Milligan says. "Our project centers on the question of how we live with and interpret and govern ourselves with a Constitution that wasn't really written for all of us, so it very much dovetails nicely with the broader kind of histories I've always been interested in."

At Berkeley, Milligan will take on a new role as co-director of the Berkeley Center on Comparative Equality & Antidiscrimination Law. She will join founding director Professor David Oppenheimer, who began the center in 2010 and has grown it to a global network of over 1,000 academics, advocates, and activists researching and collaborating on equality law and policy. The project is close to her heart, since she participated as a graduate student during the center's founding.

"Both JSP and the affiliated Center for the Study of Law and Society were major resources for me and played an important role in my turn toward the critical study of law in context and law in action. I look forward to taking advantage of the multidisciplinary environment and the fruitful intellectual exchanges with colleagues across the law school."

— Assistant Professor
Jason Ferguson

"It's an amazing opportunity to be at not only one of the world's great universities, but one which happens to have probably one of the handful of the best tax economics departments in the world, as well as one of the leading departments of behavioral economics. Being right there and able to walk and get a coffee, go to an economics workshop, then come back and teach your class seems pretty awesome."

— Professor Brian Galle

"I've always been in awe of the intellectual community that is Berkeley Law. Many of my intellectual mentors and the people I admire most are the faculty that I get to be colleagues with now."

— Professor Joy Milligan

PROFESSOR BERTRALL ROSS

Once Ross returns to the campus next fall, he has a list of things he's looking forward to doing again: Walking the halls, chatting with students and colleagues in offices or Café Zeb, attending faculty workshops, and more.

Ross will also take on a new challenge, as co-faculty director of the Edley Center on Law & Democracy with Professor Daniel A. Farber. Founded in fall 2024 after the death of the law school's beloved former dean, a national political and policy influence for decades, the center aims to defend and strengthen democratic institutions in the United States through actionable research and public leadership.

The center recently hired renowned public service lawyer Catherine E. Lhamon to serve as its executive director (see page 41).

The position "means so much to me, given how pivotal a figure Chris Edley was for my early career," Ross says. "He was the dean who hired me and in his own unique way, he was the dean that pushed me to believe that I belonged. I am excited to work with Dan Farber, Catherine Lhamon, students, and other collaborators to address the many challenges that democracy is currently facing and to carry on Chris's legacy as a social justice advocate."

In addition to his project with Milligan, Ross is at work on three other books.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR RYAN SAKODA

Sakoda, who comes to UC Berkeley Law from Iowa, grew up in California and got two undergraduate degrees at UC Berkeley before earning a J.D. from Yale and a Ph.D. in economics from Harvard. He was also a Fulbright Scholar, a Peace Corps volunteer in Ukraine, and a Bigelow Fellow at the University of Chicago, and worked in the Boston public defender's office as a Liman Public Interest Fellow and later as a staff attorney.

An empirical researcher of crime and criminal justice policy, Sakoda dovetails with the law school's deep bench of data-driven researchers, particularly those using the economist's toolbox.

Sakoda's research examines how the government's enforcement of criminal punishment affects individual outcomes and systemic inequalities, and includes articles on probation, post-release supervision, and solitary confinement. He's currently studying legal representation in criminal cases, and has pursued research related to access to justice more generally and how interventions in other areas of law can impact persistent socioeconomic inequality.

PROFESSOR KEVIN WASHBURN

Washburn is a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma, and his research focuses on federal policy related to Indian tribes, particularly in the areas of expanding tribal sovereignty and tribal self-determination.

More recently, he's turned to tribal conservation and co-management of federal public lands, and an ambitious new path trying to identify the reasons why tribes pay higher interest rates than municipal governments or corporations when they issue bonds to finance development projects.

Washburn was drawn to UC Berkeley Law by its robust — and growing — commitment to recruiting and training students of Native American and Indigenous descent. Professor Seth Davis helped revive the school's Native American Law Students Association chapter and founded the Center for Indigenous Law & Justice, which hired Merri Lopez-Keifer (see page 45) as its first executive director earlier this year.

Under the leadership of Chief Administrative Office Kristin Theis-Alvarez, then dean of admissions and financial aid, the school began supplementing UC Berkeley's Native American Opportunity Plan to make law school more affordable for in-state students enrolled in federally recognized Native American, American Indian, and Alaska Native tribes.

"I am excited about plotting with students and my colleagues on how to address the critical issues we confront as a country. I am excited to step in the classroom and be challenged and pushed by my students as I hopefully open their minds to thinking about things in a way that they hadn't before."

— Professor Bertrall Ross

"There is so much that excites me about joining Berkeley Law. The faculty has an incredible scope and depth of expertise, and I look forward to working with and learning from all of my new colleagues. I'm particularly excited about collaborating with our criminal law faculty as well as our faculty working at the intersection of law and the social sciences."

— Assistant Professor Ryan Sakoda

"I recently went to the largest annual Indian law conference and there were 16 UC Berkeley Law students — the most of any law school."

"That commitment was huge, because I want to be around students who are interested in what I do and interested in pursuing a career in that area."

— Professor Kevin Washburn



Clockwise: Saira
Mohamed, Stavros
Gadinis, Ayelet
Shachar, and
Andrew D. Bradt.

Standout Scholars

Seven UC Berkeley Law professors have been awarded faculty chairs for their accomplishments and contributions to scholarship, policy, and legal education.

ANDREW D. BRADT

Shannon Cecil Turner Professor of Jurisprudence

Bradt, also the faculty director of the Civil Justice Research Initiative, writes and teaches primarily in the areas of civil procedure, conflict of laws, and civil remedies. Bradt is serving a five-year term as Associate Reporter to the Advisory Committee on Civil Rules of the Judicial Conference of the United States. He joined the faculty in 2012 and won the school's Rutter Award for Teaching Distinction in 2019.

HANOCH DAGAN

Elizabeth J. Boalt Distinguished Professor of Law

Dagan, who also founded and directs the Berkeley Center for Private Law Theory, came to the school in 2023 after more than three decades at Tel Aviv University. A world-renowned scholar of private law theory, his most recent book, *Relational Justice: A Theory of Private Law*, with co-author Avihay Dorfman, builds on years of their scholarship to lay out a new approach to understanding some of society's most important touchstones and has drawn rave reviews.

STAVROS GADINIS

George R. Johnson Professor of Law

Also the faculty director of the Berkeley Center for Law and Business, Gadinis' scholarship examines questions in corporate law and financial regulation, with a particular focus on the interplay between companies and regulators and the framework of enforcement, compliance, and risk management. Recently, he's focused on sustainability and social issues as an attempt to expand the scope of corporate governance. He joined the faculty in 2010.

KATERINA LINOS

I. Michael Heyman Professor of Law

Linós, also the co-director of the Miller Institute for Global Challenges and the Law, joined the faculty in 2010 and was previously the Irving G. and Eleanor D. Tragen Professor of Law. Linós' research is empirical and focused on developing and applying new qualitative and quantitative methods. She teaches international business transactions, international law, European Union law, and international organizations, and also hosts the "Borderlines" podcast.

SAIRA MOHAMED

Agnes Roddy Robb Professor of Jurisprudence, Ethics, and Social Responsibility

A scholar in the areas of international law, criminal law, and human rights, Mohamed's research primarily focuses on questions of responsibility for wrongdoing in situations of armed conflict and mass atrocity. Her most recent projects examine how international and domestic law regulate the government's treatment of its military personnel. A faculty member since 2010, she was a Berlin Prize fellow in 2023 and won the Rutter Award this past spring.

AYELET SHACHAR

Irving G. and Eleanor D. Tragen Professor of Comparative Law

Shachar is an internationally renowned scholar who has taught and published on a wide variety of topics, including American and comparative immigration law and policy, citizenship theory, borders and human rights, transnational law, and women's rights and religious diversity. A recipient of the prestigious Leibniz Prize, she joined the faculty in 2023 and won the APSA Migration & Citizenship Career Achievement Award in 2024.

AMANDA L. TYLER

Thomas David and Judith Swope Clark Professor of Constitutional Law

Tyler, previously the Shannon C. Turner Professor of Law, is the inaugural holder of the chair endowed by Tom Clark '72 to honor his wife, who died in 2022. Tyler's research and teaching interests include the Supreme Court, federal courts, constitutional law, legal history, civil procedure, and statutory interpretation. She joined the faculty in 2012 and won the Rutter Award in 2020.

Faculty Scholarship



KATHRYN ABRAMS

Herma Hill Kay Distinguished Professor of Law

B.A., Harvard University (1980)

J.D., Yale University (1984)

Lawyers on the Post-Dobbs Landscape: The Case of the Ballot Initiative

Abrams, Kathryn, 113 Calif. Law Rev. 921 (2025)



CATHERINE ALBISTON

Jackson H. Ralston Professor of Law | Professor of Sociology

Faculty Director, Center for the Study of Law and Society

Faculty Co-Director, Center for Law and Work

B.A., Stanford University (1987)

M.A., Stanford University (1989)

J.D., UC Berkeley School of Law (1993)

Ph.D., UC Berkeley (2001)

Definitions of Fairness Differ Across Socioeconomic Groups & Shape Perceptions of Algorithmic Decisions

Albiston, Catherine; Nguyen, Tonya; Alam, Sabriya; Hu, Cathy; Salehi, Niloufar, 8 Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction Article No.: 519 (2024)



ABHAY ANEJA

Professor of Law

B.S. Wake Forest University (2006)

J.D., Stanford Law School (2018)

Ph.D., UC Berkeley (2019)

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The Political Effects of Affirmative Action: Evidence from Law Enforcement Agencies

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Aneja, Abhay; Xu, Guo, Am. Ec. Rev. (2024)



JOSÉ ARGUETA FUNES

Assistant Professor of Law

B.A., University of Virginia (2013)

M.A., Princeton University (2015)

J.D., Yale Law School (2019)

Ph.D., Princeton University (2024)

The “Code American” and Empire’s Law

Argueta Funes, José, Yale L.J. (2026) Forthcoming

Origin Stories in Property Law

Argueta Funes, José, Stan. L. Rev. (2026) Forthcoming



ABBYE ATKINSON

Professor of Law

B.A., UC Berkeley (1997)

J.D., Harvard Law School (2009)

Who’s Afraid of Bankruptcy?

Atkinson, Abbye, 138 Harv. L. Rev. 1317 (2025)



ALAN J. AUERBACH

Robert D. Burch Professor of Law and Economics

Director, Robert D. Burch Center for Tax Policy and Public Finance

B.A., Yale University (1974)

Ph.D., Harvard University (1978)

Demand Stimulus as Social Policy

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Public Finance Implications of Economic Inequality

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Inflation’s Fiscal Impact on American Households

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KENNETH AYOTTE

Robert L. Bridges Professor of Law

B.A., University of Virginia (1997)

Ph.D., Economics, Princeton University (2002)

The Promise and Perils of Debtor-in-Possession Financing: Lessons from the United States

Ayotte, Kenneth; Gurrea-Martínez, Aurelio, 21 Int'l Corp. Rescue (2024)



ADAM BADAWI

Professor of Law

B.A., UC Berkeley (1996)

J.D., UC Berkeley School of Law (2003)

Ph.D., UC Berkeley (2004)

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

Badawi, Adam; Bartlett, Robert, Harv. L. Sch. F. on Corp. Governance (Sept. 23, 2024)



ANDREW C. BAKER

Assistant Professor of Law

B.S., Georgetown University (2009)

J.D., Stanford Law School (2017)

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

Statistical Learning Can Help the Judiciary Fulfill Its Gatekeeping Role Over Expert Witnesses

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KENNETH A. BAMBERGER

Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation Professor of Law
Faculty Co-Director, Berkeley Center for Law and Technology
Faculty Director, Helen Diller Institute for Jewish Law and Israel Studies

B.A., Harvard University (1990)

J.D., Harvard University (1998)

Untangling Privacy and Competition

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LOUISE BEDSWORTH

Executive Director, Center for Law, Energy & the Environment

B.S., Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1996)

M.S., UC Berkeley (1997)

Ph.D., UC Berkeley (2002)

Centering Environmental Justice in United States (U.S.) National Climate Assessments (NCAs): A Historical and Contemporary Analysis

Bedsworth, Louise; Méndez, Michael; Shah, Sameer H.; Golembeski, Cynthia; Cha, J. Mijin; Goldsmith, Leo; Holmes, Tisha J.; Maldonado, Julie; Manning, Beth Rose Middleton; Méndez-Barrientos, Linda Estelí; Mills-Novoa, Megan, 178 Climatic Change Article no. 90 (2025)



ERIC BIBER

Edward C. Halbach Jr. Professor of Law

A.B, Harvard College (1995)

J.D., Yale Law School (2001)

M.S., Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies (2001)

The Seven County Case and the Limits of Causation Under NEPA

Farber, Daniel A.; Biber, Eric G., 10 Admin. L. Rev. Accord 1 (2025)



ANNE BLOOM

Executive Director, Civil Justice Research Initiative

B.A., Mount Saint Mary's University (1983)

J.D., University of Maryland (1988)

Ph.D., University of Washington (2003)

Research Handbook on Civil Justice

(Bloom, Anne; Engel, David; Jolly, Richard eds., 2025) Forthcoming

The Impact of Tort Reform in America: A Retrospective Review of the Evidence and Debates

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The Politics of Civil Justice: From Roscoe Pound to Contemporary Debates

Bloom, Anne; McCann, Michael M., in Research Handbook on Civil Justice (Engel, David; Jolly, Richard; Bloom, Anne eds., 2025) Forthcoming



CHESA BOUDIN

Executive Director, Criminal Law & Justice Center

B.A., Yale University (2003)

M.Sc., Oxford University (2004)

M.Sc., Oxford University (2006)

J.D., Yale Law School (2011)

The Intersection of Climate Justice and Criminal Justice: Extreme Heat and Health Inequities in Carceral Facilities

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ANDREW D. BRADT

Shannon Cecil Turner Professor of Jurisprudence

Faculty Director, Civil Justice Research Initiative

B.A., Harvard College (2002)

J.D., Harvard Law School (2005)

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Bradt, Andrew D.; Rave, D. Theodore; Clopton, Zach, Cornell L. Rev. (2025) Forthcoming

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KHIARA M. BRIDGES

Professor of Law

B.A., Spelman College (1999)

J.D., Columbia Law School (2002)

Ph.D., Columbia University (2008)

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STEPHANIE CAMPOS-BUI

Assistant Clinical Professor of Law

Co-Director, Policy Advocacy Clinic

B.A., UC Berkeley (2011)

J.D., UC Berkeley School of Law (2014)

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Campos-Bui, Stephanie, Colum. L. Rev. (2025) Forthcoming

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ELENA CHACHKO

Assistant Professor of Law

LL.B., Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2014)

LL.M., Harvard Law School (2016)

S.J.D., Harvard Law School (2022)

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ERWIN CHEMERINSKY

Dean | Jesse H. Choper Distinguished Professor of Law

B.S., Northwestern University (1975)

J.D., Harvard Law School (1978)

Campus Speech and Academic Freedom: A Guide for Difficult Times

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Chill

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A Court Divided: October Term 2023

Chemerinsky, Erwin (2024)

The First Amendment

Chemerinsky, Erwin (3d ed. 2024)



COLLEEN V. CHIEN

Professor of Law

Faculty Co-Director, Berkeley Center for Law & Technology

B.S., Stanford University (1996)

A.B., Stanford University (1996)

J.D., UC Berkeley School of Law (2002)

Inclusive Innovation in an Age of AI: Insights from the Innovator Diversity Pilots Initiative

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CATHERINE CRUMP

Robert Glushko Clinical Professor of Practice in Technology Law
Director, Samuelson Law, Technology and Public Policy Clinic
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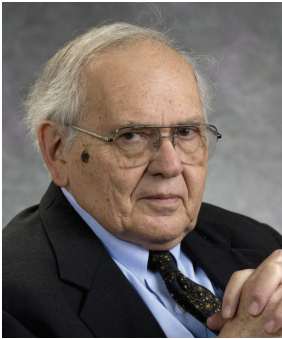
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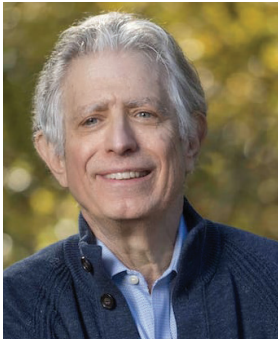
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B.A., Harvard University (1987)
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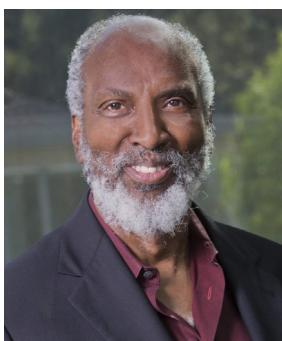
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B.A., Barnard College, Columbia University (2004)
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Ph.D., The Johns Hopkins University (1981)

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UC Berkeley Law Professor Amanda Tyler, Vanderbilt Law School Professor Brian Fitzpatrick, Tom Clark '72, and Dean Erwin Chemerinsky at the inaugural Clark Symposium.

A Steady Dose of Intellectual Invigoration

UC Berkeley Law's robust intellectual culture features a constant stream of vibrant discussions, celebrations, and lectures — many of them annual commemorations. Here's a sampling of recent highlights.



UC Berkeley Law Professor Hanoch Dagan with University of Toronto Professor Ernest Weinrib at the private law theory workshop.

Organized by Dagan and Professor **Andrew Bradt**, the conference featured scholars discussing topics as diverse as the inner morality of private law, the worth of a legal cause of action, mass arbitration, class actions, and the right of parties to contract for bespoke procedural law to govern their disputes.

“The conference — which was the first of its kind that we know of — was a great success,” Bradt says. “Civil Procedure is all about how we operationalize the rights and duties created by private law. Legal theory

becomes practice via procedure, and procedure is impoverished when it is divorced from the substantive law’s theoretical underpinnings, so this conversation is vitally important.”

The inaugural **Thomas David and Judith Swope Clark Symposium on Constitutional Interpretation** featured Dean **Erwin Chemerinsky** debating the merits of originalism with Vanderbilt Law School Professor and fellow constitutional law expert **Brian Fitzpatrick**. Fitzpatrick advocated for originalism, which calls for interpreting the U.S. Constitution in strict alignment with the authors’ intent, while Chemerinsky argued against it.

The symposium was established through a legacy donation from Tom Clark ’72 to honor his wife, Judie, which also created the Thomas David and Judith Swope Clark Chair in Constitutional Law, held by Professor **Amanda L. Tyler**.

UC Berkeley Law’s **Center for Private Law Theory** hosted two major events, the **North American Workshop on Private Law Theory** and the inaugural **Private Law Theory Meets Civil Procedure Colloquium**.

The workshop’s 11th annual meeting — and first convening in Berkeley — included the revival of its John G. Fleming Award, given to University of Toronto Professor Ernest Weinrib for his contributions to tort law. His Fleming Lecture, on the seminal torts case *Vincent v. Lake Erie Trans. Co.*, “ranged from Aristotle, to scholastic natural law, to the modern principle of proportionality,” says UC Berkeley Professor **Mark Gergen**, who served as a co-host for the meeting with Professor **Hanoch Dagan**, the center’s founding director.

The conference, which brought scholars who specialize in both fields for conversation and collaboration, focused on what private law theory and civil procedure have to say to one another.

University of Pennsylvania Law Professor **Anita L. Allen** gave the 2025 **Herma Hill Kay Memorial Lecture**, titled “Discerning the Dead: How Mamie Till’s Abdication of Privacy Sparked the Civil Rights Movement.” Analyzing the decision by Emmett Till’s mother to hold an open-casket funeral with her son’s brutally beaten body, Allen detailed how seeing a victim of racism through a mother’s loving eyes de-objectified and re-humanized an innocent child and considered the choice from a dignitarian ethical point of view.



University of Pennsylvania Law Professor Anita L. Allen at the 2025 Herma Hill Kay Memorial Lecture.



The **Berkeley Center for Law and Business** and *Berkeley Business Law Journal* hosted a **Leadership Lunch Series** featuring an all-star roster of legal department leaders at major organizations, from Microsoft and Instacart to Asana and the San Francisco Giants, offering students valuable insights on in-house lawyering.

During the events, expert professors interviewed chief legal officers, general counsels, and other giants at prominent companies — leaving ample time for student questions.

“The Leadership Lunch Series introduces first-year law students to the idea of themselves as future corporate leaders,” says **Angeli Patel** ’20, the center’s executive director. “It’s one of the key moments that shapes their early impressions of business law.

“When chief legal officers and general counsel from top companies share their unconventional paths and emphasize taking risks, it broadens our students’ vision of what a legal career can be. We want them to see that their career doesn’t have to follow a straight path or stay confined to the law — they have a place in the business world, and they can lead it.”

In 1990, **Harold Hongju Koh**’s award-winning book *National Security Constitution* detailed the historical importance of government checks and balances in keeping the United States safe. Some 35 years later, he visited UC Berkeley Law to discuss his newly updated book — and why he thinks America’s national security is at risk from an executive branch increasingly unbound by institutional or legal constraints.

Berkeley Center for Law and Business
Executive Director Angeli Patel ’20
speaks to Amar Mehta, Chief Legal
Officer at Waymo, for the Leadership
Lunch Series.

A leading international law expert, Yale Law professor, and the school’s former dean, Koh has worked as a U.S. Department of State legal adviser for four presidential administrations. Also Ukraine’s legal counsel for the past nine years, he told a packed crowd that growing institutional imbalance in American foreign affairs — fueled by calls for “executive unilateralism” in the name of national security — poses sobering dangers.

The 2025 **Stefan A. Riesenfeld Memorial Symposium**, organized by the *Berkeley Journal of International Law* and supported by the Miller Institute for Global Challenges and the Law, recognized UC Berkeley Law Professor **Laurel E. Fletcher** with its annual award, given to a distinguished scholar or practitioner for outstanding contributions to international law.

Fletcher, co-faculty director of the Miller Institute, director of the new Global Rights Innovation Lab Clinic, and former director of the International Human Rights Law Clinic (now the Human Rights Clinic), has advocated on behalf of victims before international courts and tribunals, issued human rights reports on myriad topics, and led several empirical human rights studies.



UC Berkeley Law Professor
Laurel E. Fletcher with former
International Court of Justice
Judge Joan Donoghue ’81.

California Supreme Court Justice Goodwin Liu, a former UC Berkeley Law professor, at the closing event on democracy and judicial power.



Energized and Engaging

UC Berkeley Law's research centers and institutes produce scholarship and policy research across a wide swath of the legal world, with a particular emphasis on cross-disciplinary angles. Here are some of their highlights from the past year.

Standing Up to Protect Democracy

With America's democratic institutions under immense pressure, UC Berkeley Law's newest research center is trying to defend and strengthen them through actionable research and public leadership.

In its first year, the Christopher Edley Jr. Center on Law & Democracy hit the ground running. Leading up to the 2024 presidential election, the center drew packed crowds for a five-part speaker series on American democracy and its intersection with the press and social media, elections and the courts, presidential power, and judicial power. After the election, it presented programs examining issues such as climate, federal workers, immigration, and reproductive rights.

The center also hired a powerhouse as its inaugural executive director: renowned public service lawyer Catherine E. Lhamon.

The center was established in fall 2024 to honor Edley, UC Berkeley Law's dean from 2004 to 2013 and a lifetime public servant and a fierce advocate for strengthening governmental effectiveness and democratic institutions.

"There is a justifiable widespread sense that American democracy is in serious trouble," says Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, who announced the center's creation at Edley's memorial service. "We, as a leading law school with a strong public mission, must be part of helping to find solutions."



New Edley Center for Law & Democracy Executive Director Catherine E. Lhamon (left). Berkeley Center for Consumer Law & Economic Justice Senior Fellows Seth Frotman and Samuel Levine at a spring event with students (right).

Professors Daniel A. Farber and Bertrall Ross are the center's co-faculty directors.

"Law is the scaffolding for our entire system of government, but legal protections for democracy aren't nearly as robust as they need to be," Farber says. "Law schools are best situated to find solutions."

Lhamon, who chaired the United States Commission on Civil Rights from 2016 to 2021 and was the U.S. Department of Education's Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights during President Joe Biden's administration, also has deep ties to California. She was legal affairs secretary in California Gov. Gavin Newsom's cabinet for two years, operating as general counsel, and also litigated civil rights cases at the ACLU Foundation of Southern California.

Noting that lawyers have a professional responsibility to uphold the rule of law and contribute their training and talents to their communities, Lhamon sees law schools as institutional leaders in bolstering democracy.

"Effective law training must include preparation for when — not merely if — we as lawyers will be tested in our ethics and commitments to protecting the rule of law, so we all are ready to fulfill our ethical commitments as lawyers," she says. "I've spent my legal career serving the public good, and working at UC Berkeley Law's new center strikes me as the most important way I could contribute in this time."

"With the Edley Center, our goal is to meet this acutely vulnerable moment in American democracy with an innovative and steady legal response that is sufficient to bring this country to experience — for all of us — our highest aspirations to equality; fair, effective, and responsive governance; and a government that responsibly serves all its constituents."

Welcoming A Trio of Consumer Protection and Antitrust Titans

Three former high-ranking members of the Biden Administration's antitrust, consumer protection, and public economic law teams joined UC Berkeley Law's Center for Consumer Law & Economic Justice as senior fellows.

"Seth Frotman, Sam Levine, and Doha Mekki are among this nation's leading thinkers on issues of economic justice," says center Executive Director Ted Mermin '96. "I cannot think of a trio of public servants more committed to bettering the lives of the people of this nation. We at the center, and the law school, are thrilled to have them join us."

Founded in 2018 with a gift from celebrated litigator Elizabeth Cabraser '78, the center was the first of its kind at a top law school. Now, it's a guiding light for economic justice and consumer rights advocates nationwide, working to ensure open and fair access to a marketplace free of corporate abuses, fraud, and predatory practices

while fostering innovative scholarship, resonant courses, and a growing national community.

The three new fellows bring a broad range of expertise and decades of experience in the economic justice arena.

Levine was director of the Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Consumer Protection from 2021 until earlier this year, overseeing the bureau's litigation, rulemaking, and market monitoring initiatives across a broad range of industries. Levine also launched agency-wide initiatives around gig work, artificial intelligence, and renters' rights, bringing pioneering enforcement actions in each area.

Frotman was until recently general counsel and senior adviser to the director at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), overseeing the agency's wide range of work, including litigation, administrative law, ethics, labor and employment, and congressional oversight. With his guidance, the CFPB successfully defended its constitutionality before the U.S. Supreme Court and launched groundbreaking initiatives on junk fees, medical debt, worker surveillance, and the stampede of Big Tech into consumer finance.

Mekki held the top roles in the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) Antitrust Division, serving until earlier this year as the acting assistant attorney general — the agency's top antitrust official. She served previously as principal deputy assistant attorney general, the division's second-in-command, where she supervised all aspects of the section's work, including civil and criminal enforcement, litigation and trial, appeals, domestic and international policy, competition advocacy, and expert analysis programs.

"The law has been stacked against working people for decades," Frotman says. "If we are finally going to address the challenges they face — from financial insecurity to an economy increasingly serving only the interests of large corporations — we must drive deep, systemic reforms that create tangible progress for everyday people. I look forward to helping make that vision a reality at the center."

The student experience is a key focus of the center, which founded and hosts regular statewide and national gatherings of consumer law experts, advocates, and students, including the Consumer Law Scholars Conference, the Economic Justice Policy Advocates Conference, and the Law School Consumer Clinics Conference. The center also co-founded the Consumer Law Advocates, Students, and Scholars (CLASS) Network, which now has chapters at more than 30 law schools nationwide.

Since its founding, the center has become a hub for faculty whose research spans a wide range of consumer law and economic justice issues, including Professors Jonathan D. Glater and Abbye Atkinson, the center's co-faculty directors, and Professors Prasad Krishnamurthy, Abhay Aneja, Colleen V. Chien '02, Chris Jay Hoofnagle, and Manisha Padi, all center faculty advisors.

UC Berkeley Law also offers more than 20 related courses — believed to be the most at any law school — and the center advises or works with three additional student-led organizations: the Antitrust Law and Economics Association of Berkeley, the Consumer Advocacy and Protection Society, and Consumer Protection Public Policy Order, one of the school's Student-Initiated Legal Services Projects. Students can pursue a Certificate in Consumer Law & Economic Justice.

Starting this fall, students can also join the new Social Enterprise Clinic, where they'll work with Clinical Professor Alina Ball as outside counsel for local businesses with a social or environmental mission, assisting with corporate governance, regulatory compliance, formation issues, and contract drafting.

The breadth and scope of the center's work is a big draw for the new fellows.

"Consumer protection is at a crossroads, and it is urgent that we advance bold reforms, defend hard-won gains, and invest in the next generation of advocates," Levine says. "With a proven track record of both policy innovation and movement-building, the Center for Consumer Law & Economic Justice is uniquely positioned to drive this work forward, and I'm excited to join the team."



Berkeley Center for Consumer Law & Economic Justice Senior Fellow Doha Mekki at a spring event with students.



Professor Daniel A. Farber, faculty director of the Center for Law, Energy & the Environment, has seen its influence grow exponentially since launching in 2005.

Two Decades of Expanding Reach and Impact

Over its two decades, the Center for Law, Energy & the Environment (CLEE) has grown into a powerhouse of environmental law and policy, experiencing remarkable growth and expanding into the largest of UC Berkeley Law's research centers and institutes.

Professor Daniel A. Farber, CLEE's faculty director, notes that CLEE's staff has quadrupled in the last 10 years alone — with a particular surge in activity and impact since Executive Director Louise Bedsworth arrived in 2022.

"We're getting a lot more grants and other sources of funding, mostly to work on specific projects

relating to the state of California," he says. "That work has snowballed, and we had to hire more people to sort of keep up with it."

The center focuses on four main areas — climate and energy, water, sustainable land use, and oceans — with research and activities addressing cutting-edge environmental and energy issues in each area. In just one month this spring, CLEE reports addressed low-cost innovation in residential electric vehicle (EV) charging, cost-effective and sustainable fire recovery in Los Angeles, state and local financing to advance groundwater management, harnessing satellite data to reduce methane emissions, and a first-of-its-kind insurance policy that takes into account nature-based efforts to mitigate fire risk.

Farber says some of CLEE's key achievements include partnering with local governments on equitable EV infrastructure, helping to modernize water rights into California law, establishing the California-China Climate Institute, and having Climate Risk Initiative Director Dave Jones draft legislation on corporate climate risk disclosures.

At the program director level, Farber points out, many began as research fellows — including Climate Program Director Ethan Elkind and CLEE Associate Director Ted Lamm.

"Our research fellows have developed their own niches in the policy world," Farber says. "It's really turned out to be a place where people can sink roots and flourish."

Committed to developing the next generation of top environmental lawyers, CLEE also funds law student environmental programs — most notably *Ecology Law Quarterly*, established in 1971 and one of the oldest and most prestigious journals publishing environmental law scholarship. Students are also hired as research assistants for CLEE projects, gaining valuable real-world policy experience.

While ideally CLEE would help solve the planet's climate crisis in the next 20 years, Farber's more realistic goal is to help California achieve its 2030 and 2045 carbon emission reduction and net-zero economy targets.

"The goals are necessary but they're not going to be at all easy to achieve," he says. "I'd like us to operate as California's climate think tank, helping the state get to where it needs to be and provide an example to other U.S. states and other countries."

A Bulwark for Native Nations

Merri Lopez-Keifer is the inaugural executive director of UC Berkeley Law's Center for Indigenous Law & Justice, and she's eager to lead its efforts in promoting tribal sovereignty and advocating for Native Nations.

She says joining the law school presented "a valuable opportunity to deepen institutional understanding of tribal sovereignty, to advance recognition of Indigenous peoples' inherent rights to self-determination, and to promote sustained, respectful partnerships that strengthen tribal justice."

Leveraging her extensive experience serving California Native Nations, Lopez-Keifer aims to integrate her legal expertise, community engagement, and strategic planning into the center's mission of advancing tribal sovereignty and supporting Native Nations. She is particularly eager to build upon UC Berkeley Law's growing commitment to Native issues — reflected in its evolving curriculum, fellowship opportunities, and collaborative initiatives.

"The center has a unique opportunity to serve as an amplifier and a strong advocate for Native Nations," Lopez-Keifer explains. "This was a significant draw for me. Our goal is to create a space of true partnership, where tribes not only feel their participation is welcomed but that their sovereignty and right to self-determination are honored and respected."

She adds, "We are here to collaborate with Native Nations in ways that affirm their vision for justice. This is a place where they can be confident that their voices will be heard and their priorities will guide our work."

Lopez-Keifer notes that there are 574 federally recognized Native Nations in the United States, 109 of them in California. With the exception of Alaska, California is home to the largest number of Native Nations in the U.S., with over 100 reservations and rancherias that span 34 of the state's 58 counties — ranging from Del Norte County in the far north to San Diego County in the south.

"California's Native Nations are as diverse as they are numerous, and the issues they face reflect the challenges experienced by Native Nations across the country," she explains. "It's critical that these issues are elevated in the national conversation and addressed with the attention and respect they deserve. That's where our center comes in."

Lopez-Keifer has also invited the Navajo Nation Supreme Court to hold a session at the law school this fall, followed by a roundtable discussion with judges representing the three jurisdictional sovereigns: tribal, state, and federal. This event will give students the opportunity to engage with esteemed jurists and deepen their understanding of cross-jurisdictional legal issues.

Additionally, she plans to develop a speaker series on current issues facing Indian Country and strengthen the law school's alumni network to enhance career opportunities for students pursuing work with tribes or in federal Indian law.

Professor Seth Davis led the push to create the new center and says Lopez-Keifer will be a transformative figure at the law school.

"She brings a dynamic vision, drive, and deep experience to the work of the center. Her extensive work with tribal nations, years of government service, and commitment to focusing the center's engagement with California Native Nations will lay a strong foundation for its success," he says.

Davis adds that she will be an integral figure in helping UC Berkeley Law "become a law school that provides deep and wide-ranging training for the next generation of lawyers who will work with Native Nations to improve law and achieve justice for Indian Country."



Merri Lopez-Keifer brings vast experience to her new position, which she says presented a great opportunity to advance tribal sovereignty, support Native Nations, and build on UC Berkeley Law's growing commitment to Native issues.

Research Centers & Initiatives

Berkeley Center for Consumer Law & Economic Justice

Advocating to ensure safe, equal, and fair access to the marketplace.

Berkeley Center for Law and Business

The hub of Berkeley Law's cutting-edge research and teaching on the impact of law on business and national and global economies.

Berkeley Center for Law & Technology

Promoting the understanding and guiding the development of intellectual property and related fields of law and policy as they intersect with business, science, and technology.

Berkeley Center for Private Law Theory

Fostering insights into the legal building blocks of our social and economic life, including the laws of property, contracts, and torts as well as central aspects of family law, trust law, and work law.

Berkeley Center on Comparative Equality & Anti-Discrimination Law

A group of scholars, activists, and legal professionals from six continents working together to address the equality issues of the day.

Berkeley Judicial Institute

Building bridges between judges and academics to promote an ethical, resilient, and independent judiciary.

Robert D. Burch Center for Tax Policy & Public Finance

Promoting and disseminating research in tax policy and public finance to help stimulate informed discussion of tax policies of national significance.

California Constitution Center

The first and only center at any law school devoted exclusively to studying the constitution and high court of the state of California.

Center for Indigenous Law & Justice

Aiming to facilitate meaningful ways for interested students, faculty, and staff to work with tribal nations and on Indigenous issues, and to offer programming including conferences, networking events, training sessions, and student fellowships.

Center for Law, Energy & the Environment

Fostering environmental law and policy research and translating it into pragmatic solutions.

Center for Law and Work

Promoting cross-disciplinary scholarship to address the pressing employment-related policy concerns of today.

Center for the Study of Law and Society

Fostering empirical research and theoretical analysis concerning legal institutions, legal processes, legal change, and the social consequences of law.

Center on Race, Sexuality & Culture

Examining contemporary questions of identity and discrimination through the lens of intersectionality, considering how race, gender, and sexual orientation overlap to produce distinct experiences of vulnerability and resilience.

Center on Reproductive Rights and Justice

Broadening the conversation on reproductive rights and choices through legal scholarship, teaching, and conferences, and by bolstering law and policy advocacy efforts.

Civil Justice Research Initiative

Using interdisciplinary, academically based, and independent research to explore how the civil justice system can be made more available to everyone seeking relief.



University of Pennsylvania Law Professor Dorothy E. Roberts speaking at *Breaking Silos in Reproductive Justice: Building Solidarity to End Family Policing*, a symposium hosted by the Center on Reproductive Rights and Justice.



Criminal Law & Justice Center Executive Director Chesa Boudin and center Staff Attorney Andrea Crider in their Postconviction Resentencing Practicum and Seminar.

Criminal Law & Justice Center

A research and advocacy hub striving to transform the criminal legal system by centering the lived experience of communities most directly affected, providing support for impactful teaching, empirical analysis, and pragmatic training in criminal legal reform.

Helen Diller Institute for Jewish Law and Israel Studies

Developing opportunities for research, programming, scholars, and classes to strengthen academic inquiry and discourse related to Jewish and Israeli topics across the Berkeley campus.

Edley Center on Law & Democracy

Defending and strengthening democratic institutions in the United States through actionable research and public leadership.

The Election Administration Research Center

Working to improve the administration of elections, both within the U.S. and internationally, through research, education, training, technical assistance, and public outreach.

Thelton E. Henderson Center for Social Justice

Producing and fostering creative scholarship examining the law through a lens of social justice and working with communities to provide education to the general public.

Human Rights Center

Promoting human rights and international justice worldwide and training the next generation of human rights researchers and advocates.

Institute for Legal Research

Combining research, teaching, and public service in constitutional law and history, criminal justice, and environmental law and policy. Home to the Sho Sato Program in Japanese and U.S. Law and the Constitutional Law and History and Environmental Law and Policy programs.

Kadish Center for Morality, Law & Public Affairs

Promoting research and reflection on moral philosophical issues in law and public life, with special concern for the substantive aspects of criminal law.

Korea Law Center

Addressing the development of the Korean legal, constitutional, and political systems by bringing together scholars, judges, and others to foster a robust exchange of ideas.

Law, Economics, and Politics Center

Advancing interdisciplinary scholarship, ideas, and discussion in law, policy, economics, business, and government.

The Honorable G. William and Ariadna Miller Institute for Global Challenges and the Law

Supporting populations overlooked or unprotected by existing legal infrastructure, with a global focus on climate and energy justice, corruption, the rule of law, and human rights.

Public Law and Policy Program

Highlighting scholarship on issues of constitutional and administrative law and the judicial and legislative process.

The Robbins Collection

Promoting and sponsoring comparative research and study in the fields of religious and civil law, including Jewish and Islamic law and the various Christian traditions.

Statewide Database

The redistricting database for the State of California and a nonpartisan resource on census data, elections and election data, districting on all levels, and voting rights.



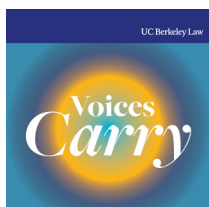
Learn more about the research centers & initiatives

Sound On for Expertise and Intellectual Vigor



Professor Katerina Linos with her guests on her "Borderlines" podcast.

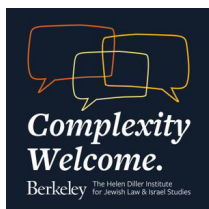
UC Berkeley Law's podcasts take listeners inside legal research, across international boundaries, and into some of the day's most compelling debates. Find them on our podcast hub or wherever you get your podcasts.



"UC Berkeley Law Voices Carry" is a showcase for the impact made by the school's faculty, students, and staff. Recent episodes feature Professor David Hausman on his Deportation Data Project, Professor Chris Jay Hoofnagle on his recent book on cybersecurity, and Center on Reproductive Rights and Justice Executive Director Arnetta Rogers on the post-*Dobbs* landscape.



"Borderlines," produced by the Miller Institute for Global Challenges and the Law and hosted by center Co-Director and Berkeley Law Professor Katerina Linos, created a special series of episodes taking listeners inside the Court of Justice of the European Union.



"Complexity Welcome" features lectures and conversations from the UC Berkeley Law's Helen Diller Institute for Jewish Law and Israel Studies. Episodes include Ilan Troen, historian and founding scholar of the field of Israel studies, discussing his book, *Israel/Palestine in World Religions: Whose Promised Land?*, and panels on reporting on Israel and the U.S. in times of crisis.



"Climate Break," hosted by Center for Law, Energy & the Environment Climate Program Director Ethan Elkind, brings you stories of climate progress and interviews with climate innovators from California and around the world in under two minutes.



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