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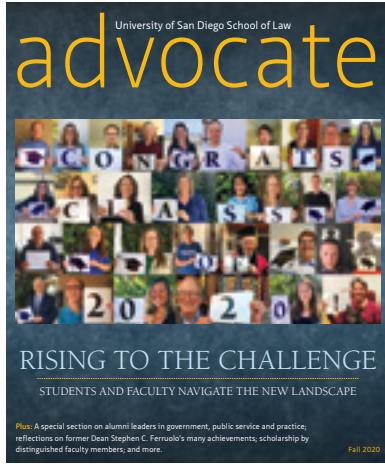


RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

STUDENTS AND FACULTY NAVIGATE THE NEW LANDSCAPE

Plus: A special section on alumni leaders in government, public service and practice; reflections on former Dean Stephen C. Ferruolo's many achievements; scholarship by distinguished faculty members; and more.

Fall 2020



On the cover: Faculty and other members of the USD School of Law community congratulate the Class of 2020 in a virtual graduation celebration.

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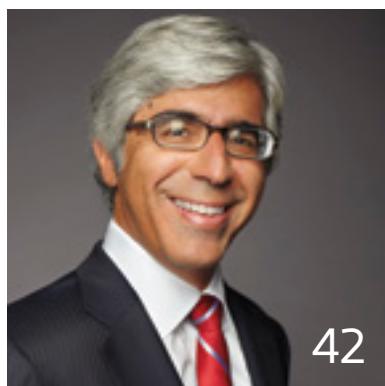
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DEAN'S MESSAGE

When the new 1L class entered in the fall of 2019, no one could have anticipated the year they would experience and the changes that the pandemic would bring to legal education. The graduating Class of 2020 never imagined their commencement would be virtual and the bar exam delayed. But we do have reason to celebrate. Not only did we survive the year, we ended it proud of the resilience and commitment we saw in our law school community. The cover photo is one way we celebrated the Class of 2020, created to acknowledge the day they should have crossed the stage and been handed their diplomas.

Advocate summarizes the news and events within the past academic year. It is easy to forget about the fall semester and the first months of 2020, before Covid-19 struck. Just a year ago, the School of Law regularly hosted in-person, robust and informative conferences and speakers ranging from SEC commissioners to Major League Baseball general counsels. Our students were again victorious in their National Moot Court and National Trial Team competitions. Not just a few of my fellow alumni have been named to the bench or elevated to higher positions within their organizations. The School of Law had any number of accomplishments, and we are able to include only some of them in this publication. Refer to our media pages for others (sandiego.edu/law).

This *Advocate* theme is Profiles in Leadership, with the feature story, "Navigating the Crisis," showcasing both faculty and student resiliency, courage and leadership. While the country was reeling and shutting down from Covid-19, the School of Law community came together and outdid itself in the response and adaptability to the pandemic. I am so proud of our faculty, students, administrators, staff and alumni. I am honored to be a part of so many efforts to successfully transition from traditional classes to remote learning, from in-person lectures to the Zoom classroom.

While the pandemic has been challenging for us all, in these pages you will find that there have been some very positive moments. This academic year will be remembered as a



great success for our practice-oriented teaching efforts. The Legal Clinics were quick to pivot to a primarily remote mode while ensuring continuity for the student experience and their clients. The Covid-19 Summer Research Fellowships were founded in part to replace some lost summer employment opportunities. Alumni leadership responded to the civic unrest of the summer and created the Advancing Black Leadership and Scholarship in the Law fund. While we applaud our successes, we look forward to moving toward hybrid learning (hopefully in the spring), and then back to the in-person classroom.

I would be remiss if I did not mention another change. Stephen C. Ferruolo stepped down as dean in June, after nine years of leadership at the School of Law. "A Lasting Legacy" showcases his accomplishments and contributions to our law school.

As an alumna, I am honored to serve as your interim dean. I look forward to meeting the future with all of you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret A. Dalton".

Margaret A. Dalton, '94 (JD)

Interim Dean and Professor of Law, USD School of Law

discovery

USD School of Law Presents 5G Conference



Attendees take in a panel at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice during the 2020 5G Conference.

The law school's 2020 5G Conference, co-hosted by Qualcomm and Unified Patents and sponsored by Fish & Richardson, Sheppard Mullin and Wilson Sonsini, took place on Feb. 28 at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice. The event featured keynote speaker Don Rosenberg, general counsel of Qualcomm, and four panels of leading in-house counsels and officials from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the Department of Justice. The panelists discussed the intellectual property, antitrust, and other legal and regulatory challenges that are emerging with the rollout and adoption of 5G. As the organizer and emcee of the conference, Professor in Residence Shawn Miller ensured balanced and informative conversations.

The Government Agency Panel featured Evan Broderick, senior cybersecurity analyst, National Telecommunications and Information Administration; Charles Eloshway, senior



Professor in Residence
Shawn Miller

patent counsel, Office of Policy and International Affairs, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; and William Rinner, counsel to the assistant attorney general, Department of Justice Antitrust Division.

The 5G Infrastructure Developers' Panel featured Gil Ohana, senior director, antitrust and competition, Cisco Systems; Maria Nelson, managing counsel, intellectual property, Kyocera; and Earl Nied, program director of standards and IPR, Intel.

The 5G Technology Developers' Panel was led by John Dubiansky, director of intellectual property and standards policy, Dolby Laboratories; Jim Harlan, senior director of standards and competition policy, InterDigital; Dina Kallay, head of antitrust (IPR, Americas and Asia-Pacific), Ericsson; Ron Katzenbach, chairman, Intellectual Property Committee, IEEE-USA; and John Kolakowski, senior IPR licensing/litigation counsel, Nokia.

The Downstream Innovators' Panel featured Kent Baker, head of intellectual property, u-blox; Vann Bentley, policy counsel, Computer & Communications Industry Association; Jud Cary, vice president and deputy general counsel, CableLabs; Jeff Risher, former deputy general counsel, Tesla; and Brian Scarpelli, senior policy counsel, ACT/The App Association.

Class Action Law Forum

The USD School of Law 2020 Class Action Forum, presented by Western Alliance Bank Settlement Services, took place on March 4 and 5 at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice at USD. Plaintiff co-chairs were CaseyGerry managing partner David S. Casey, Jr., '74 (JD), and CaseyGerry partner Gayle Blatt. Defense co-chairs were Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher partner Theodore J. Boutrous, Jr., '87 (JD), and Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher partner Joshua Jessen, '02 (JD).

Boutrous, who was the keynote speaker, has argued hundreds of appeals, including several cases in front of the U.S. Supreme Court. He served as one of the lead attorneys in the landmark Supreme Court case *Hollingsworth v. Perry*.

Topics during the forum included the debate over mandatory arbitration clauses, the level of rigor required when evaluating class certification expert witnesses, new class action rules and settlement structures, recent Supreme Court holdings, updates on claim-specific class actions including opioids and data privacy claims, and more.

Eight sitting judges joined the panel: Hon. Anthony Joseph Battaglia, U.S. District Court, Southern District of California; Hon. Edward M. Chen, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California; Hon. John Byron Owens, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit; Hon. Dana Makoto Sabraw, U.S. District Court, Southern District of California; Hon. Richard Seeborg, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California; Hon. Vince Chhabria, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California; Hon. Larry A. Burns, U.S. District Court, Southern District of California; and Hon. Fernando M. Olguin, U.S. District Court, Central District of California.



Members of the San Diego legal profession and the USD community participated in the 2019 Red Mass.

TOP EVENTS

USD School of Law hosted a robust lineup of events in the past year. Here are some of the highlights.

The Red Mass, a liturgy held to mark the opening of the judicial year, took place on Oct. 7, 2019, in USD's Founders Chapel. Members of the San Diego area bench and bar and the USD community gathered for the occasion of prayerful petition and thanksgiving for all members of the legal profession, regardless of religious affiliation.

SEC Commissioner Robert J. Jackson, Jr., who was appointed in 2018, spoke to students on Jan. 16, 2020, as part of the Center for Corporate and Securities Law Speaker Series.

Stopping Traffick, a conference committed to ending human trafficking on the local, national and global levels, took place on Jan. 29 and 30, 2020. It was hosted by the School of Law and Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies.

Major League Baseball (MLB) General Counsels Caroline Perry of the San Diego Padres and D'Lonra Ellis of the Oakland A's spoke to students on Feb. 18, 2020, as part of an event hosted by the Center for Corporate and Securities Law.

The Richard C. Pugh Lecture welcomed Rosanne Altshuler, a professor of economics at Rutgers University, who presented "The International Tax Landscape: Past, Present and Future" on Feb. 25, 2020.

Summer Fellowships to Study Legal Issues Relating to Covid-19

USD School of Law has established a Summer Student Research Fellowship Program to address the complex questions of law, policy and ethics arising from the Covid-19 pandemic. Twelve students, who were chosen in a competitive process, undertook research projects from June through mid-August.

The program was supervised by Professor Dov Fox, director of USD's Center for Health Law Policy and Bioethics and a nationally recognized expert on bioethics and health law. The program objective was to develop best practices and guidance in areas of greatest social concern as a way of assisting policymakers and other thought leaders. The fellows learned valuable research skills in the areas of legal policy and ethics.

"Thanks to the expertise of Dov Fox and the resources we can draw upon from the San Diego life sciences community, USD School of Law is ideally positioned to undertake this important research project relating to the Covid-19 pandemic," said former Dean Stephen C. Ferruolo. "I am so pleased that the program is being supported by leading members of the San Diego life sciences community, including Illumina."

The fellowships were funded by Denise M. Hickey, '94 (JD), vice president, assistant general counsel, Bristol Myers Squibb; Tim Scott, '96 (JD), CEO, TEGA Therapeutics; Illumina; Buchalter Law Firm; Adam Bass, '88 (BA), '91 (JD); the Linden Root Dickinson Foundation; and John Henkel, '77 (JD).



ADVANCING BLACK LEADERSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIP IN THE LAW

SCHOLARSHIP FUND ESTABLISHED TO SUPPORT BLACK LAW STUDENTS

This year, on the 155th anniversary of Juneteenth—which commemorates the ending of slavery in the United States—the law school announced the establishment of the Advancing Black Leadership and Scholarship in the Law fund. The scholarship is intended to support students who have historically been underrepresented in law schools and in the legal profession. It will provide funding for students who have supported equal access to justice and education for the Black community; lifted Black voices and raised issues affecting Black people; fought against racism, racial injustice, and prejudices; and demonstrated leadership in the Black community. Leadership and scholarship as demonstrated through involvement in the Black Law Students Association, internships/clinics/volunteer work, and/or in the broader community will be taken into consideration.

Law Alumni Association Board of Directors member and Diversity and Inclusion Committee Co-Chair Joy Utomi Hartmann, '11 (JD), and Board of Visitors member Kristin Rizzo, '06 (JD), co-founded the scholarship. Board of Visitors members and faculty David Brennan, '03 (LLM); David S. Casey, Jr., '74 (JD); Shaka Johnson, '03 (JD); Virginia C. Nelson, '79 (JD); Louisa S. Porter, '77 (JD); Mike Rider, '83 (JD); Gary W. Schons, '73 (BA), '76 (JD); and Susanne Stanford, '75 (JD), were among the first to publicly support the inaugural award of this scholarship. Since that time, a multitude of generous alumni and friends have joined the effort to fully endow this scholarship. Please join us in thanking the full list of donors at law.sandiego.edu/black-leaders-scholars.

\$1M GIFT TO ESTABLISH WOMEN'S LEGAL CLINIC

USD School of Law has received a \$1 million gift to establish a Women's Legal Clinic. The gift was arranged by Una Davis and Jack McGrory, '81 (JD), through an anonymous donation from a charitable estate making gifts in Southern California.

The Women's Legal Clinic launched in January with an initial focus on serving family law needs, including domestic violence restraining orders, child custody and dissolution. The Women's Legal Clinic joins the 10 direct client-service clinics that USD School of

Law currently offers the San Diego community.

"We are delighted to receive this gift, which will expand our clinical offerings and meet the legal needs of women, men and families, with priority for those who are the victims of human trafficking," said former Dean Stephen C. Ferruolo. "Thanks to Una Davis and Jack McGrory for making this possible."

Professor of Practice Meredith Levin oversees the new Women's Legal Clinic. Professor Levin has been in solo practice, focusing on family law, litigation and dispute resolution since 2015 and is recognized as a certified specialist in family law by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization. Prior to starting her own practice, Levin was with Allen-Slattery, Inc. and the Offices of Beatrice L. Snider, where she practiced all aspects of family law matters. Before admission to the California Bar, Levin was the residential services director for Center for Community Solutions in San Diego and was responsible for running two shelters and two transitional housing programs, supervising staff, and community outreach.

Innovations in Clinical Education

At USD's renowned legal clinics, practice-oriented teaching shines

To date, 2020 might be the USD School of Law Legal Clinics' most innovative year yet. The Covid-19 pandemic may have temporarily changed how the clinics operate, but it has also provided students the opportunity to tackle new challenges, enabling them to help additional clients.

The clinics, which have been educating future lawyers since 1971, quickly transitioned to remote advocacy when the lockdown began. Early in the academic year, the Veterans Clinic created a YouTube channel to provide basic client instruction for filing legal documentation. The Appellate Clinic won one of its cases on its written brief alone, saving the time and expense of a trial. Initially delayed, the oral argument for the clinic's second case was presented virtually on YouTube in front of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit when courts reopened (see story on page 7). The Federal Tax Clinic has also celebrated



Professor Robert Muth, academic director, legal clinics; U.S. Navy veteran Hamlianne Bridgeman, '22 (JD); and Deva Robbins, '14 (JD), the Janet Marie Kane Memorial fellow for the Veterans Legal Clinic, participate in a court proceeding via Zoom.

many successful judgments, including saving three clients (using the innocent spouse doctrine) approximately \$100,000 each.

By helping close more than 400 cases, this year's clinical students made a difference in the lives of their clients. But due to the pandemic, they also received a unique preview of real-world lawyering, a new way to think on their feet and a reminder to plan for the unexpected.

Alexandria Heins, '20 (JD), Presents Virtual Argument Before Federal Court



Alexandria Heins, '20 (JD), appeared live on YouTube before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit as an advocate for a USD Appellate Clinic case. The hearing, which is usually presented at the end of the academic school calendar, was delayed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

On June 11, Heins appeared virtually before the court in the case of *Felicia Awuzda v. William Barr*, an immigration appeal under the request of asylum. The case was heard previously by the Board of Immigration Appeals and remanded to the lower court, with the initial focus on the issue of adultery as a case for asylum rather than the client's identification as a member of the LGBTQ+ community in Ghana. In the hearing, Heins presented procedural and jurisdiction missteps made by the government in the process of this immigration case, highlighting the court's lack of attentiveness to the client's potential future persecution as a lesbian if she returned

to her country. Of contention in the court were procedural concerns regarding when the client had access to counsel and submission of required disclosure statements of dangerous cultural bias in Ghana toward the LGBTQ+ community. These issues, along with the client's fear of persecution as a member of a targeted group, were presented to the court as grounds for asylum.

This case is the first time a USD law student has appeared virtually to argue on behalf of a client for the Appellate Clinic. The Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has not yet rendered its final decision on the claim of asylum.

Heins became involved with USD's legal clinics because she was interested in pro bono work. "I had high expectations for the clinic, and it really was the best experience I had in law school," said Heins.

The Appellate Clinic provides an opportunity for third-year

law students to litigate an appeal in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Each year, USD accepts eight students into the clinic to focus on two cases. During the fall semester, students prepare and write their opening briefs and await the government's brief in December. While on holiday break, students review the brief from the government and file a rebuttal in the spring. From there, they practice and prepare for oral argument, determining who will present the case in court before the end of the semester.

The Appellate Clinic was founded by Jurist in Residence M. Margaret McKeown and Professor Michael Devitt to give students direct access to the appellate process. Currently, the clinic is supervised by Professor Devitt and Adjunct Professor of Law David Schlesinger.

meadow, a river, or a lake) are so transformed as to be reduced to rubble of our urban environment, the existing beneficiaries of the wonders should be heard.”

JURIST M. MARGARET McKEOWN DELIVERS 2020 NATHANIEL L. NATHANSON MEMORIAL LECTURE

Judge M. Margaret McKeown of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit delivered the 35th Annual Nathaniel L. Nathanson Memorial Lecture in January. Former Dean Stephen C. Ferruolo introduced McKeown by highlighting her many awards and achievements. McKeown, jurist in residence at USD School of Law, has had an illustrious career both before and after being appointed to San Diego's Ninth Circuit in 1998. She currently serves as chair of the ABA Rule of Law Initiative Board and on the Council of the American Law Institute. McKeown has been recognized for her service to the legal community as a recipient of the ABA John Marshall Award and the ABA Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award.

Each year, the USD School of Law Nathaniel L. Nathanson Memorial Lecture invites notable speakers to discuss important issues facing the country. In the past, the series has welcomed Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and John Paul Stevens as well as a number of distinguished legal scholars. In her lecture “The Trees Are Still Standing,” McKeown shared her affinity with the life of Supreme Court

Justice William O. Douglas, a dedicated environmental advocate.

Throughout the lecture, McKeown detailed Douglas' commitment to the wilderness both in the court and on the road. She highlighted his belief that the untouched wilderness provides a valuable space for solitude, sanctuary and spirituality. This led to Douglas' instrumental role in the preservation of natural sites across the country. With every story she told, McKeown painted the justice as a highly influential lobbyist, dedicated protester and chief dissenter. During his tenure on the Supreme Court, Douglas dissented in 486 opinions, preferring to walk his own path. As an avid hiker herself, McKeown hopes to highlight Douglas' legacy and contributions to environmental law.

Judge M. Margaret
McKeown

Affiliation with USD Paralegal Program

USD School of Law announced that the USD Paralegal Program became part of the law school effective for the 2019-2020 academic year and will be known as the USD School of Law Paralegal Program. In 2020, the program celebrated 45 years of providing premier, graduate-level paralegal education to the San Diego legal community.

The program began in 1975, and in 1977 became the first ABA-approved paralegal program in San Diego. Previously located within USD Professional and Continuing Education, the program has nearly 8,000 graduates. With its affiliation now within USD School of Law, it is one of only a few ABA-approved paralegal programs connected to an ABA-accredited law school.

"This new relationship with the law school further distinguishes our paralegal graduates in the workplace and presents strategic opportunities for increased paralegal specialization and new legal services curriculum," said Tara Murphy, director of Graduate Career Programs.

"This is a very exciting time for paralegals. The affiliation with USD School of Law enhances the already high-caliber reputation of our academically rigorous program for training paralegals and also provides expanding growth opportunities for seasoned paralegals," said Kristine Custodio Suero, Paralegal Program Advisory Committee member; senior paralegal/business development director, Butterfield Schechter; director, San Diego Paralegal Association; and Professional Development Committee member, National Association of Legal Assistants.



USD LAW STUDENTS SWEEP NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

The Appellate Moot Court Team soared at the American Bar Association's National Appellate Advocacy Competition, held on Feb. 27-29 in San Francisco. 3L Maura Duffey, 2L Meghan Crumm, 3L Sarah Early and 3L Joseph Markus formed two teams for the competition. Both teams received perfect scores in multiple rounds and toppled difficult competitors before moving on to the final round. Duffey was awarded a top oralist award, and both Duffey and Crumm won awards for their brief.

Law students also participated in the American Bar Association's Regional Client Counseling Competition, hosted by Chapman University's Dale E. Fowler School of Law in Orange, Calif., on Feb. 1 and 2. The Client Advocacy Team took second and third place in its first appearance at the competition. 2L Blaine Mullican, 2L Shana Sobel, 2L Carly Stacey, 3L Millicent Whitemore, and coaches Brody Burns, '16 (JD), and Anthony Mauroello made it to the final round of competition before falling to the overall champions from Creighton University.

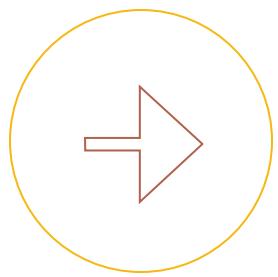
The law school's National Trial Team took first place in the America's Finest City Mock Trial Competition in San Diego. 3L Ashley Barton, 3L Morgan Chase, 3L Kenneth Ely, 3L Madison Gottfredson and coach Michael Goldfaden won the final round to succeed as the top team. The event, hosted by the San Diego Defense Lawyers and Consumer Attorneys of San Diego, welcomed 16 teams from law schools around the country. The final competition took place in the USD School of Law Grace Courtroom.



Navigating the Crisis



A special report on
how USD School of
Law faculty and
students stepped
up to face the
challenges of the
Covid-19 pandemic



Faculty and administration offer creative teaching methods, academic guidance and emotional support during a time of crisis

Just one week after spring break ended, Covid-19 prompted USD's decision to suspend in-person classes. But rather than diving right into remote instruction, the university closed for a week so that professors could get up to speed on teaching via Zoom.

"This was a dramatic change in law school education," explained Interim Dean Margaret A. Dalton, '94 (JD). "The law school quickly adapted to using this technology, and I am so proud of how seamlessly our faculty made the transition."

Enter the Virtual Classroom

In short order, law professors came up with creative ways to teach remotely and to keep their students motivated and inspired. "Most of the faculty had never used Zoom before," Dalton added, "but they took advantage of the training offered by USD and support from the faculty who were familiar with it."

Professor Lisa Cannon, who teaches Legal Research and Writing, had a bit of a head start. "I had the misfortune of getting the flu the

month before the shutdown," she said, "so I'd already taught from home for a week and half." So when the pandemic hit, she was familiar with teaching remotely and was able to offer tips to other faculty members.

But many professors quickly realized that conducting classes via Zoom would require more than lecturing to hold students' interest. "Remote learning has to be interactive or it won't be exciting enough," said Professor Jordan Barry, director of the Center for Corporate and Securities Law and co-director of Graduate Tax Programs. In his classes, he frequently referred to slides that he had posted ahead of time for downloading. That way, if students had a troublesome video connection, they could view the slides on their own computer and still participate in the class via an audio connection. Barry also took

It was crucial to acknowledge how difficult things were. I spent a couple of minutes of every class talking about coping techniques." —PROFESSOR MIRANDA McGOWAN

“



advantage of Zoom's features to pose questions and take quick polls to keep students engaged.

"One of the things that Zoom forced me to do was to talk less," said Professor Miranda McGowan, who teaches and writes about constitutional law and employment and discrimination law, among other subjects. "Research shows that people can absorb about 15 minutes of lecture without stopping for a chance to consolidate what they learned. This became clear to me on Zoom." McGowan made good use of Zoom's breakout groups, enabling students to have more intimate working sessions for tackling problems. She designated one student in each group to take notes and email them to her, further enhancing the interactive dynamic.

Professor Lisa Ramsey, an expert in intellectual property law, found inventive ways to inject an element of fun into her online instruction. Five minutes before class, she invited students to join her for a bit of social time. "I asked them to guess the location of my travel photo and share any personal news with our class, such as getting a new pet," she said. At the beginning of her International Intellectual Property class, she presented news articles, photos and videos about topical issues—many of them Covid-related—to spark discussions. A favorite was a performance of "The Zoom Where It Happens," a takeoff on the well-known *Hamilton* song. And, in addition to providing a lighter moment during class, the song sparked a lively conversation about whether the video was fair use.



I talked with students at later hours. Sometimes they had questions, sometimes they just wanted to talk. And I wanted to make sure they knew about all the resources available to them."

—PROFESSOR JORDAN BARRY

One of Interim Dean Dalton's requests during the crisis was to ask that all classes at the law school be recorded, out of concern that not every student had uninterrupted internet access or a quiet place to work. "That way, if a student missed a class, they would have the recording for reference," she said. "This crisis forced us to utilize technology to enhance the way we teach, which will inform our professors as we continue using this technology, perhaps more than law schools have in the past."

Exams, by necessity were open-book during the pandemic, since students were not being supervised during the shutdown. Former Dean Stephen C. Ferruolo, who stepped down this June after leading the law school for the past nine years, said that he found open-book exams to be more representative of the way attorneys actually work. "Lawyers don't answer questions without consulting books," he noted. Dalton added that open-book exams were the only option with remote instruction, and the team made them work, even though they are not optimal for every student's living situation. To that end, she is exploring how to have spaces made available for students who need a quiet place to work with reliable connectivity.

Lending Emotional Support

The law school's administration was very aware that students might be feeling particularly vulnerable given their isolation. To ensure that the sheltered-in-place students had the access to their professors that they needed, the faculty held office hours virtually.

In some instances, virtual meetings entailed unprecedented problem-solving. Professor Barry, for instance, had to find creative ways to work with his students while being home in a small apartment with a 4-year-old. “I talked with students at later hours. Sometimes they had questions, sometimes they just wanted to talk,” he said. “I wanted to make sure they knew about all the resources available to them.”

“Students who didn’t move back home with their families were really isolated,” McGowan said. And those who did go home often had to cope with the distraction of roommates, pets or family members. One of her students had to hole up in the garage for classes and final exams. “It was crucial to acknowledge how difficult things were,” she said. “I spent a couple of minutes of every class talking about coping techniques.”

Ramsey also made a point of being as available as possible to her students. “If people didn’t show up to class for a few days, I reached out to them,” she said, emphasizing that maintaining close contact with them was more important than ever. That the school continued to adhere to a regular class schedule—providing a welcome structure—was a big plus for everyone, she observed.

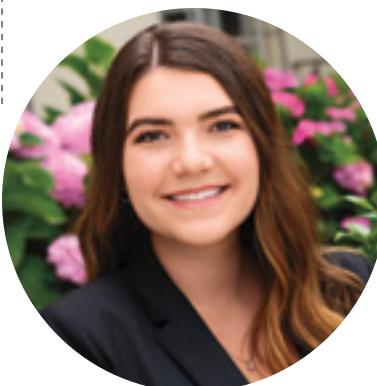
For graduating students, the cancellation of the commencement ceremonies was a disappointment, but the faculty compiled a congratulatory video commemorating this watershed moment in students’ lives.

Throughout the crisis, the law school’s administration sent out regular emails and held weekly Town Hall meetings to maintain frequent communication with

Navigating the Crisis

“The lockdown is forcing us to get creative so that people can still have social interaction while staying healthy.”

—BAYLEE BEEMAN, '21 (JD)



the students. “Students appreciated the opportunity to be heard,” Dalton said. “I’m certain that the extraordinary resilience they demonstrated during this crisis will be a valuable quality that will serve them well throughout their careers and will make them better attorneys as a result.”

Three student leaders seize opportunities to advance their educations and career prospects—and to make things better for others

As if law school doesn’t present enough hurdles—both academic and financial—add a pandemic into the mix, and students could easily be reeling. But thanks to their resilience, coupled with proactive measures from administration and faculty, students learned how to make the most of a stressful and uncharted period.

**Baylee Beeman, '21 (JD):
Keeping Connected**

“Going remote was weird,” Baylee Beeman said. “When you sign up for law school,

Navigating the Crisis

you expect to be there in person.” Not only did virtual classes take some getting used to, but Beeman became Tax Law Society (TLS) president and Student Bar Association (SBA) treasurer around the time in-person classes were suspended. Fulfilling these roles during the pandemic was a challenge, she said. For instance, she had to do virtual interviews to select the new members of the TLS board. The society’s annual spring mixer had to be canceled and she began thinking about virtual programming for the 2020-2021 academic year. “The lockdown is forcing us to get creative,” she added, “so that people can still have social interaction while staying healthy.”

Beeman is also helping students remain connected by increasing the SBA’s social media presence. “We’re expanding our platform, using social media to touch base with classmates and peers,” she explained. And she gives the university high marks for keeping students informed through the weekly Town Hall meetings held via Zoom.

Beeman has known for years that she wanted to pursue a career as a tax attorney. “I like getting into the weeds and solving problems,” she said. She had been working at a local firm during the spring

semester, “but when everything hit, we were transferred to an as-needed basis,” she said. And a planned summer internship was curtailed to just two weeks online. But, ever practical, she stayed focused on the big picture—and made good use of the time by studying for her CPA exam.

Robert Ponce, '21 (JD): Leaving It Better Than He Found It

Robbie Ponce is well known on campus as a tireless student leader: He’s president of the Student Bar Association and last year served as vice president of Student Organizations. “We facilitate programs and events, do a ton of advocacy, and do outreach with the community,” Ponce said. “We’re hoping to leave our law school better than we found it.”

In the spring, when the Covid-19 shutdown meant that newly admitted applicants couldn’t come to campus for a tour, Ponce, who worked part time in the law school’s admissions office on diversity initiatives, participated in Zoom calls with incoming students, answering their



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I was blown away by how professors changed. I think some of the methods they adopted will continue. We’ll all have to find a new normal.”

—ROBERT PONCE, '21 (JD)



“

Getting involved in leadership is a way for me to learn from various people, in order to become the type of attorney I want to become.”

—ROLAINE CASTRO, '21 (JD)

questions and giving advice. “Attending law school entails terribly hard stresses and a big financial commitment,” he said. “As best as I can, I let them know what they’re in for.” Far from scaring students away, Ponce’s outreach contributed to an impressive enrollment this fall.

With plans to become a civil rights litigator, Ponce interned over the summer with the ACLU Capital Punishment Project in Raleigh, N.C. But due to the pandemic, he attended virtually, often beginning his workdays at 6 a.m. since the organization is on Eastern time.

Lockdown was certainly an adjustment, Ponce said, but he admires the way faculty members adapted their teaching style to suit online classes. “I was blown away by how professors changed,” he said. “I think some of the methods they adopted will continue. We’ll all have to find a new normal.”

Rolaine Castro, '21 (JD): Exploring New Ways of Learning

Rolaine Castro has been a student leader throughout her tenure at USD, serving as a representative to the Student Bar Association. She was also vice president of the Asian Pacific Law Students Association and a student representative at the Filipino American Lawyers of San Diego. With plans to pursue a career in criminal defense, she has interned for four semesters at the Public Defender’s Office in San Diego. This past summer, the work was all online.

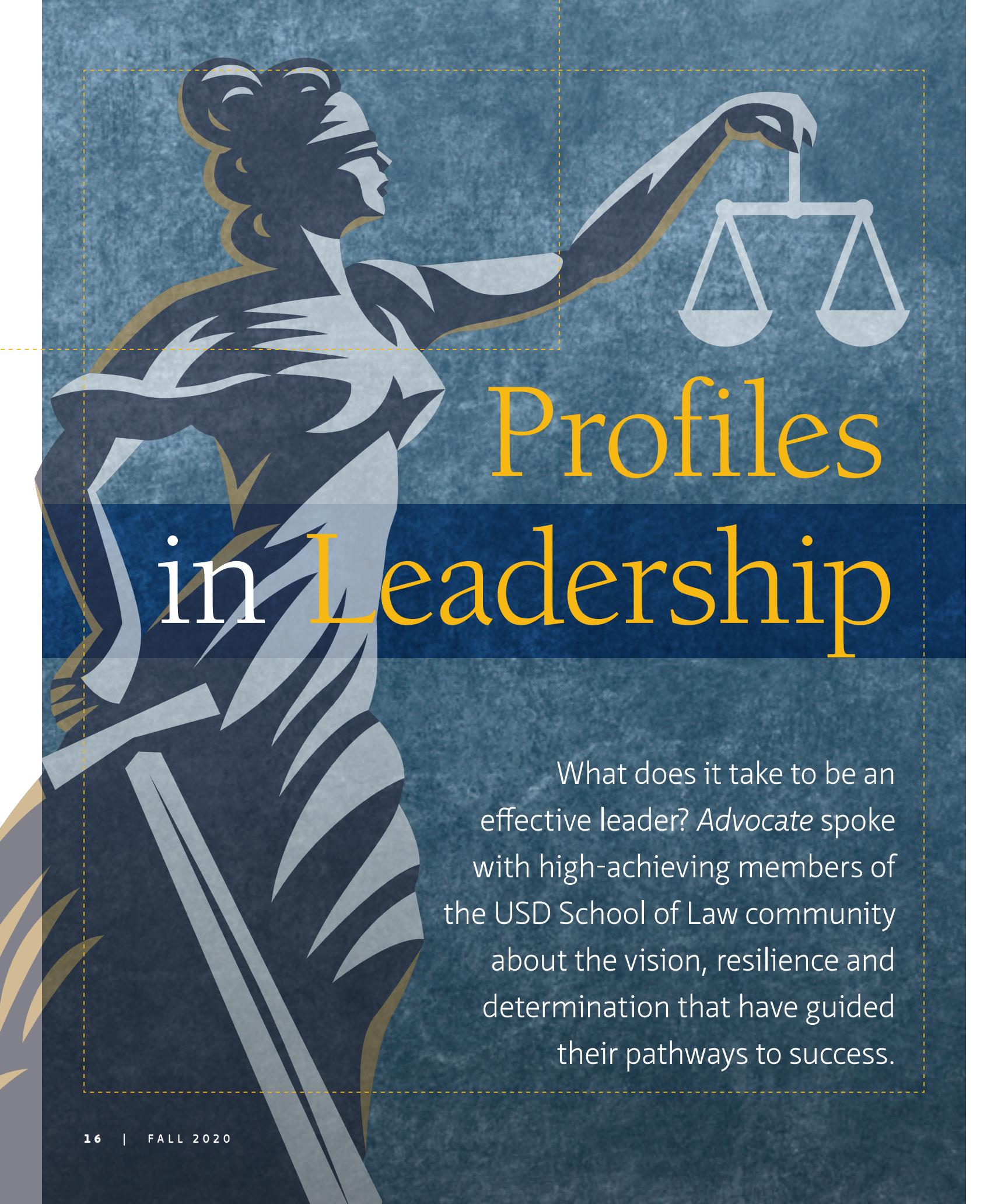
As the first generation in her family to be born in the United States, Castro says she found law school to be a very different environment from her undergraduate years in Fresno, where she attended Fresno Pacific University.

“A lot of students [at USD School of Law] come from a lineage of legal professionals, but I don’t have relatives who were familiar with the legal profession,” she said. “Getting involved in leadership is a way for me to learn from various people, in order to become the type of attorney I want to become.”

As Castro sees it, the biggest challenge of going remote, for both professors and students, was becoming comfortable with online learning. “Sharing a screen, raising your hand, stalled connections—it was difficult,” she said. Staying engaged during class was harder, too, she added, especially for students who have family members at home with them.

Canceled or curtailed events, such as the much-anticipated Paul A. McLennan, Sr., Honors Moot Court Competition, were big disappointments. There were financial hardships, too. “Some students who were laid off or furloughed from their jobs didn’t have enough funding to keep up their apartments,” Castro said. “It created a lot of anxiety and confusion.”

Still, Castro noted, the law school was highly attentive to the students’ needs and offered the students plenty of support, from the Town Hall meetings, to the alumni association’s fund to help students in need, to providing noise-canceling headphones for studying at home. “The school did everything it could in these unprecedented times,” she said.



Profiles in Leadership

What does it take to be an effective leader? *Advocate* spoke with high-achieving members of the USD School of Law community about the vision, resilience and determination that have guided their pathways to success.

GOVERNMENT TRAILBLAZERS

From opening doors for women in politics to overseeing branches of the military, alumni are charting new courses on city, state and federal levels

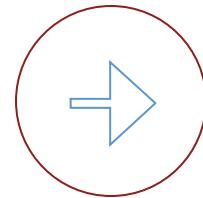
LYNN SCHENK, '70 (JD) *Breaking Political Glass Ceilings*

Even before former Congresswoman Lynn Schenk, '70 (JD), became the first female cabinet secretary of the California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency; the first woman south of Los Angeles to be elected to the U.S. Congress; and the first woman to be chief of staff to a California governor, she was already well known for standing up for herself and others.

As a young lawyer fresh out of USD School of Law, Schenk co-founded the country's first women's bank, so women could get a loan without a male co-signer. She helped change a law that had required women to identify themselves as either Miss or Mrs. on California voting ballots. She and two friends became the first women to join the 1970s power-lunch crowd at San Diego's Grant Grill, when a sign at the restaurant said men only from noon to 3 p.m.

Schenk said she constantly asked herself why she had chosen to be a lawyer in the first place. "Hopefully, the answer is to make this world of ours better for having been there," she said.

Schenk's passion for fairness, her energy to lead the fight for what is right, came at least partly from being the daughter of Hungarian parents, one a Holocaust survivor. Schenk's mother made it out of Europe during World



War II; her father was not as fortunate and was forced into captivity by the Nazis.

"The anguish, the anger, the frustration that children of survivors feel has to be directed in some way," she said. "I could never make it right in any way, but I suppose I looked for other ways that I could make things right. Everybody has their wellspring, and I suppose that was mine."

Being a lawyer, Schenk said, gave her the ability to have real impact. "It certainly helped me develop skills and talents in the art of negotiation and compromise," she said. "After you're through school and have been a lawyer for a few years, you develop a certain amount of confidence that you can stand up to most people."

That confidence was sorely needed, she said, when Gov. Jerry Brown named Schenk secretary of the California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. Her portfolio included overseeing banks, savings and loans, and the insurance industry, plus the California Department of Transportation, CalTrans and the California Department of Motor Vehicles, among other organizations.

"In those days, the businesses the agency was regulating were all run by men. I was met with a lot of skepticism," Schenk recalled. "But I put all of my energies into [the job] to prove that Gov. Brown had made the right decision in selecting me."

Schenk highlights a particular challenge she faced as a newly appointed San Diego port commissioner in the late '80s and early '90s. "I had to make a decision to keep quiet about a vote to outsource San

Diego's airport janitorial service, which took place before I was appointed, or risk the wrath of new colleagues and the business community to try and reverse the action," she said. "Why? Because the outside vendor fired all the existing janitors who were members of the Service Employees International Union. I chose speaking up. Using my lawyering skills to unearth past bad behavior of the vendor, I was able to persuade all but one of my fellow commissioners to undo their earlier decision and rehire the janitors."

In 1992, Schenk ran for Congress and won, becoming the first Democrat in 40 years to represent California's 49th congressional district, covering most of San Diego. After serving one term in Congress, Schenk held various positions in the California state government under Gov. Gray Davis, including chief of staff, a role that often called for 20-hour days.

"As chief of staff for the governor, you're essentially the chief operating officer for the state," said Schenk. "I described myself as the traffic cop at the intersection of emergencies and the merely urgent."

Throughout, Schenk fought the good fight tirelessly—and strategically.

"I learned that you get the ball in the corner pocket by doing a bank shot, so that's been my philosophy," Schenk said. "What's the bank shot? It sometimes means swallowing your outrage. It means smiling when you don't want to. But there are different ways, depending on your goal. If I had yelled and screamed and pounded, that would have been an easy excuse for people to ignore me."

These days, Schenk looks back with justifiable pride at what she accomplished. She also expresses pride in the evolution of her law school alma mater, which she has observed at close proximity as a member of the law school's Board of Visitors and as the wife of the late Distinguished Professor C. Hugh Friedman, who taught at the law school for more than 50 years.

"I was able to see as an observer how USD Law prepares students to be really fine lawyers," she said.

And does Schenk occasionally drop by the Grant Grill for lunch?

"I certainly do," she said. "I didn't put up that fight for nothing."

JAMES McPHERSON, '81 (JD)

Guiding Multiple Armed Forces

From all appearances, it was neither politics nor swagger that brought James McPherson, '81 (JD), recently to, not one, but two top national leadership positions in the U.S. military.

Asked why his name kept coming up in 2019-2020 to become undersecretary of the U.S. Army and then to serve concurrently as acting secretary of the U.S. Navy, McPherson quipped, "If you can figure that out, let me know so I can put a stop to it!"

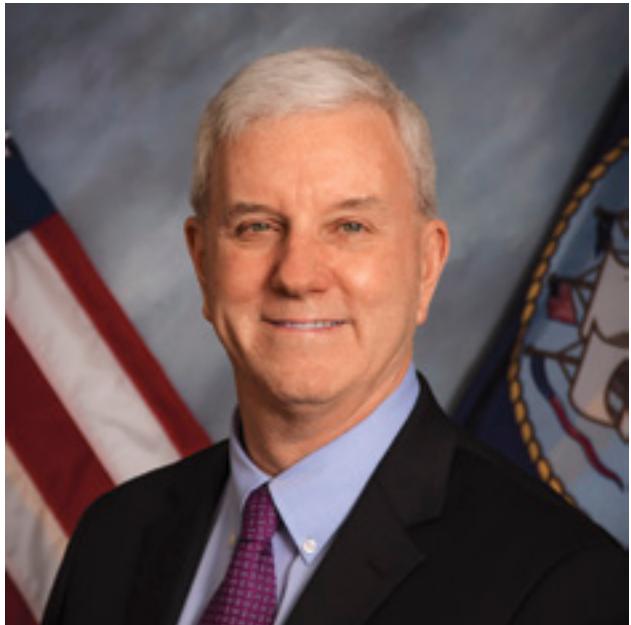
After a distinguished military career spanning more than 30 years in the Army and Navy, in which he had served as a rear admiral, retiring as the judge advocate general of the Navy in 2006, McPherson



“

I learned that you get the ball in the corner pocket by doing a bank shot, so that's been my philosophy. What's the bank shot? It sometimes means swallowing your outrage. It means smiling when you don't want to.” —LYNN SCHENK, '70 (JD)

Government Trailblazers



“
These are unusual circumstances, and it’s time for all of us to take an oar and to stroke really hard.”

—JAMES MCPHERSON, '81 (JD)

took on the position of executive director of the National Association of State Attorneys General. Because the group's members represent the far ends of the political spectrum and everything in between, McPherson said he had to “maintain complete neutrality to keep them all under the tent, so there was no politics in my background whatsoever.”

In 2017, when then-U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis wanted to meet with McPherson, he had no idea what Mattis wanted. Offered the position of general counsel of the Army, McPherson said he responded with “something very attorney-like and articulate, like ‘Who me?’ ”

McPherson said he built his reputation throughout the ultra-varied cases he was involved in over the years as a judge advocate including capital cases in which he sometimes served as the defense and sometimes as the prosecutor by following the advice of one of his USD School of Law professors, Edward Imwinkelried.

“Whomever you represent,” McPherson said Imwinkelried advised, “know your client, know the business of your client, know what motivates them. As general counsel of the Army, I resolved that I was going to know all there is to know about the 1-million-person organization of the U.S. Army.

“So when the undersecretary of the Army job came vacant,” he recalled, “the leadership looked around and said, ‘that McPherson guy seems to know a lot about the Army, so let’s give him a try.’ ”

McPherson was named acting undersecretary of the Army in July of 2019 and was sworn into that position on March 25, 2020. Then, on April 7, 2020, Secretary of the Navy Thomas Modly resigned over the Covid-19 outbreak on the USS Theodore Roosevelt and subsequent firing of its captain, and U.S. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper designated McPherson to fill in as acting secretary of the Navy, a position he held until May, when the Senate confirmed Kenneth J. Braithwaite as secretary.

“Suddenly I was thrust into a position I had no idea or dreamed I’d ever be in,” said McPherson. “Couple that with Covid, and I’d say those times were the most challenging in my career.”

Ever the true leader, McPherson credited his staff, whom he sometimes refers to as “rock stars,” with keeping his work on track and setting an example in a difficult time.

“They realized that these are unusual circumstances,” he said, “and it’s time for all of us to take an oar and to stroke really hard.”

Government Trailblazers



“
I do feel comfortable in a leadership role. Making decisions and giving people clear guidance helps people to succeed.”

—JOHN HEMMERLING, '01 (JD)

JOHN HEMMERLING, '01 (JD)

Taking Charge of City Crime

Whether leading soldiers through a combat zone or managing 75 attorneys and 125 support staff as the head of the San Diego City Attorney's Criminal Division, John Hemmerling, '01 (JD), has a natural affinity for being in charge.

"My job is to motivate and give direction," said Hemmerling, who commanded a battalion of 800 Marines during the 2005 Iraq war as part of his 27-year military career, which included active duty and reserve. "I do feel comfortable in a leadership role. Making decisions and giving people clear guidance helps people to succeed."

Wanting to maximize that impact as a leader in his community, Hemmerling joined the San Diego Police Department, where he worked full time as an officer, while also attending classes at USD School of Law, mostly at night. After he passed the bar and was temporarily assigned as a community relations officer, a deputy city attorney persuaded him that, given his background, he could have more impact as a city attorney.

Today, Hemmerling's take-charge energy is directed toward leading his division to protect the residents of San Diego. Because the San Diego City Attorney's Office prosecutes misdemeanor crimes and violations, Hemmerling is able to supervise such efforts as addressing gun violence through the recently enacted gun violence restraining order law, diverting drug users to supportive services before they enter the criminal justice system (in a program called PLEADS), and calling to account operators of independent living facilities who neglect or abuse elderly residents.

"We received complaints about substandard housing, fire escape egress violations, and physical and financial mistreatment," Hemmerling said. "You can imagine these older and dependent people living in squalor. They're terrified, and they really don't have any recourse. We're making a point to get out there and have been very public about telling operators, 'If you're mistreating people in these independent living facilities, we're going to come after you.' "

Not only can Hemmerling's office prosecute the operators of the facilities, it relocates those displaced and disadvantaged elderly residents.

"We have the ability to respond to problems in the community and find creative ways to solve them," he said.

COMMITTED TO GIVING BACK

Meet four accomplished alumni
who make service for the greater
good a top priority

Tom Fetter, '67 (JD) **Service Is in His DNA**

That he plays tennis four days a week at age 86 may not tell you all you need to know about Tom Fetter, '67 (JD), but it tells you a lot. Add in that he runs a business enterprise that employs 150 people—but you still don't have the whole picture.



“

I decided to focus on a limited number of opportunities and to concentrate my involvement with each.”[”]TOM FETTER, '67 (JD)

One of San Diego's most prominent lawyers, John Morrell, '84 (JD), (see page 22) calls Fetter “an unstoppable force of nature,” and that description has nothing to do with Fetter's backhand or business acumen. Rather, Fetter is an extraordinary example of selfless charitable work. Some of San Diego's greatest community assets owe much of their success to Fetter's work and his ability to inspire others.

He had a long career in the gasoline business, while also working in the recreational marine business and, currently, owns an RV dealership. Fetter passed the bar right after graduating law school (he took mostly night classes, over four years) but never practiced law. Still, he recalls that law school was “one of the best things I've ever done, and my law school education has been more helpful than my MBA,” which he earned at Stanford.

From his parents, Fetter learned that “community service was expected if one had the resources to do so.” His father's main volunteer activity was in service to the San Diego Zoo, and Fetter has



“

Climbing that second mountain”—based on more selfless considerations—“that’s what interests me now.”

—JOHN MORRELL, '84 (JD)

donated his energies to the zoo for more than 30 years, including three years as president and chairman.

When he started his volunteer work, Fetter said, “I decided to focus on a limited number of opportunities and to concentrate my involvement with each.” A partial list would include the Fleet Science Center (where he served as president) and the San Diego Yacht Club. His biggest time commitment was to the San Diego History Center, which was, he said without irony, “almost a second job.”

Fetter is gratified to have volunteered alongside “many like-minded people with whom I served,” and that, together, “we left things better than we found them.” As he sums up his many charitable endeavors, “I have received much more than I have given.”

John Morrell, '84 (JD) **On the Second Mountain**

John Morrell, '84 (JD), always seems to be in the right place at the right time. Example A is the judicial clerkship he served, after graduating from USD School of Law, with the Honorable Ralph G. Pagter, a U.S. bankruptcy judge in the Central District of California.

At that time, the 1978 Bankruptcy Code was still new, and the meaning and scope of its provisions were just being implemented. So when Morrell left the clerkship and began to practice at Higgs Fletcher & Mack, he was, *ipso facto*, an expert, when there were few others.

Morrell parlayed those circumstances (and his own talents) into a stellar career. He built his firm's bankruptcy practice from scratch and became managing partner at the age of 37.

It was later in his career when Morrell began to turn his attention more to charitable than billable affairs. Since then, he has assumed leadership positions with organizations including the Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute, the San Diego Bar Association and the Mercy Outreach Surgical Team. The latter provides surgery for indigent children in Mexico; Morrell, the only layperson on the board, is its legal and fiscal advisor.

He also served as president of the San Diego Rotary Club, where he made the connection with Tom Fetter, '67 (JD), that led to his being named chairman of the San Diego Historical Society.

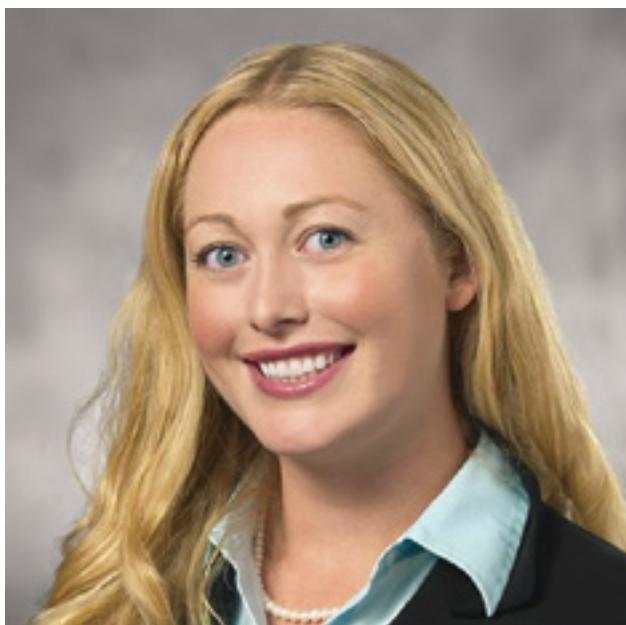
When you ask Morrell how he became interested in these kinds of charitable efforts, it's obvious that he has done some soul searching about the question. He cites as one of his guideposts *The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life*, by David Brooks. For many, Brooks writes, achieving material success becomes insufficient. For these, a “second mountain” to climb, based on more selfless considerations, is a necessity. “Climbing that second mountain,” said Morrell—“that’s what interests me now.”

Committed to Giving Back

“

Fostering relationships, connecting with the community and building a culture of philanthropy is vital to our legal community.”

—ANDREA MYERS, '08 (JD)



COURTESY OF SELTZER CAPLAN MCMAHON VITEK

Andrea Myers, '08 (JD) In the Community Spirit

Andrea Myers, '08 (JD), is San Diegan through and through. After attending Claremont McKenna College and consulting for a few years in Los Angeles, she returned to her hometown to attend law school and then to practice law.

It was a good move. She has already built an impressive litigation practice as a partner at the venerable firm Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek. She represents clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies to private commercial entities in complex business disputes. This year, she successfully defended several multimillion-dollar disputes involving business torts, real property claims and trust administrations.

The skill, energy and passion Myers brings to the courtroom are echoed through the success she has brought to the many organizations for which she volunteers her time. Myers serves on the boards of several schools (including the USD School of Law Board of Visitors). She is involved with “The RedCoats,” the volunteers who host the San Diego Holiday Bowl. Myers also serves on the Association of Business Trial Lawyers Board of Governors and is the treasurer of the American Inns of Court, Louis M. Welsh Chapter.

Perhaps her most notable community service (thus far) has been for the Junior League, an international women’s organization. Myers is the president of the 1,000-member San Diego chapter, which just recently celebrated 90 years of service. She passionately dedicates herself to furthering the Junior League’s mission of developing women leaders.

“I’m lucky that Seltzer Caplan has a long legacy of serving San Diego and standing behind our clients and partners,” Myers said. “There is a strong focus on giving back to the community.”

Her efforts have not gone unnoticed. Her peers have voted her among the “Top 40 Under 40,” San Diego’s Rising Stars, San Diego Super Lawyers and a “Woman Who Moves the City.”

“In a place like San Diego,” Myers said, “volunteer work is especially important. Fostering relationships, connecting with the community and building a culture of philanthropy is vital to our legal community.”

Committed to Giving Back



“
It’s amazing how life takes you in so many different directions if you let it.”

—BARRY La FORGIA, '76 (JD)

Barry La Forgia, '76 (JD)

Alleviating Suffering on a Global Scale

When he conceived the charitable organization that would become International Relief Teams (IRT), Barry La Forgia, '76 (JD), thought he could still be an active lawyer. He felt a little like Tarzan, he recalled with a laugh, being pulled in opposite directions by two demanding “vines”—one being a law and real estate practice, the other being the delivery of health care and disaster relief to the desperately poor around the world.

But doing both proved a tall order. La Forgia last practiced law in 1988, when IRT was born. He was busy with IRT from the get-go, as its founder and executive director, because the need for its services was both obvious and overwhelming.

Since then, IRT has given more than \$540 million in humanitarian aid and deployed more than 7,500 volunteers to help

underserved people in 68 countries including Mexico, Niger, Rwanda and the United States (during hurricanes, floods and fires). Natural disasters are challenging, but man-made ones are, for La Forgia, the most heartbreakng.

In the former Yugoslavia, for example, La Forgia recalls being fired on by partisans while delivering medical supplies and thinking, “I used to get combat pay for this.” (He was referring to his service as a pilot in Vietnam, where he flew over 100 tactical airlift missions.)

In the early 1970s, there were so many pilots returning stateside that it was impossible to find work as a civilian aviator. So, at the urging of his Air Force Academy classmate Dave McCarty, '74 (JD), La Forgia entered USD School of Law.

Law school training “has served me well, even in nonprofit work,” he explained, meaning that it gave him the confidence to deal with such things as international contracts, meetings and negotiations with government officials, and labor issues. In 2017, USD recognized La Forgia at the annual Alumni Honors celebration with the prestigious Bishop Charles Francis Buddy Award for his service to humanity.

In earlier years, La Forgia traveled with relief teams, but now, at age 75, he does so less often. He has no plans to stop his good works, though. Thinking about all he has accomplished and the many awards and accolades he has received, he reflected, with characteristic modesty, “It’s amazing how life takes you in so many different directions if you let it.”

SHOWSTOPPING ATTORNEY

2020 graduation speaker

Lauri Thompson, '98 (JD), has a colorful past. It's made her law career that much more vibrant.

Every experience in life helps you as a lawyer, explains Lauri Thompson, '98 (JD). Even getting your arm snapped in a wrestling ring.

Thompson knows of what she speaks. On the way to an enormously successful career in entertainment law, Thompson has accumulated a lifetime's worth of astonishing stories, encounters and lessons—from dancing onstage in Las Vegas to having her first child during her first year out of law school to, yes, performing as a professional wrestler—all of which, she insists, have shaped the kind of lawyer she has become. “You have to own your truth,” she said. “The only way you can recognize the strength that comes from it is by acknowledging it as an important part of you. Then it empowers you.”

Twenty-two years after graduating from USD School of Law, where she compiled an eye-popping student transcript while flying to Vegas between classes to perform six times a week, Thompson planned to return to her alma mater to deliver the commencement address to the Class of 2020. When the campus was shut down in March, she did what she’s always done—rolled with the punches—and delivered her address over the web. “It was the same day Barack Obama gave his commencement speech,” Thompson said. “And Oprah!”

While she may not have the same name recognition as the aforementioned speakers, Thompson did have a message that resonated with the young graduates, urging them to embrace their authentic selves and not to hide from the challenges that life presents. It’s a subject she knows well.

Although she knew from an early age she wanted to practice law, Thompson’s polymathy led her down some winding digressions. She graduated high school at 16 and finished college in three years. But she missed her

LSAT exam because the ballet company she’d been dancing with added an extra matinee. Before she could reschedule, she had an offer to dance professionally with a company in Jackson, Miss., where she performed for a year. She then landed a spot as the principal adagio dancer in the Folies Bergere, the long-running stage revue at the Hotel Tropicana in Las Vegas. While dancing there at night, she also began finding roles in TV ads and series, including “Gorgeous Ladies of Wrestling,” or “GLOW,” in which she wrestled as Susie Spirit.

It wasn’t until she was 35 that Thompson finally made it to law school at USD. Still performing in the revue, she’d hop the hour flight from Las Vegas to San Diego at first four, then five times a week.

As a performer, Thompson didn’t suffer from lack of confidence, but that changed in law school. Having been out of school for 16 years, she was unsure of how to match wits with a cohort of sharp students. “I knew I was going into a world where I was behind the curve,” she said. “It’s a struggle to go from being at the top of your game ... to starting at almost zero.”

The learning curve was steep, but Thompson began to see how her Las Vegas career applied to entertainment law. Where others were learning about things like copyrights and entertainment contracts, Thompson had lived them firsthand. “It took me a while to realize that my other career was also valuable to practicing law,” she said. “I had to figure out how to capitalize on that. That’s what I want to instill in people now: All your knowledge has a place in the practice of law. You have to tap into that experience, your networking connections, your expertise.”

Consider, for example, her broken arm—the result of a dramatic maneuver gone wrong. “I was working with a lady

Showstopping Attorney

who played the role of Head Hunter," Thompson recalled. Thompson went for a pin, but their legs got tangled and by the time they'd crashed to the mat, a ligament in Thompson's elbow was torn and the joint dislocated. "Sylvester Stallone's mother [Jackie] was playing my manager. I had to pick my arm up off the mat and try to get out of the ropes," Thompson said. "Jackie is shouting, 'Get back in there! You're not a quitter!' And I'm whispering, 'Jackie, my arm's broken!'"

The injury provided Thompson with a new opportunity: time away from performing and a chance to further dive into the business end of showbiz. "It's how I learned the television industry," she said. Thompson shadowed the show's producers, giving herself a crash course in TV production. The behind-the-scenes aspect

appealed to her, and she began working more closely with the marketing team for the Folies Bergere as well.

Along with Mark Tratos, a partner in the Quirk and Tratos law firm, Thompson started an entertainment production company offering consulting services for Las Vegas casinos and entertainment venues. Before long, she fashioned a niche for herself in the wild world of Las Vegas entertainment.

After graduation, Thompson returned to that world, armed with a law degree. She passed the bar exam while pregnant and began working for Quirk and Tratos as an associate. During one of her first assignments, she was introduced to casino magnate Steve Wynn. "My job was helping bring the Moscow Circus to the Golden Nugget," she said. "They knew I had the experience to pull this together." Eventually she worked her way up to partner while raising two children. In 2005, the firm became the headquarters for a new Las Vegas office of the law firm Greenberg Traurig. Thompson helps lead the firm's work in the intellectual property and entertainment practice groups.

A few years after Thompson started practicing law, she began teaching entertainment and fine art law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She has also taught entertainment law at the UNLV and ASU law schools. All her teaching has been done as an adjunct professor, while practicing law full time. "It's a labor of love," she said. "I learn as much as the students do."

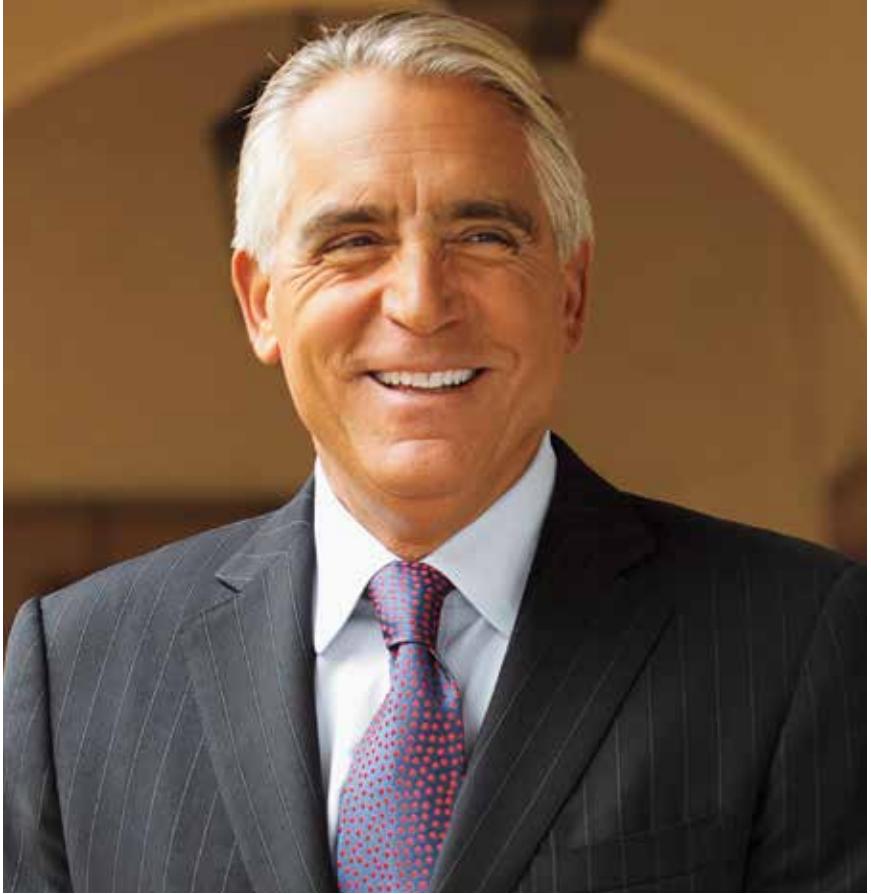
Now, Thompson is paying it forward. She is still teaching and serves on the executive boards of the Nevada Ballet Theatre and Variety, the Children's Charity of Southern Nevada. "Passion is about you," she said. "Purpose is when you pursue something outside yourself."

To the 2020 graduates of USD School of Law, that's a message she hopes they'll absorb. "Start to teach others what you've learned," she said. "First you need to learn it, then you need to do it, and then you need to teach it."



“

All your knowledge has a place in the practice of law. You have to tap into that experience, your networking connections, your expertise.” —LAURI THOMPSON, '98 (JD)



A LASTING LEGACY

Former Dean Stephen C. Ferruolo elevated the law school in countless ways during his nine years of leadership. His integrity, vision and passion have been exemplary and resulted in the law school growing in reputation, especially in the San Diego region.

This spring, former USD School of Law Dean Stephen C. Ferruolo had the honor of sending the Class of 2020 out into the world with their new JDs, LLMs and other conferred degrees. But this year, of course, was unlike all the others in his nine-year tenure as dean. In years past, he enjoyed extending his congratulations in person; this year, he had to do so virtually. In a video presentation made for the new graduates, Ferruolo commended them on their resilience at a challenging time, when they had to transition to online learning during the coronavirus pandemic. In his closing remarks, Ferruolo said that in lieu of the customary handshakes and hugs at a commencement ceremony, he would bow to the graduates, offering them a (safely distanced) gesture of respect.

With his final days as dean set for the end of June, Ferruolo's heartfelt graduation video took on an extra resonance. As the longest-serving dean in the law school's history, he leaves a remarkable legacy of achievements and innovations.

A Leader Par Excellence

When Stephen C. Ferruolo was named the 10th dean of USD School of Law, in 2011, he came to the position with extraordinarily impressive credentials. He had had in-depth experience in both academia and legal practice, making him exceptionally qualified to take the reins at a time of great uncertainty for many law schools. When he stepped into the role, in the aftermath of the Great Recession,

law schools across the country were faced with declining applications and increasing financial challenges. Ferruolo's background as a successful transactional law attorney, combined with his passion for quality education, made him the ideal choice to steer the law school through a period of unprecedented challenges.

His enthusiasm for education is reflected in his remarkable biography: He received his bachelor's degree from Wesleyan, was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford and earned his doctorate in history from Princeton. From 1979 to 1987, he taught history at Stanford and during this time published an influential work titled *The Origins of the University: The Schools of Paris and Their Critics, 1100-1215* (Stanford University Press, 1985), which explored the genesis of and formative values behind universities.

Having already established himself as a leading academic and historian, Ferruolo decided to add yet another degree to his portfolio, and in 1990 he received his JD from Stanford, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif. Upon graduating, Ferruolo clerked for the Honorable Bruce M. Selya of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. He honed his professional expertise as a transactional lawyer at Heller Ehrman, in its Palo Alto and San Diego offices, and later at Goodwin Procter, where he served as the founding partner and chair of the firm's San Diego office. Much of his practice involved representing technology and life science companies, and in 2011 Ferruolo was elected vice chairman of Biocom San Diego, the largest regional life sciences association in the world.

Thus, when USD School of Law began its search for a new dean, a decade ago, Ferruolo was an ideal fit for the

“

[Former Dean Ferruolo] is the type of individual who gives his all, and his passion for the law school shines through everything he does.”

—DAVID S. CASEY, JR., '74 (JD)

challenges ahead. Recalled David S. Casey, Jr., '74 (JD), who was on the committee that first interviewed Ferruolo, “He is a true renaissance man, and when we convinced him to become our dean it was such an achievement for the law school. Here was a person coming out of the business world, and he was a truly accomplished academic. The faculty embraced him, and he brought an exciting dynamic to the law school. He was the captain of the ship during rough seas, but he kept the standards at a very high level, despite all the challenges. He is the type of individual who gives his all, and his passion for the law school shines through everything he does.”

Former Dean Ferruolo’s accomplishments over the past nine years have been legion, from spearheading innovative new academic programs, to successfully stewarding fundraising campaigns, to tirelessly advocating for increased diversity in all facets of the law school. Here is an overview of just a few of his many contributions.

Focus on Diversity

From the outset, Ferruolo prioritized increasing diversity at the law school, not only in the student body but also in the faculty and administration as well as in the creation of responsive and supportive programs. “[Dean Ferruolo has] served as a strong ally and unwavering supporter of the hopes, dreams and aspirations of underrepresented students in the law school,” said USD School of Law Professor Mary Jo Wiggins.

Many alumni, such as Carolina Bravo-Karimi, '08 (JD), remember being profoundly influenced by the dean’s focus on creating an inclusive culture at the law school. Today, Bravo-Karimi, the first Latina partner at Wilson Turner Kosmo, remains a deeply engaged alumna and fondly recalls Ferruolo as “her dean.”

A Lasting Legacy

Among the faculty, perhaps the most eloquent observer of Ferruolo's unwavering commitment to diversity is Warren Distinguished Professor of Law Roy Brooks. "As a consequence of your humanity, I have produced the most and the best scholarship of my professional life," Brooks wrote to Ferruolo. "I was able to reach my potential, which is something most African American scholars have been unable to do because they often have to deal with racial distractions. I feel incredibly blessed that you have come into my life."

Leading Change

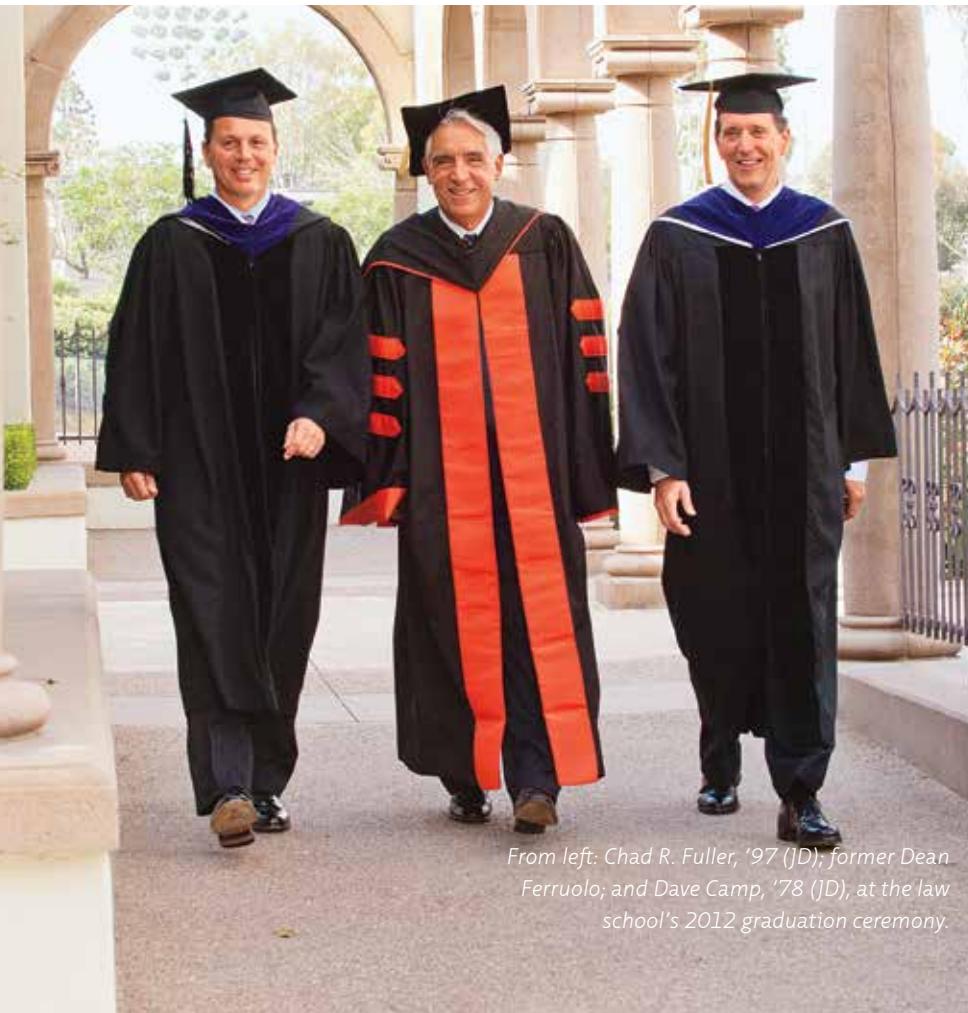
Ferruolo helmed the law school during USD's "Leading Change" capital campaign, which raised over \$300 million for the entire university and more than \$31.5 million for the law school. The campaign also resulted in 84 new named scholarships for law students, due in large measure to the dean's determination. "Dean Ferruolo was there every step of the way, always engaged," recalled Virginia Nelson, '79 (JD), vice chair of the

Leading Change campaign. "He looked at where the needs were and made sure we focused on endowed professorships and student scholarships. His leadership has driven engagement, not just with alumni but with the greater legal community. He is innovative, passionate about improvement, and has done a great deal for the law school."

Enhanced Alumni Relations and Global Networks

Strengthening ties with the law school's more than 16,000 alumni has been a top priority for Ferruolo. Regional alumni chapters play a vital role in keeping alumni connected with the school, provide career and networking opportunities, and help raise the law school's profile. During his tenure, Ferruolo oversaw the creation of 10 alumni chapters—Orange County, Los Angeles, the Bay Area, Sacramento, Seattle, Denver, Phoenix, Las Vegas/Reno, New York and Washington, D.C.—and frequently made the time to personally attend alumni events across the country.

In addition, he has played an active role in building the law school's international reputation and strengthening its global alumni network. He has spoken often about the need for law students to have "global fluency," and, to that end, he has championed and increased the law school's international study opportunities in Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East and sits on the board of the Kuwait International Law School.



From left: Chad R. Fuller, '97 (JD); former Dean Ferruolo; and Dave Camp, '78 (JD), at the law school's 2012 graduation ceremony.

A Lasting Legacy

The Experiential Advocacy Practicum

To help ensure that law students would be practice-ready upon graduation, Ferruolo was committed to increasing the ways in which they could gain hands-on experience. The Experiential Advocacy Practicum (EAP) was launched under his tenure and with his unwavering support, an initiative that has become a permanent part of the 1L curriculum since 2016.

The goal was to give 1L students the skills they would need to understand the elements of litigation in the fall semester and transactional law in the spring semester. With Ferruolo's oversight, and support from Annsley and George Strong, '74 (JD), practicing attorneys were asked to serve in this new practice-ready program as adjunct professors, offering students their expertise, valuable connections and mentorship. Ferruolo also lent his own vast experience as a professor in the transactional law component of the practicum.

"There is a real demand to give students practical learning while in school, while still focusing on the doctrinal," said Professor Linda Lane, who oversees and helped develop the practicum. "Making changes to the 1L curriculum is significant, but we were able to accomplish it under the dean's guidance. And because the dean has his finger on the pulse of our legal community, we expose students to some of the best practitioners in San Diego. It helps students get a sense of opportunities, and it has led to externships and jobs."

The Transactional Law Team

With his expertise in corporate law, establishing a competitive Transactional Law Team at USD was a project dear to Ferruolo's heart. Competing in

“

Dean Ferruolo really cares about the students, and it shows in everything he does, from working closely with the Transactional Law Team to advocating to improve bar passage rates.”

—RAJDEEP ROGER BAINS, '19 (JD)

national tournaments, team members—coached by the dean himself—refined their corporate and transactional law skills, preparing them for the demands of professional practice. Former team member Rajdeep Roger Bains, '19 (JD), who won the Closer National Transactional Law Competition in 2019 and is now an attorney at Cooley LLP, says that the dean played an invaluable role in preparing students for their success. "Dean Ferruolo really cares about his students, and it shows in everything he does, from working closely with the Transactional Law Team to advocating to improve bar passage rates," Bains said. "He treats his students as his associates and sets high standards for them to meet. I'm grateful for his teachings."

Programs, Clinics and Partnerships

In addition to the aforementioned initiatives, Ferruolo has overseen numerous reforms and enhancements to the school's academic portfolio. Guiding USD School of Law through the sharp national decline in law school enrollments, in the wake of the Great Recession, he adjusted the academic program to adapt to smaller class sizes and increased budgetary pressures. He launched innovative joint degrees with other USD graduate programs such as the School of Business as well as local institutions such as the University of California San Diego pre-law and several prestigious international law programs. A tireless advocate for experiential learning, Ferruolo encouraged the expansion of the Legal Clinics (including the launch



Carolina Bravo-Karimi, '08 (JD),
and former Dean Ferruolo.



Ferruolo at the Paul A. McLennan, Sr.,
Honors Moot Court Competition, one
of the law school's signature events.

of the Veterans and Women's Clinics and revamping the Entrepreneurship Clinic) along with the creation of the Washington D.C. Externship program, and initiated many curricular, cocurricular and extra-curricular programs to improve bar passage and career success.

Leadership in the Legal Community

Dismayed by the low bar passage rate in California, Ferruolo has been an outspoken advocate for state bar exam reform. Along with deans of other leading law schools, he has called for the California Supreme Court to appoint a task force to study the state's disproportionately high cut rate. Seeing that students might focus their educational efforts on studying for the bar instead of gaining valuable skills, the dean wrote that "this intense preoccupation on passing the bar is reducing the quality, the relevance and the value of legal education." He has also championed efforts

to make sure the State Bar upholds its stated mission to provide and support "greater access to, and inclusion in, the legal system"—a mission that reflects his deeply held values.

Guiding Principles

In one of Ferruolo's last remarks to students, amid the pandemic, he spoke on the topic "Leadership Matters: Now More Than Ever." He quoted from political scientist Donald Markwell's 2013 book called *Instincts to Lead*, which included an essay on the qualities needed for leadership in the 21st century:

"Emotional intelligence, both understanding and mastering oneself, and understanding others and being able to work effectively with them, in all their (and our) diverse human frailty and complexity.

Centeredness—character that is marked by integrity, by courage and by humility and not by narcissism, by humanity and compassion, and by commitment to well-considered principles or values, with determination to do the right thing as best as one can judge it, and not pursue popularity for its own sake.

The determination to 'see it through,' and the personal resilience to do this in the face of pressures, criticisms and opposition—the resilience to pick yourself up in the face of defeat or failure and get back on with the job."

With these words, Ferruolo was finding a way to keep his students motivated through an unprecedented crisis, to remind them that they have what it takes to become the great leaders who can steer our country forward, with decency, integrity and character.

faculty footnotes

The USD School of Law faculty is committed to advancing the study and practice of law. In these pages, learn how our professors are impacting law at both national and global levels.



From left:
Miranda Perry
Fleischer, Jean
Ramirez and Mary
Jo Wiggins.

FLEISCHER, RAMIREZ AND WIGGINS RECEIVE USD HONORS AND PROFESSORSHIPS

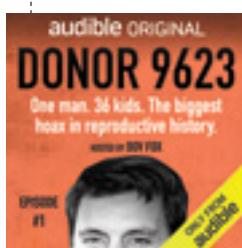
Among the law professors selected as recipients of the 2020-2021 USD faculty awards are Miranda Perry Fleischer, who was named University Professor; Jean Ramirez, named Class of 1975 Endowed Professor; and Mary Jo Wiggins, who was named a Herzog Endowed Scholar.

The University Professor award is the highest academic honor bestowed university-wide at USD and recognizes outstanding scholarly achievements in teaching and research. The Class of 1975 Endowed Professorship, created by the class as its 25-year reunion gift to the law school, recognizes meritorious teaching, leadership and academic work of a law school professor. The Herzog Endowed Scholar award recognizes the meritorious teaching and scholarly productivity of a USD School of Law professor.

> Fox Debuts Book on Law and Fertility Industry

Professor Dov Fox published *Donor 9623: One man. 36 kids. The biggest hoax in reproductive history* (Audible Original, 2020). Hailed as a “tour de force of investigative reporting,” this original eight-part series about the law and ethics of the billion-dollar fertility industry has been nominated for a Peabody Award and a Pulitzer Prize for audio journalism.

Fox’s previous book—*Birth Rights and Wrongs: How Medicine and Technology Are Remaking Reproduction and the Law* (Oxford University Press, 2019)—now has scholarly reviews appearing in the *Columbia Law Review* and other journals, including an online symposium of the *Boston University Law Review* dedicated to reviews of the book.



Fox, who received the 2020 Thorsnes Prize for Excellence in Teaching, serves as the director of the Center for Health Law Policy and Bioethics. In this capacity, he oversees the Covid-19 Summer Fellowship initiative, which is making substantive contributions on controversies from face-mask mandates and reopening liabilities to public health measures that care for people in abusive homes, detention centers and homeless shelters.

IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

As supervising attorney of the Veterans Legal Clinic, Robert Muth offers counsel to former servicemembers while giving students hands-on experience

→ As soon as military recruitment offices reopened after the 9/11 attacks, Robert Muth met with a Marine Corps recruiter. Then a senior at Northwestern University, Muth arranged to graduate early so he could attend the first available class at Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Va. He later earned his JD from Duke University and then served as a judge advocate in the Marine Corps. As a Marine captain, he deployed for 13 months to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Now a professor at USD School of Law, Muth has firsthand knowledge of what it takes to devote yourself to serving one's country.

As the founder and managing attorney of the law school's Veterans Legal Clinic, he and upper-level law students represent low-income, indigent and homeless veterans. A major focus of the clinic is protecting veterans against unscrupulous for-profit education companies who defraud the veterans of their GI Bill benefits. In recent years, the Veterans Legal Clinic added representation for veterans appealing VA claim denials and service recharacterizations.

"I have always been drawn to the potential lawyers have to serve the public good, advocate for those without a voice and work to ensure that everyone has access to equal justice," Muth said.

Through the Veterans Legal Clinic and the other legal-services clinics at USD, for which Muth is responsible for academic oversight and strategic planning, USD School of Law provides invaluable pro bono legal representation to people in need. At the same time, the law school's award-winning clinics provide an ideal opportunity for students to learn what it means to practice law.

"The clinics offer students one of their first opportunities to put into practice the training and skills they developed through their legal education," Muth said. "Through representing real clients, students discover how much positive impact they can have to better the lives of others."

Muth points out that the legal clinics are developing the next generation of legal advocates for the underserved. For example, the Veterans Legal Clinic is working on an amicus brief in a case pending before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. The veteran in the case was wounded in combat and was blinded as a result of his injuries. He is being represented by an attorney who was a student of Muth's during the first semester the Veterans Legal Clinic was offered.

"It is a privilege to watch this former student's career develop," Muth said, "and to see that he has decided to give back to his community through pro bono representation of a veteran in need."

I have always been drawn to the potential lawyers have to serve the public good, advocate for those without a voice and work to ensure that everyone has access to equal justice. **“**

—ROBERT MUTH



SOHONI FILES AMICUS BRIEF IN U.S. SUPREME COURT

Professor Mila Sohoni applied her scholarly interest in universal injunctions to a recent case heard in the U.S. Supreme Court

→ Mila Sohoni, an avid scholar of universal injunctions—court orders preventing the government from enforcing a law against anyone, not just the named plaintiffs—said that the first few months of sheltering in place were a time well spent.

Sohoni had started noticing historical precedents to modern-day injunctions, including one that barred the Trump administration from expanding employers' rights to deny contraceptive health coverage, in the course of researching an article about pre-New Deal constitutional law. "I started to come across decrees that reminded me of modern-day universal injunctions," Sohoni said. "Once I began to dig into these decrees and surrounding procedural law, I was truly hooked."

In February, Sohoni published an article in the *Harvard Law Review*, "The Lost History of the 'Universal' Injunction," which was a co-winner of the American Constitution Society's 2020 Richard D. Cudahy Writing Competition on Regulatory and Administrative Law. Her documentation of cases going back as far as the early 1900s rebutted the assertion that injunctions that reach beyond the plaintiffs are a recent judicial invention or an improper exercise of judicial power, a charge that has been made by U.S. Supreme Court Justices Neil Gorsuch and Clarence Thomas.

Sohoni spent the first couple of months of 2020 speaking about the subject at law schools including Columbia and Harvard, and she testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee in late February.

The shelter-in-place orders, instead of shutting her down, took her to another level with her topic. Collaborating with her husband, Christopher Egleson, a partner at Sidley Austin, Sohoni wrote a U.S. Supreme Court amicus brief showing a long line of cases that demonstrated the right of federal courts to set aside rules and laws "as to everyone," not just the plaintiff. At issue in the Supreme Court case, *Trump v. Pennsylvania*, was whether the Trump administration had authority under the Affordable Care Act and Religious Freedom Restoration Act to broaden the refusal of employers to provide contraceptive health coverage.

Asked whether her husband shares her keen interest in the topic, Sohoni answered, "He certainly does now! I've talked his ear off about this issue," adding that it combines the subjects the couple loved in law school—federal courts, civil procedure, constitutional law and administrative law.

"It was quite a busy time," said Sohoni. "It actually helped that neither of us could go anywhere. If he had been commuting to New York as often as he normally has to, I'm not sure we could have done it. But it did make for some unusual pillow talk."

“

I started to come across decrees that reminded me of modern-day universal injunctions. Once I began to dig into these decrees and surrounding procedural law, I was truly hooked.”

—MILA SOHONI





Warren Distinguished Professor of Law Roy L. Brooks joined the School of Law faculty in 1979. He teaches in the areas of civil procedure, civil rights, employment discrimination law, international human rights, jurisprudence, and critical theory. He is a member of the American Law Institute and the Authors Guild and has received national book awards including the Gustavus Myers Outstanding Book Award (twice) and the Brandeis University Library Learned Research Journal Award. Brooks has written nearly two dozen books. Beloved by his students, he received the Thorsnes Prize for Excellence in Scholarship (twice) and the Thorsnes Prize for Excellence in Teaching (twice). Brooks was named a USD University Professor in 2005 and 2018.

Brooks has a forthcoming book, *Diversity Judgments*, which he describes as “[challenging] the received conceptualization of judicial legitimacy as ancient and out of step with the direction in which our society is moving. The book demonstrates how traditional judicial process—from formalism to realism—is structured to subordinate scores of Americans.”

The 2019-2020 academic year found Brooks characteristically busy, writing articles, chapters, books and shareholder resolutions; lecturing; judging student championships; and reviewing fellow professors' work.

Professor Roy Brooks Continues a Long Legacy of Teaching and Writing

In January, Brooks gave a speech at the 2020 Social Justice Debates National Championship, hosted at Morehouse College, where he also served as a judge. The topic of the debate focused on his 2004 book, *Atonement and Forgiveness: A New Model for Black Reparations*.

This year, in addition to his scholarship and papers delivered at Yale, Berkeley and University of Texas law schools, Brooks also graciously reviewed submissions for peer-reviewed scholarly journals including the *Michigan Historical Review* and the *American Historical Review*, as well as publishers including Cambridge University Press and Polity Books in England.

He has given interviews to the NPR series *The Reckoning*, which has been delayed due to the pandemic but will air in the future.

Brooks was the first USD professor to be invited and speak before the American Society for Political and Legal Philosophy, in September. He spoke at the University of Southern California's Center for Law, History and Culture. He will also be speaking virtually to the San Diego County Bar Association, largely because his former students were able to persuade him to take a break from his scholarly work and give a much sought-after update to the San Diego legal community.

PROFESSOR MARY JO WIGGINS HAS INSPIRED THE 'BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST' FOR THREE DECADES

Professor of Law and Herzog Endowed Scholar Mary Jo Wiggins has made substantial contributions to USD School of Law as a scholar, teacher and faculty leader. She joined the faculty in 1990 and teaches and writes in the areas of real property, remedies, land use planning, debtor/creditor law, commercial transactions, business and corporate law, and bankruptcy. She was named associate dean for academic affairs in 2006 and was promoted to

vice dean in 2011. Three years ago, Wiggins returned to her regular faculty role. She recently was honored with two awards: the Thorsnes Prize for Excellence in Teaching in 2020 and the Herzog Endowed Scholar for the 2020-2021 academic year.

"I love trying to solve the intellectual puzzles one must think hard about in order to teach effectively," said Wiggins, who enjoys conveying both "the big picture and the finer details of

the law." This year, of course, she taught her classes remotely, and admits that she was initially fearful of mastering the technology. "It has been more fun than I expected," she said, "although I miss the energy of an in-person class."

Often on the last day of class she tells students that, even though they might not realize it, they are the best and the brightest. "It takes courage to undertake law study," Wiggins said. "They should be extremely proud of what they have accomplished. The skills and knowledge they now possess will allow them to advance their lives in powerful ways. I tell them not to underestimate the value they can bring to any situation with a law degree."



From left: Jordan Barry, D'Lonna Ellis and Caroline Perry.

Professor Jordan Barry Receives Woltman Professorship in Finance

Jordan Barry, professor of law, director of the Center for Corporate and Securities Law and co-director of Graduate Tax Programs, is honored to be named the Woltman Professor in Finance. Established by Richard and Kaye Woltman, the professorship is shared by the School of Law and the School of Business. The Woltmans shared a mutual interest in business, finance and investments; they were both well recognized for their business acumen. Dick Woltman, an Indiana native and former Army reservist who served in the Korean War, made his mark in the financial services industry. Kaye M. Woltman was a leading light of the investment industry, known for her expertise in tax-exempt bonds. She founded Girard Securities in 1986, which grew into the largest woman-owned broker/dealer and financial services firm in Southern California.

Professor Barry has developed and overseen a corporate and securities law speaker series that has brought many high-profile speakers to USD's campus, including commissioners of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Federal Trade Commission, general counsels of the San Diego Padres and the Oakland Athletics, and the finance editor of *The New York Times*. Barry has published papers in top journals including the *Stanford Law Review*, the *University of Pennsylvania Law Review* and the *Journal of Political Economy*. His work has also been discussed in the popular press, including a 2019 *New Yorker* article.

ONCE A SCHOLAR, ALWAYS A SCHOLAR

Though retired from the faculty, Professor Emeritus John (Jack) Minan remains a lively and influential thought leader in the legal community

→ John (Jack) Minan retired from USD School of Law in 2016, but it would be completely inaccurate to say he stopped teaching. Besides the fact that he taught the fall semester after his retirement, his prolific writing of scholarly articles and opinion pieces has continued at his usual relentless pace.

"As a legal educator, the goal is to teach reasoning and analysis," Minan said. "My hope is that my current research and writing contribute to the public's understanding of the issues that I write about."

Having earned his law degree from the University of Oregon, Minan worked as a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., and taught law at the University of Toledo. He has also taught at the United States Naval Academy and the National Judicial College in Reno, Nev.

In 1976, Minan taught in a summer program at USD School of Law and then moved to San Diego to join the faculty—a move he refers to as a high point in his career. "USD School of Law students are given the opportunity to interact and work with an interesting, talented faculty who care about them," Minan said. At USD, he twice received the University Professor recognition award.

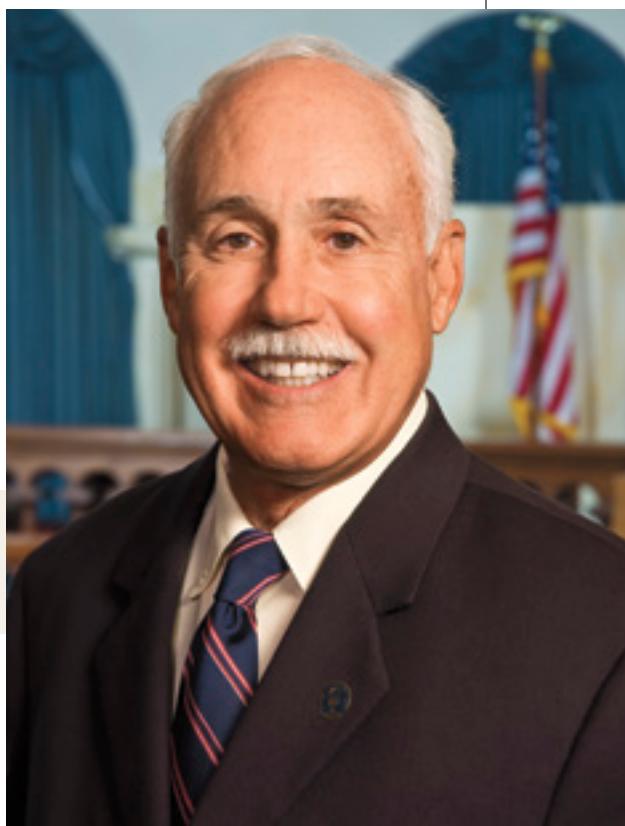
Over the course of his distinguished career, Minan has authored or co-authored 11 books and more than 60 scholarly articles. Since retiring, he has involved himself deeply in writing on contemporary legal issues and in his ongoing scholarly work.

As a contributor to the *Daily Journal*, Minan has written more than 40 opinion pieces since his retirement. Most provide legal analysis and background regarding the actions of President Donald Trump or his agencies, including an impassioned examination of the president's use of the military on June 3, 2020, to clear Washington, D.C.'s Lafayette Square of protesters exercising their constitutional rights.

Minan has also published four law review articles in renowned journals dealing with various aspects of environmental law. He served on the governing boards of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project and the San Diego River Conservancy, and he put in six terms as the chairman of the California Water Board. In 2004, he received the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Award for Outstanding Achievement.

"My work on climate change and related issues has the greatest potential for an important bearing on society," Minan said. "There are many intergenerational challenges that we must deal with if society is to survive, but climate change may be number one—or close to it."

“
My work on climate change and related issues has the greatest potential for an important bearing on society.”
—JOHN MINAN



class action



Hon. Victor E. Bianchini, '63 (JD), Named Witkin Award Recipient

The San Diego Law Library Foundation named [Victor E. Bianchini](#), '63 (JD), the recipient of the prestigious 2019 Bernard E. Witkin, Esq. Award for Excellence in the Adjudication of the Law.

The Honorable Victor E. Bianchini, '63 (JD), is a retired San Diego County Superior Court judge, U.S. magistrate judge and colonel of the United States Marine Corps Reserve. He began his judicial career in 1968 as a U.S. commissioner, was appointed as a magistrate in 1974, and retired as a Superior Court judge in 2002. Judge Bianchini has authored more than 1,000 published opinions in Westlaw. He has served in a volunteer capacity for many legal and veterans organizations, including two terms as the president of the San Diego County Law Library and its foundation. From 1978 to 1980, Judge Bianchini served as director, treasurer and vice president of the San Diego County Bar Association and was reelected to the association's board of directors in 2019.

During his career, Judge Bianchini has received many honors, including Judge of the Year by the San Diego Trial Lawyers, Legal Professional of the Year by the Foothills Bar Association, the Family Law Award of Distinction and 24 military decorations. Outside the courtroom, he is a national fencing champion, having collected approximately 80 medals and representing the United States in eight world championships.

Other USD School of Law recipients of the Witkin Award for Excellence in Legal Education include Interim Dean Margaret A. Dalton, '94 (JD), who received her award last year; Professor of Law and Academic Director of the Legal Clinics Robert Muth, who received his award in 2016; former Dean Stephen C. Ferruolo, who received his award in 2014; Professor C. Hugh Friedman, who received the award posthumously in 2013; and Sister Sally M. Furay, '72 (JD), who received her award in 2004.

The foundation supports the San Diego County Law Library in its mission to provide access to justice for all residents. The annual Bernard E. Witkin Award event is named after the legendary legal author who pioneered the *Summary of California Law*, among other publications.

Class Action compiles news about alumni from independent submissions and media resources. Submit your news at law.sandiego.edu/keepintouch, or email your update and photo (.jpg or .tif format, 300 dpi) to lawpub@sandiego.edu.

1963

Victor E. Bianchini awarded 2019 Witkin Award for Excellence in the Adjudication of Law, elected to San Diego County Bar Association Board of Directors and named chairman of Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum Historical Foundation.

1970

M. Paul Fischer, Jr. recognized as a Professional of the Year for 2020 by Strathmore's Who's Who Worldwide.

1974

David S. Casey, Jr. named Top 10: 2020 San Diego Super Lawyers, awarded ABOTA's 2019 Hughes McClenahan Award and named among 100 Leading Lawyers in California. He received the law school's 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award.

1977

Christine A. Bologna joined inaugural Sacramento Law Alumni Chapter Board.

1979

Larry A. Burns, chief judge of the U.S. District Court, Southern District of California, received the law school's 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award.

Virginia C. Nelson elected to Board of Trustees of the University of San Diego. Nelson, along with Kathleen Trafford, both fellows of the American College of Trial Lawyers, in collaboration with the National Association of Women Judges Informed Voters Project leaders Justice Robin Hudson and Annette Boyd Pitts, have created and will oversee the rollout of public education presentations on the importance of fair and impartial courts. The programs will begin this fall in 10 states.

Abby Silverman joined JAMS, a private provider of alternative dispute resolution services.

Robert J. Trentacosta named to the California Supreme Court Jury Selection Work Group to study changes and new measures to guard against impermissible discrimination in jury selection.

1981

Mark A. Krasner named 2020 honoree for JD&RF Vision Gala.

Jack McGrory received USD's Author E. Hughes Career Achievement Award at Alumni Honors in 2019.

Janice F. Mulligan, '78 (BA), named Top 25: 2020 Women San Diego Super Lawyers.



KAREN P. HEWITT, '89 (JD), APPOINTED REGIONAL PARTNER-IN-CHARGE AT JONES DAY

Alumna Karen P. Hewitt, '89 (JD), was appointed regional partner-in-charge of California at Jones Day effective Jan. 1, 2020. In her role, Hewitt leads nearly 270 lawyers in Jones Day's Los Angeles, Irvine, Silicon Valley, San Francisco and San Diego offices. She will continue to represent companies nationwide focusing on defending clients in civil and criminal matters as a partner in Jones Day's business and tort litigation practice.

Hewitt joined Jones Day in 2010 after a distinguished career at the U.S. Department of Justice as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of California. She has been named by the *Daily Journal* among the Top 100 Lawyers in California six times and to its Top Women Lawyers in California list seven times. She is a director of the National Association of Former U.S. Attorneys, a master in the Enright Inn of Court, a member of the Board of Visitors of USD School of Law and a 2015 Author E. Hughes Career Achievement Award honoree.

1982

Ana España, '79 (BA), named presiding judge of San Diego County Juvenile Court.

Vickie Turner received San Diego Law Library Foundation's Bernard E. Witkin Award for Excellence in the Practice of Law and named to the Chancellor's Community Advisory Board at the University of California, San Diego.

1984

Mary F. Gillick named Top 25: 2020 Women San Diego Super Lawyers.

Keith M. Gregory, a partner at Snell & Wilmer, was elected to the executive committee for the Anti-Defamation League Los Angeles.

1985

Lyn A. Semeta became the mayor of Huntington Beach.

1986

Richard J. Doren named among 100 Leading Lawyers in California.

Dennis J. Doucette joined San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation's Board of Directors.

1987

Theodore J. Boutrous, Jr. represented the defendant

in the \$10 million case of OAN to appeal the judge's ruling to toss Rachel Maddow defamation suit. He was named co-chair and keynote speaker for USD's Class Action Forum, presented by Western Alliance Bank. He was named Litigator of the Year for 2019 and among 100 Leading Lawyers in California, and received the PEN America's Distinguished Leadership Award. He was named to 2020 Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America.

Robert Gerard, Jr. appointed as a judge in the Orange County Superior Court.

1989

Karen P. Hewitt appointed regional partner-in-charge of California at Jones Day. Named among 100 Leading Lawyers in California.

1990

Randall Baron named to 2020 Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America.

Jeffrey D. Light became West Coast business development director of A.B. Data.

1991

Richard Valdez, '70 (BA), reappointed to 22nd District Agricultural Association, San Diego County Fair Board.



Hon. Larry A. Burns, '79 (JD)

The Honorable Larry A. Burns, '79 (JD), and **David S. Casey, Jr.**, '74 (JD), were honored with the 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award, the law school's highest alumni honor. The award is given to alumni who have excelled in their profession and embody the high ethical standards and commitment to community service USD School of Law seeks to instill in its graduates.

The Honorable Larry A. Burns, '79 (JD), chief judge of the U.S. District Court, Southern District of California, has served as a district judge since 2003 and was appointed as magistrate judge in 1997. Before joining the federal bench, Burns served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of California from 1985 to 1997, and a deputy district attorney for the County of San Diego from 1979 to 1985. He tried over 150 cases to jury verdicts and argued more than 40 cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Burns is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and an associate of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He co-authored the *Ninth Circuit Criminal Handbook*, now in its ninth edition. In 2003, he was named Judge of the Year by the San Diego Consumer Trial Lawyers in recognition of his effectiveness as a civil settlement judge.

Honoring Distinguished Alumni

Burns is a former judge of the USD School of Law Paul A. McLennon, Sr., Honors Moot Court Competition and a 2018 panelist for USD School of Law and Western Alliance Bank's Class Action Mastery Forum. Most recently, he administered the federal oath to February bar passers in the law school's first virtual bar swearing-in ceremony in June.

David S. Casey, Jr., '74 (JD), managing partner at CaseyGerry, has been lauded with more than 90 professional awards including a perpetual award in his honor—the David S. Casey, Jr. Consumer Advocate Award from the Consumer Attorneys of San Diego—and the Witkin Award for Excellence in the Practice of Law. He was inducted into the American Board of Trial Advocates, the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and the International Society of Barristers. Casey is also the state chair for U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein's judicial selection committee.

During Casey's tenure as vice president and president of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America (now the American Association for Justice), he spearheaded the creation of the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund mandated by the U.S. Congress—the largest pro bono program in the history of American jurisprudence—resulting in the most generous compensation program since Medicare was enacted in the 1960s.

Since receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award, Casey has been recognized with the following accolades: Super Lawyer 2020; Super Lawyers Top 10 2020; Lawdragon 2020; Best Lawyers 2020; *Daily Journal* Top Plaintiff Lawyer 2020; and the 2019 Hughes McClenahan award by the American Board of Trial Advocates.

Casey serves on the USD School of Law Board of Visitors and chaired USD's Leading Change Campaign for the law school and both the 2019 and 2018 USD School of Law and Western Alliance Bank's Class Action Mastery Forum. He currently serves on the USD School of Law Dean's Search Committee.



David S. Casey, Jr., '74 (JD)

➤ Theodore J. Boutrous Jr., '87 (JD), Named Litigator of the Year



Theodore J. Boutrous, Jr., '87 (JD), was named Litigator of the Year by *The American Lawyer*. Boutrous was recognized for his high-profile cases involving the rule of law and the First Amendment, including this year's dismissal of a One America News (OAN)

defamation lawsuit against MSNBC host Rachel Maddow.

He also was honored with the PEN America's Distinguished Leadership Award on Nov. 1, 2019, at the 29th Annual LitFest Gala. PEN America values the protection of freedom of expression within the U.S. The group chose to honor Boutrous for his commitment to the First Amendment in numerous litigations involving media legal issues.

Boutrous was included in the 2019 edition of "100 Leading Lawyers in California" by the *Daily Journal*. It is his 15th appearance on the list.

Most recently, he is the lawyer who cleared the way for the publication of Mary L. Trump's book, *Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World's Most Dangerous Man*. In victory, Boutrous said, "[T]he First Amendment forbids prior restraints because they are intolerable infringements on the right to participate in democracy."

Boutrous is a partner in the office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher in Los Angeles and an experienced appellate lawyer who has argued hundreds of appeals in federal court. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers and on the advisory board of the International Women's Media Foundation.

1992

Lorna A. Alksne named presiding judge of San Diego Superior Court.

Julie A. Dunne joined DLA Piper as partner.

Tracy Wingrove named associate executive director at Santa Clara City Library Foundation and Friends.

1994

John D. Alessio, '91 (BBA), recognized in *San Diego Business Journal*'s inaugural SD 50 issue highlighting 50 of San Diego's most influential leaders.

Lt. Daniel Bean became a board member at Jacksonville Port Authority.

Kristen E. Caverly named Top 25: 2020 Women San Diego Super Lawyers.

Robert A. Cocchia joined Rimon as partner.

Margaret A. Dalton named interim dean of USD School of Law.

Iris Eytan won first murder trial held in Colorado during Covid-19.

Marsha C. Kelliher (LLM) appointed president of Simpson College.

1995

Shawn D. Skillin elected



president of the board of directors of Collaborative Practice San Diego.

1996

J. David Bournazian joined K&L Gates as partner.

John H. Loesch selected as MellingMedical regulatory expert.

1997

Debra J. Wyman named to 2020 Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America.

1998

Daniel V. Biedler II (LLM) joined inaugural Sacramento Law Alumni Chapter Board.

Cynthia M. Brittain (LLM) became private wealth attorney at BakerHostetler.

Tammy R. Graff Cordova appointed to the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada.

David W. Mitchell named to 2020 Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America.

Larry W. Nishnick recognized in *San Diego Business Journal's* inaugural SD 50 issue highlighting 50 of San Diego's most influential leaders.

2000

Jessica A. Neyman named chief human resources officer

HON. ANA ESPAÑA, '79 (BA), '82 (JD), ELEVATED TO PRESIDING JUDGE OF JUVENILE COURT



The Honorable Ana España, '79 (BA), '82 (JD), is the presiding judge of the San Diego County Juvenile Court. She was appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger as a San Diego Superior Court judge in 2008. In 2011, the National Association of Counsel for Children honored her with the Outstanding Legal Advocate award. In 2013 she became a supervising judge in the South County Division of San Diego Superior Court. She has presided over juvenile cases since January 2018. Prior to

her appointment to the bench in 2008, Judge España represented children and youth in both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. As a student, she participated in the public interest law clinics, which led to her first job at Defenders Inc. While she was with the Public Defender's Office, she led the development of the Office of Children's Counsel, which focuses on representing children in the welfare system.

➤ Hon. Lorna A. Alksne, '92 (JD), Named Presiding Judge of San Diego Superior Court



The Honorable Lorna Alksne, '92 (JD), was named presiding judge of the San Diego Superior Court on Jan. 1. She succeeded Judge Peter Deddeh, '82 (JD), becoming the third female presiding judge in county history. She oversees 153 judicial officers and new technologies on a \$190 million budget. Also in her purview are bail reform efforts, changes in state law that determine how some defendants in murder cases are charged and sentenced, and the governor's moratorium on the death penalty. She served as

assistant presiding judge to Judge Deddeh for the past two years, and her peers elected her to serve her own two-year term.

CLASS ACTION

of the Killeen Independent School District.

2001

Erin Giglia appointed to Orange County Bar Association Covid-19 task force.

Teodora D. Purcell (LLM) named Top 25: 2020 Women San Diego Super Lawyers.

2002

Warren K. Den elected to San Diego County Bar Association Board of Directors.

Brian J. Lawler received Consumer Attorneys of San Diego 2019 Outstanding Advocate award.

Brett Norris joined the USD School of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Ronson Shamoun, '98 (BAA), '03 (LLM), recognized in *San Diego Business Journal's* inaugural SD 50 issue highlighting 50 of San Diego's most influential leaders.

2003

Jordan M. Geller, '05 (MBA), founder of a shoe museum called Shoezeum, sold an autographed pair of Michael Jordan shoes at Sotheby's for a record \$560,000.

2004

Bibianne Fell received Consumer Attorneys of San

Diego 2019 Outstanding Trial Lawyer award, founded Fell Law and co-founded Athaea Trial Lawyers.

Justin Hollander appointed vice president and assistant general manager for baseball operations, Seattle Mariners.

Melanie J. Snyder named general counsel of Denver Regional Transportation District.

Tami G. Vail joined Kahana Feld as the managing partner of new San Diego office.

Claire C. Weglarz became partner at Hawkins Panell & Young.

2006

Kristin Rizzo joined the USD School of Law Board of Visitors and appointed to the city of San Diego's Human Relations Commission. She recently helped establish a scholarship fund to support Black law students at USD.

2007

Dave Fox received Consumer Attorneys of San Diego 2019 Outstanding Trial Lawyer award.

Rebekah G. Jurata named by SEC as a board member at the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board.

Mark G. Rackers became partner at Sheppard Mullin.



Nicholas J. Fox, '11 (JD)

Nicholas J. Fox, '11 (JD), and **Jamie D. Beck**, '11 (JD), received the 2019 Rising Star Recent Alumni Award. The award is given to alumni who have graduated within the past 10 years and have made significant professional achievements while also demonstrating a high level of community involvement. Since its inception in 2011, 18 law school alumni have received the Rising Star Recent Alumni Award.

Nicholas J. Fox, '11 (JD), practices in the areas of business, commercial, consumer and class action litigation. Prior to practice, Fox was a judicial extern for the Honorable M. Margaret McKeown of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and a judicial intern for the Honorable Marilyn L. Huff of the U.S. District Court, Southern District of California.

From 2018 to 2020, San Diego Super Lawyers recognized Fox as a Rising Star, and he has received the State Bar of California's Wiley M. Manuel Certificate for Pro Bono Legal Services for multiple years. In 2017, the San Diego Law Library Foundation honored Fox with the inaugural Witkin Changemaker: Advancing Access to Justice Award. He received the Tom Homann LGBT Law Association's Co-Presidents' Award in 2015

Honors for Rising Stars

and the Legal Aid Society of San Diego's Outstanding Service Award in 2013.

During law school, Fox was senior executive editor of the *San Diego Law Review* and a member of the Appellate Moot Court Board. He serves on the USD School of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors with leadership roles on the executive, nominating, philanthropy/sponsorships and diversity committees; he also serves on the boards of directors for the San Diego County Bar Association and the Tom Homann LGBT Law Foundation. Fox has served as a Law Firm Challenge captain and as a former class reunion committee member. He also participates in the alumni and student mentoring program.

Fox co-founded the USD School of Law LGBTQ Alumni Scholarship, in collaboration with fellow alumni, to benefit LGBTQ+ students who demonstrate a commitment to advancing LGBTQ+ issues as well as leadership and involvement in the greater LGBTQ+ community.



Jamie D. Beck, '11 (JD)

Jamie D. Beck, '11 (JD), is founder, president and managing attorney of Free to Thrive—a nonprofit organization that empowers survivors of all forms of human trafficking to be free from exploitation and thrive by providing them with legal services and connections to a variety of supportive services.

Prior to launching Free to Thrive in 2017, Beck practiced civil litigation at Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP and worked as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Michael M. Anello in the U.S. District Court, Southern District of California.

Beck began her anti-trafficking efforts as an active member and 2016-2017 president of the Lawyers Club of San Diego by spearheading the creation of a Human Trafficking Collaborative. In 2019, Beck received the Women of Inspiration Award from Soroptimist International of San Diego. In 2018, she received both the San Diego County Bar Association's Community Service Award for Outstanding Service by a New Lawyer and the Rotary Club of San Diego's Peace Award. The American Bar Association included her among its Eight Members Who Inspired Us in 2018. Point Loma Nazarene University recognized Beck's contribution to the fight against human trafficking, awarding her the inaugural 2016 Hope Rising Award.

Beck served as an adjunct professor for a graduate course at USD's Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies, using design thinking to develop solutions to domestic sex trafficking, and as a member of a working group using that course as a model for a campus-wide human trafficking solutions summit held in January 2020. She is the inaugural USD School of Law Torero Talks featured guest speaker and she currently serves on the Dean's Advisory Board for the Kroc School of Peace Studies.

➤ **Bibianne Fell, '04 (JD), Honored for Achievements as a Trial Lawyer**



Bibianne Fell, '04 (JD), was awarded the 2019 Consumer Attorneys of San Diego Outstanding Trial Lawyer for her work in the case *Kali v. Young*, in which Young falsely promoted his nonmedical treatments as a cure for cancer. The fraudulent treatments allowed Kali's cancer to progress from stage 1 to stage 4, resulting in a significant medical expenses. Fell's work led to a \$105 million settlement to cover Kali's medical expenses and other noneconomic damages.

In 2020, Fell was honored with the Trial Lawyer of the Year award from Pepperdine Law School.

Fell recently founded Athea Trial Lawyers, with five of the most prominent women trial lawyers in the nation. The founders, like Fell, garner huge verdicts and settlements. They are committed to supporting, mentoring and promoting women.

She is the lead attorney and founder of Fell Law, PC, a firm that represents plaintiffs who have suffered catastrophic injuries or the death of a loved one. Fell is one of few female attorneys to receive a verdict of more than \$100 million as lead trial counsel. She is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates and is one of the National Trial Lawyers: Top 100 Trial Lawyers. Fell teaches Advanced Trial Advocacy at USD School of Law.

2008

Carolina Bravo-Karimi named one of *Diversity Journal's* 2020 Women Worth Watching.

Roxy Carter elected to San Diego County Bar Association Board of Directors.

Rosa Cheuk Kim appointed vice president, legal, by Cibus.

Whitney L. Mello promoted to administrative officer, Office of the Dean, UC Berkeley School of Law.

Joel A. Morgan joined Travelers as senior counsel, claim center.

2009

Meredith D'Angelo, '04 (BA), appointed to the executive board of the National Association of Law Student Affairs Professionals.

Peter Z. Stockburger became partner at Denton's.

Sherlin Tung joined Withers Worldwide as a partner in the international arbitration and litigation team.

Joe J. Villaseñor recognized as 2019 Rising Star by the National Consumer Law Center. He joined USD School of Law as professor of practice.

2011

Dylan Aste honored with SDSU Inaugural Rising Aztec

JACK McGRORY, '81 (JD), RECEIVES CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AT ALUMNI HONORS

Award and Federal Bar Association's Younger Federal Lawyer Award.

Jamie D. Beck received 2019 Rising Star Alumni Award.

Steven A. Caloiaro elected member attorney at Dickinson Wright and named a 20 Under 40 Honoree by the Reno-Tahoe Young Professionals Network.

Nicholas J. Fox received 2019 Rising Star Alumni Award.

Joy Utomi Hartmann appointed co-chair of USD School of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors' Diversity and Inclusion Committee and selected as guest speaker for 2020 Torero Talks. She recently helped establish a scholarship fund to support Black law students at USD.

Rebecca L. Van Loon (LLM) became partner at Solomon Ward Seidenwurm & Smith.

2012

Benjamin J. Coughlan co-founded Coughlan & Vinel LLP.

Michael A. Zarconi named shareholder of Sullivan Hill Rez & Engel.

2013

Justin M. Brandt named Top 40 Under 40 Rising Stars in the cannabis industry by *Marijuana Venture* magazine.

Daniel De La Cruz appointed to Sheppard Mullin's Race, Inclusion and Equality Task Force.

Shannon R. Finley became a shareholder at Pettit Kohn.

2014

Tricia Lee Mitchell joined Tesla as corporate counsel.

Grant W. Taylor, '10 (BA), '14 (JD/MBA), joined inaugural Sacramento Law Alumni Chapter Board.

2015

Nathalie Elsa Becavin-Tan joined the Walt Disney Company as transfer pricing tax counsel.

Lauren M. Kawano joined inaugural Sacramento Law Alumni Chapter Board.

Patrick C. Swan joined the USD School of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors.

2016

Rijon Charne founded the Law Office of Rijon Charne.

Ally Keegan joined the Law Office of David P. Shapiro.

Torri Sherlin named 2020 California Lawyer Attorney of the Year by the *Daily Journal*.

Kacie B. Vinel co-founded Coughlan & Vinel LLP.

USD honored Jack McGrory, '81 (JD), with the Author E. Hughes Career Achievement Award on Oct. 3, 2019. The Author E. Hughes Career Achievement Award is named in honor of President Emeritus Author E. Hughes to commemorate his achievements over 24 years as president and his commitment to excellence.

McGrory is CEO of La Jolla MJ Management, a real estate investment company. He worked for the city of San Diego for 23 years, serving as city manager.

Beginning in 1997, he assumed leadership roles within Price Enterprises, including president and chief executive officer. He led the Price Legacy Corporation, a real estate investment trust; and the Price Group, an investor in residential development with Remark and the principal investor in Trans West Housing. He was also a director and executive vice president of PriceSmart.

McGrory is a member of the California State University Board of Trustees; past chair of the Campanile Foundation board at San Diego State University (SDSU); chair of the Veterans Council and the School of Public Affairs Council at SDSU; and a member of the Board of Visitors at USD School of Law.



Kristin Rizzo, '06 (JD), and Joy Utomi Hartmann, '11 (JD), Establish Scholarship Fund to Support Black Law Students



Kristin Rizzo, '06 (JD),
and Joy Utomi Hartmann,
'11 (JD).

On June 19, the 155th anniversary of Juneteenth, USD School of Law Board of Visitors member Kristin Rizzo, '06 (JD), formally established a scholarship fund to support open, fair and equitable access to legal education for Black students. The announcement dovetailed with the goal of Joy Utomi Hartmann, '11 (JD), deputy attorney general, Office of the Attorney General, California Department of Justice, to

have a scholarship that supports Black law students. She initiated conversations with Director of Law Development Debbie Rider, '84 (JD), last year about starting a scholarship for Black students and their supporters.

2017

Amina Mousa joined Gibson, Dunn, & Crutcher, LLP, in Irvine, as an associate attorney.

Nina Moussavi appointed district director for Congresswoman Julia Brownley.

2018

Curtis M. Jackson joined the USD School of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Marie F. Shimada appointed president of the board of directors for Farms for Life.

2019

Robert K. Foster joined the USD School of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors.

David Rao chosen to be an associate at Snell & Wilmer.

2020

Alexandria Heins argued before U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Justin Hollander, '04 (JD), Named Seattle Mariners Vice President



Justin Hollander, '04 (JD), was promoted to vice president and assistant general manager in charge of baseball operations.

Hollander has worked with the Mariners since 2016, previously serving as an assistant general manager and director of baseball operations. As vice president, Hollander will serve as the team's liaison to Major League Baseball's Office of the Commissioner. He will also work with player scouting, procurement and contract negotiations.

in memoriam

Alumni

'64

A.B. Ferguson, 89, passed away on March 1, 2020. After graduating from law school, he worked a short stint in corporate law before joining the District Attorney's Office of San Diego as a deputy DA. Later, a judgeship opened in the Juvenile Division of the Superior Court of San Diego. Thus began a 17-year career as a Superior Court judge in the Family Law Division. He leaves behind his wife, Voni; stepchildren Jolene (George), Mike (Shonda) and Michelle (Greg); daughters Holly and Darby; nephews Bob and Will; niece Linda; and multiple grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

'65

Ronald B. Frankum, 85, passed away on March 22, 2020. Two of the most notable positions he held were special assistant to Gov. Ronald Reagan (1966-1972) and deputy director of policy development in President Reagan's administration (1981-1982). He was then confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the deputy director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (1982-1983). He also served as an

adjunct professor at USD School of Law. He is survived by his wife, Virginia; two children, Katherine and Ronald, Jr.; and three grandchildren, Nicole, Matthew and Jack.

'68

George W. Hunt, 88, passed away on Sept. 18, 2019.

Charles T. McCutcheon, 76, passed away on April 8, 2020.

'69

Edmund A. Duggan, 83, passed away on Oct. 7, 2019. He worked for Pacific Bell; was appointed to the city of San Rafael Planning Commission; was elected to be city attorney of San Rafael; and served as the first president of Cal Trans Rides Inc., president of the Point San Pedro Road Bus Commute Club and a member of the Marin County Free Library Commission. He also conducted his own law practice. He is survived by his daughters, Deborah, Diana, Barbara and Nancy; 10 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

William C. Roemer, 87, passed away on Sept. 18, 2019. He is survived by his wife, Shirley Roemer; his children, Marie and Kimberly; his stepdaughters, Anne, Mary, Stephanie and Carol; his sisters, Jean

Slagoski and Jane Jurca; and nieces, a nephew and 11 stepgrandchildren.

'70

Mary C. Grant, 98, passed away on Sept. 23, 2019. She is survived by her brother, Marvin Willard Carpenter, and her two daughters, Jane Carpenter Grant Usatin and Gail Harvey Grant. She is also survived by her four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

David C. Johnson, 78, passed away on Oct. 21, 2019. He ended his work career of 39 years in his favorite occupation, as an attorney. He is survived by his wife, Rebecca Johnson; his sister-in-law, Charlotte Johnson; and his nephews, Michael and Greg, and their families.

'72

Stanley M. Lyon, 81, passed away on March 12, 2020. His legal career began in 1974 at McDonnell Douglas Commercial Aircraft Division in Long Beach, a position that led to many trips to China. He is survived by his wife, Judie, and their daughters, Jennifer and Katie.

Jerald D. Conder, 73, passed away on April 25, 2020. He went into private practice

and enjoyed a legal career for over 40 years. He is survived by his wife, Rosie Conder; his children, Lauren (Thomas) Curtin, Jim (Brooke) McGee, Eric McGee, Matthew Conder and Josh (Lindsay) Conder; and his grandchildren Louie ("Luigi") McGee, Sydney McGee and Tyson McGee.

'74

Charles A. Williams, '69 (BA), 79, passed away on Aug. 3, 2019. He touched many lives while specializing in elder law. He is survived by Diane Miramontes; sister Sr. Madaleva CSJ; and his children, Damon, Darren, Christopher, Justin and Cara.

'76

Roy B. Collins, 76, passed away on Sept. 3, 2019.

'77

William G. Richardson, 76, passed away on Aug. 22, 2019. He practiced law in San Diego for 33 years before retiring. He is survived by Sonia Richardson; Kymberlie Williams (Tauheed); Terrence Richardson (Gabrielle); two brothers, Asa Hancock and Clem Richardson; two sisters, Crystal Williams and Opal Robinson; and grandchildren Cory, Tyus, Ryan, Savon, Nina and Declan.

Remembering Stanley Legro



A valued member of the USD community, renowned environmental lawyer Stanley Legro left an enduring legacy.

University of San Diego Board of Trustees member, USD School of Law Board of Visitors member and former adjunct faculty member Stanley Legro passed away on Aug. 17, 2020, at the age of 84.

Legro was born in Muskogee, Okla., on July 3, 1936. He graduated first in

his class from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1959 and received his JD from Harvard University in 1966. Legro served as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1959 to 1963 before transitioning to an environmental law career in San Diego after law school. He joined the USD School of Law faculty as an adjunct professor in 1968 and later became a member of the San Diego Planning Commission. He was named San Diego's Outstanding Young Man of 1971.

In 1975, Legro became the assistant administrator for enforcement for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In 1985, President Ronald Reagan appointed Legro to the National Advisory Committee on Oceans and Atmosphere in recognition of his dedication to environmental issues. Legro returned to academia in 1989 as an adjunct fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., and joined the firm of Piper Rudnick (now DLA Piper) in 2002.

Legro supported the political science department of the U.S. Naval Academy with a yearly award to the most outstanding midshipman on the Naval Academy Debate Team. He also supported the Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference for more than 50 years through the establishment of an endowment.

Legro was an active member of various USD School of Law boards and committees since 2001, in addition to supporting an environmental law visiting professorship. At his time of passing, Legro was a USD School of Law Board of Visitors member.

'79

Bennett D. Goodman, 71, passed away on Dec. 10, 2019.

'80

Dennis R. Shaw, 72, passed away on July 9, 2019.

'81

Edmund E. Mozulay, 68, passed away on March 8, 2020. He retired after working for the San Diego County Office of County Counsel where he served as the supervising attorney for the workers' compensation litigation team. He is survived by his brothers, Robert Mozulay (Julia Cruz), Leo Mozulay (Leslie Dardia) and Mark Mozulay (Margaret Kupcha), and many nieces, nephews and friends.

'83

G.W. Simpson, 67, passed away on Sept. 22, 2019. After graduating, he was admitted to the California bar, Florida bar, Florida Supreme Court, U.S. Tax Court, U.S. District Court and U.S. Bankruptcy Court. He opened his private law firm in New Smyrna Beach in 1986, where he practiced until his death. He is survived by his wife, Patricia, of 44 years.

'86

Matthew R. Desmond, 58, passed away on Aug. 6, 2019. He held bar licenses from both California and New York. He started his career developing real estate at

Kmart and worked there for over a decade. He is survived by his wife, Genevieve; his daughters, Nora and Cate; his mother, Meredith; and his brothers, Richard and Chris Desmond.

'87

John D. Alex, 60, passed away on July 10, 2019. He is survived by his mother; his brothers; his uncle, Jim; and his cousins, Jamie, Kathy and Valerie and their extended families.

'88

John B. Hammond, '91 (LLM), 70, passed away on Dec. 8, 2019. Most recently, he was an intellectual property lawyer. He is survived by his brother, Richard Hammond (Beverly) of Tennessee; his sister, Jill Smith (Jeff) of Missouri; his son, Jonathan Hammond of California; his daughter, Krista (KC) Diedrich (Nick) of Illinois; four grandchildren and five nieces and nephews.

'89

Sharon G. Shropshire, '82 (BA), 67, passed away on Oct. 8, 2019. She served as an attorney in Fort Worth, Texas, for 30 years. She is survived by her father, Dr. Cameron Shropshire, and his wife, Susan; her brother, Cameron Shropshire III, and her sister-in-law, Stephanie; her beloved nephew, Will Shropshire; half-brothers Mac and Grady Lee Shropshire; her

uncle, Grady Shropshire, and his wife, Lynda; and cousins Kimberly Vance Davis and Katherine Davis.

'90

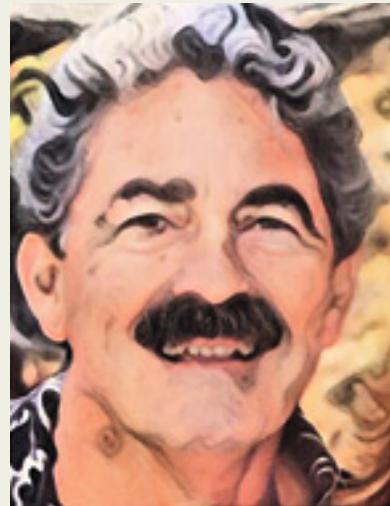
Keith D. Boesky, 54, passed away on Oct. 19, 2019. He started in the game industry as an attorney at Cooley Godward in 1993, after he cold-called a game developer. By 1996, he had built one of the largest practices for game companies in the country. "Keith was a wonderful person. He was always ready to help everyone," said Andy Kleinman, CEO of Wonder.

'92

Kay Harrison Pickard, 72, passed away on May 26, 2020. She used her lawyer skills on anyone within earshot. In the '90s, for instance, she used them to organize a nonprofit to assist victims of the wildfire destruction in Southern California. She is survived by her son, Kevin Pickard, and his wife, Casey; her grandchildren, Rachel, Ben and Eve; her sisters, Susan and Linda; and her brother, David.

'95

John C. Roberts, 50, died on Feb. 28, 2020. He practiced elder law in San Diego, and then began traveling with his wife as a Microsoft Studio host aboard Holland America Line cruise ships. He is survived by his wife,



A TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND J. MERCADO, '75 (JD)

On July 31, 2020, Raymond Joaquin Mercado lost his 28-year battle with Parkinson's disease. A San Diego native, Mercado grew up in Golden Hills; attended San Diego State; and served in the Army's Old Guard, the official ceremonial unit and escort to the president of the United States, before earning his Juris Doctor degree from USD School of Law. Working as in-house counsel for Home Federal Savings and Loan until 1994, Mercado was a trailblazer for underrepresented Latino attorneys in San Diego.

Kathleen Peterson Roberts, and parents, John L. and Lois Jean Hayes Roberts.

and Susan Morton; brother, Andrew Morton; and niece Emma Morton.

'98

Benjamin T. Morton, 48, died on Dec. 20, 2019. He was a practicing attorney for more than 20 years. He is survived by his daughter, Harper; wife, Kim; parents, Kemp

'13

Johnathan J. Abrams, 32, passed away on March 18, 2020.



Fourth Annual Orange County Alumni Holiday Party at The Resort at Pelican Hill

Chapter Board members: [Eve Brackmann](#), '04 (JD) (not pictured); [Matthew Buttacavoli](#), '99 (JD); [Jonathan Gerber](#), '07 (JD); [Erin Giglia](#), '01 (JD); [Avery Harrison](#), '11 (JD); [Bridget Harrison](#), '10 (JD); [Edson McClellan](#), '98 (JD); [Vic Merjanian](#), '10 (JD) (not pictured); [Charles Meyer](#), '03 (BA), '07 (JD); [Lauren \(Stockunas\) Roseman](#), '17 (JD); [Kyle Rowen](#), '00 (BA), '04 (JD); [Laurie Rowen](#), '04 (JD); [Kate \(Santon\) Seven](#), '09 (JD); [Dean Short](#), '03 (JD); [Jeffrey Singletary](#), '04 (JD); and [Derek Weisbender](#), '08 (JD) (not pictured).

Judicial Reception

San Diego County Superior Court Assistant Presiding Judge

[Michael Smyth](#), '85 (BBA), '91 (JD); Presiding Judge [Lorna Alksne](#), '92 (JD); and former Dean [Stephen C. Ferruolo](#).



Law Firm Challenge Reception at Torrey Pines Bank

[Patrick Swan](#), '15 (JD); [Erin Lupfer](#), '17 (JD); [Ross Bautista](#), '16 (JD); [Jason Miller](#), '18 (JD); and [Michelle Propst](#), '20 (JD).



Careers in Law

[Valerie Phan](#), '15 (JD); Law Alumni Board member [Kirsten Gallacher](#), '12 (JD); Law Alumni Board President-Elect [Carolina Bravo-Karimi](#), '08 (JD); and Law Firm Challenge Co-Captains [Vivian Adame](#), '17 (JD), and [Audrey Surridge](#), '17 (JD), represent Careers in the Law sponsor and Law Firm Challenge participant Wilson Turner Kosmo, and are joined by [Lucia Rose](#), '22 (JD).

Incoming Students Diversity Reception at Procopio

Procopio Managing Partner [John Alessio](#), '91 (BBA), '94 (JD); KPBS Diversity Council Chair [Consuela Steward](#); Law Alumni Board Diversity Committee Co-Chair Hon. [Ana España](#), '79 (BA), '82 (JD); and Board of Visitors member [Shaka Johnson](#), '03 (JD).



Spotlighting members of the USD School of Law community at reunions, receptions and other special events

2019 Milestone Reunions

Members of the following classes celebrated the big occasion with friends, family and members of the USD School of Law community.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. The Class of '69 50-year | 4. The Class of '99 20-year |
| 2. The Class of '79 40-year | 5. The Class of '09 10-year |
| 3. The Class of '89 30-year | 6. The Class of '14 5-year |





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Milestone Reunions

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2020 CLASSES [2015, 2010, 2000, 1990, 1980, 1975, 1970](#)

2021 CLASSES [2016, 2011, 2001, 1991, 1981, 1971](#)



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Friday, November 13, 2020

Platinum Sponsor



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