

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

# EXPLORE YOUR IMPACT



SCHOOL OF LAW  
UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

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# A LEGACY 70 YEARS IN THE MAKING

Dear USD Law Alumni and Friends,

Reflecting on the past academic year, I am deeply grateful for the many ways USD School of Law alumni, parents, faculty, and friends stepped forward to help our law students. Whether that support took place through the dedicated efforts of our Law Alumni Board and Board of Visitors, generous support of the BIG GIVE, the Facilities Improvement Campaign, the Dean's Scholarship Initiative, a conversation with a prospective student, an internship or employment opportunity, our students benefited immeasurably from this meaningful engagement.

The commitment of the law school community is further evident in this year's historic fundraising results. I am delighted to recognize the generosity of more than 6,750 committed supporters who strengthened the outstanding student experience through their philanthropic support.

This support resulted in \$8.76 million in new gifts and commitments during the 2023-24 academic year. I am eager to share that early collaborators dedicated to improving law school facilities have contributed \$3 million toward this initiative.

DEAN'S MESSAGE



# DEAN'S MESSAGE

Thanks to the intersecting efforts of contributors during Torero Tuesday 2023 (October 10) and the Big Give (April 9), alumni and donors raised more than \$748,412 in total, with \$224,468 raised for student scholarships (and an additional \$36,350 dedicated to first generation scholarships), \$18,022 allocated to the Annual Fund, with \$34,620 devoted to Academic Centers and Institutes and Professorships.

It was an extraordinary year marked by momentum. Through volunteerism, engagement, and philanthropy, you touched countless lives and helped us deliver on our promise of exceptional legal education. During our commencement and end-of-the-year graduation celebrations in May, I remarked that if we continue to dedicate our energy to improving the student experience at USD and building a community focused on ensuring student success, I know there is nothing we cannot accomplish together.

As we reflect upon our 70th Law School Anniversary and the University's 75th Milestone, I am greatly encouraged by the support of our alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends for the priorities established in our USD Promise – to educate practice-ready lawyers who are equipped with the knowledge to serve their clients, the legal community, and the justice system with great skill, creativity, and professionalism. On behalf of our entire law school community, thank you!

With gratitude,



**Robert Schapiro**

*Dean and C. Hugh Friedman Professor of Law*





**THANKS**

# TO YOU

***OUR GENEROUS ALUMNI AND FRIENDS***

who remember what it was like to hold down a job, study for finals, prepare for on-campus-interviews, and play on favorite intramural softball teams.

***STUDENTS CAN...***

- compete on advocacy teams to sharpen their litigation and negotiation skills
- engage in meaningful debate with their professors
- gain valuable legal experience working in the law school's Legal Clinics, Centers, and Institutes
- seek employment opportunities that challenge and inspire
- serve the law school as student leaders
- inspire change
- seek justice
- enjoy law school

***WITH YOUR SUPPORT ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE!***

# WHAT A YEAR IT'S BEEN!

## SCHOOL OF LAW AT A GLANCE

# \$8,761,008

Total raised in FY 2023-24

## \$3.8M

Total Raised by  
1,093 Donors

## \$730K

Distributed in  
27 Cy Pres Awards

## \$4.2M

Total Raised in Grants

## 100+

Areas of Giving Supported

Top Areas:

\$188,982 - Children's Advocacy Institute

\$177,803 - Most Critical Needs Fund

\$81,606 - Annual Fund

## 215

Maudsley Donors

*Maudsley Fellow Society  
Membership is given to alumni  
who give \$1,500+*

## 205

Milestone Reunion Donors

*Class Years: 1973, 1983, 1993,  
1998, 2003, 2013, 2018 and LLM*

## \$1.2M

Total Raised in  
Scholarships

## \$2.1M

Supported the Facilities  
Improvement Fund

## \$77K

Supported the  
Annual Fund

# DAA SHAPING JUSTICE THROUGH LEGAL EDUCATION

## Honoring Alumni and Inspiring Future Leaders

USD School of Law debuted the *Justice Through Legal Education Fund* at the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony as the philanthropic feature of this annual celebration.

The Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony recognizes and celebrates alumni achievement while also supporting the critical need for excellence in legal education.

USD School of Law's substantial doctrinal education provides the foundation to prepare practice-ready lawyers for the future, combining practical topics, skills, training, simulations, and cutting-edge subjects.

USD School of Law graduates are equipped as empowered agents of justice, shaping a better tomorrow. The esteemed alumni recognized with the Distinguished and Rising Star Recent Alumni Awards are a testament to USD's effective approach to legal education.

In its inaugural year, the Justice Through Legal Education Fund received support from seven Legacy Law Partners: Chamberlain Hrdlicka; Fell Law; Fox Law; Law Office of Knut Johnson; Jones Day; Judicate West; and Thorsnes Bartolotta McGuire LLP; six Founding Supporters: Hon. Cathy Ann Bencivengo; Hon. Michael Berg '81 (JD); Eve Brackmann '04 (JD); David Brennan

'03 (LLM) honoring Hon. Louisa S Porter '77 (JD); Brian Brinig '79 (JD), Adjunct Professor of Law; and Meng Xu '25 (MSLS).

The *Justice Through Legal Education Fund* upholds the nonprofit work of USD. As the legal needs of vulnerable San Diegans continue to grow and evolve, USD School of Law is privileged to provide direct legal services through 12 free legal clinics, policy support to protect the interests of consumers and children, and unmatched legal preparation for the next generation of legal practitioners.

Contributions to the *Justice Through Legal Education Fund* at this 2023 Distinguished Alumni Awards ceremony encouraged meaningful recognition for outstanding lawyers, legislators, and legendary jurists while also providing the financial resources to elevate educational programs that provide greater access to justice for everyone.

USD School of Law is **Shaping Justice Through Legal Education.**

Creativity  
Excellence  
Confidence Integrity  
Rule Justice Law  
Professionalism  
Civility Legal Ethics  
Respect  
Persuasive Moral Ingenuity  
Education  
Rigor Compassion  
Principles  
Ethical



## BUILDING ON A FOUNDATION

### Michael Kaplan '72 (JD) Continues a Generational Family Legacy

A first generation college and law student, Michael Kaplan '72 (JD) toured USD School of Law at the behest of Professor C. Hugh Friedman who, at the time, was a professional colleague of Kaplan's father, Arthur.

Michael recalls, "Professor Friedman picked me up at the airport in his red 124 Spider Fiat convertible. We pulled up in front of the law school and a student came out. Professor Friedman asked if I could drive a stick shift. He threw me the keys and walked inside, and off I went looking at the school and surrounding areas. Suddenly, San Diego appealed to me. Because of C. Hugh Friedman, I applied, and I got accepted."

That tour marked the beginning of a multigenerational relationship between the Kaplan family and USD. While Michael was at USD School of Law and beyond, his parents, Rosalie and Arthur, funded several scholarships for students in need. They also contributed handsomely to the renovation of the Pardee Legal Research Center, which bears their names on the wall of the atrium inside the building.

Michael grew up in a boating family. He recalls a night in 1976, when at the request of Dean Author E. Hughes, his parents hosted a donor reception aboard their family yacht. It made quite the impression on Michael, and he observed how fostering relationships can lead to people making a philanthropic difference. He says of the memorable evening, "These are

people who are getting very involved and care about the institution and want to make it as big as it can be. And that’s how I feel in my own little way. I really believe it’s important.”

Fast forward almost 50 years to the spring of 2024, when Michael and his wife Terri continued their family’s unwavering support of USD School of Law by generously donating \$1 million to initiate the law school’s facilities improvement fund. Then, like his parents before him, the couple graciously hosted alumni and friends aboard their yacht, the Sapphire Star, to heighten awareness of USD School of Law’s facilities campaign. The evening provided an opportunity for engaging discussions about the future of law school spaces.



Since becoming an alumnus and the co-owner of the family business, ARKA Properties Group, Michael has followed in his parents’ philanthropic footsteps. He has served multiple times on the USD Board of Trustees (Emeritus Member), the Parents’ Board, and the School of Law’s Board of Visitors (Emeritus Member). In 2017, he received the USD Author E. Hughes Career Achievement Award.

Michael believes that the people at USD School of Law truly make it successful through their

dedication to the students. Like his parents, he knows the power of philanthropy lies in its impact on individuals. That’s why, after five decades of giving to USD, Michael continues his family’s legacy and dedication to growing USD School of Law.

USD School of Law is profoundly grateful for the decades of philanthropy from Kaplan and his family. If you would like more information about supporting the campaign to improve the law school facilities, please contact:

**Debbie Rider**

*Assistant Dean*

Law School Development and Alumni Relations  
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“ Suddenly, San Diego appealed to me. Because of C. Hugh Friedman, I applied, and I got accepted.

- MICHAEL KAPLAN '72 (JD)





## AN ENDURING LEGACY OF SUPPORT

### USD School of Law Alumna Virginia C. Nelson '79 (JD) Thrives as a Leader and Philanthropist

As the University of San Diego celebrated its diamond anniversary and the School of Law its 70th, Virginia “Ginny” Nelson ’79 (JD) and her husband Mark Andrews continued to light the way forward with their philanthropy.

“USD has been a very special place in my life since I first stepped on campus with Mark for law school orientation all those years ago.” She credits the support and encouragement she received from her professors for changing the trajectory of what she thought would be possible in her professional life. She is forever grateful to them and soon began helping support scholarships and programs named for two of her esteemed professors, Lou Kerig and Ronald Maudsley. These endowed scholarships

and programs have provided critical financial relief and support for students for decades as they pursue their law school journeys.

As a scholarship recipient herself during law school, Ginny knows how that scholarship gave her a big boost of confidence, and financial relief from having to work two jobs in the summer while a law student and cemented her determination to support others as she had been supported as soon as she could and for as long as she could. “Scholarships are transformational ... making a difference in the lives of the recipients for far longer than you could ever imagine.”

Ginny graduated from the School of Law in 1979, where she served on the San Diego Law Review and graduated *cum laude*. Following her lawyer father’s advice to “get comfortable in the courtroom,” she immediately began learning how to try cases. Over the next three decades, she distinguished herself as a very successful, talented trial attorney with her own law firm and an invited member and leader in the most prestigious trial attorney organizations in North America.

At the same time serving the legal community in numerous leadership roles, including being the then youngest President of the San Diego County Bar Association and teaching other lawyers in the field of civil litigation, ethics, and persuasive visual presentations were also priorities. Community service commitments and nonprofit board work during these years were also essential for both Ginny and Mark, an investment advisor, because of their parents’ legacies on the importance of helping others. Erica and Maurie Nelson and Anne and Jack Andrews raised and supported big families while always making time for helping others and serving their communities, churches, as well as national and international organizations.

Ginny’s devotion to USD keeps her continually active with USD School of Law as an alumna, guest speaker, and member of the Law Alumni Board and the Law Board of Visitors, where she is now an Emeritus Member. She worked on the campaign for the School of Law in 2008 and in 2016 for the Leading Change campaign on behalf of the School of Law and the university. Mark occasionally remarks that Ginny “doesn’t seem to have an off-switch ...”

While scholarships have always been a prominent focus, over time Ginny and Mark also funded a Graduation Prize in Advanced Trial Advocacy, a fellowship recognizing Julianne D. Fellmeth at the Centers for Public Interest Law, an endowed scholarship in honor of the Class of 1979 and recognition for many USD legal luminaries.

In 2015, Ginny decided to complete all her cases, end her firm, and return to USD School of Law to develop experiential classes at the law school which would help students gain further understanding and increased confidence in real-life-of-lawyer skills before they left law school. She is grateful to former Dean Stephen C. Ferruolo and former Vice Deans Mary Jo Wiggins and Margaret Dalton for the support they provided that allowed her to create and teach several experiential classes in the civil litigation field. “As a teacher, the best feeling in the world is to watch a student master a concept and move forward with confidence. Some of the students in those classes also became recipients of the scholarships that are named after my law school professors from long ago. A professional full-circle moment, I can now mentor students as my professors did me, literally in the same classrooms.”

Each year, Ginny and Mark are inspired by attending the high-energy university-wide Scholarship Luncheon with other donors and recipients, talking with the students who are impressive, motivated, and grateful for their time at USD. “It doesn’t just make all of the effort to support students worth it, it simply inspires all of us to do even more.”

Four years ago, Ginny joined the USD Board of Trustees and now serves as Vice Chair, an experience she finds continually interesting – one where she is always learning and fulfilled through her service. “The Trustees are an amazing group, devoted to the university, focused on student success, and doing whatever they can to support the mission, vision, and values of our cherished USD.” Ginny and Mark have continued their philanthropy both at the law school and the entire university enlarging their scholarship focus on areas of diversity and first generation students, undergraduate and graduate as well as providing substantial support for improved law school facilities.

“The law school’s need for improved facilities is at a tipping point. What we do now will matter for decades into the future. We want to match the caliber of the faculty, students, and administrators with facilities that provide the

very best learning environment for our students and their success, embrace our alums, and support the community.

“**Mark and I feel very fortunate and grateful to have supported and continue to support what we know will be the further forward and upward path of success for this place we all love.**

- VIRGINIA “GINNY” NELSON '79 (JD)





# BELIEVING EDUCATION IS THE GREAT EQUALIZER

## Jarred Saba '00 (JD), '01 (MBA) and Alison Saba '95 (BA), '01 (JD) Pave a Path Forward for USD School of Law as an Agent of Change in San Diego

When you graduate from both the School of Business and the School of Law at USD and you believe education is the great equalizer – if you are Jarred Saba '00 (JD), '01 (MBA) and Alison Saba '95 (BA), '01 (JD), that's when you take a leap of faith and invest in the law school's effort to improve its facilities – Pardee Legal Research Center and Warren Hall. Knowing what Don and Ellie Knauss have done to advance the trajectory of business education on the campus of USD, the Sabas took a leap of faith, committing as early adopters – waving their flags and jumping on board – to enhance the

student experience at USD School of Law by investing in spaces that will influence the way that law is taught, practice is performed and intellect is challenged.

During the summer of 2024, Jarred and Alison accepted Michael Kaplan's '71 (JD), invitation to join him on Shelter Island to hear more about Dean Schapiro's aspirations for the law school. With a law degree from USD and experience as a fundraising professional, Alison knew the right questions to ask to highlight the value and purpose of the law school's campaign.

The Sabas have consistently focused their philanthropic support on children’s causes, and direct support for local schools. Investing in law school facilities at the University where Jarred, Alison and Jarred’s brother, Ryan Saba ’97 (JD) earned their JD degrees became a natural extension of their desire to provide access to excellence in education.

Jarred Saba looks back on his decision to earn a JD and an MBA from USD as one of the best moves of his life. “The law degree combined with the business degree gave me a massive advantage in the business world. As a student, I did not realize how beneficial it would be to have a law degree in my back pocket.” After graduating from law school, and passing the California Bar exam, Jarred made the bold decision to embark on a career in business, eventually founding a successful telecom



company, specializing in cell towers and communications infrastructure. “My law degree gave me the upper hand in a competitive, rapidly changing industry.” – Jarred Saba. In 2020, when the company sold to American Tower, Saba made sure company employees shared in the proceeds of the sale, in recognition of the significant role each of them contributed to the growth and success of the company.

“ I really believe there’s no greater long-term investment than education, and that’s why Alison and I are committed to helping USD thrive well into the future.

- JARRED SABA ’00 (JD), ’01 (MBA)

As a clear expression of the University of San Diego’s *culture of care*, it will be exciting to see what dedicated supporters can accomplish by working together on behalf of the next generation of law students at USD. “Now that I’m no longer working, I try to give back as much as possible,” Jared said. “I really believe there’s no greater long-term investment than education, and that’s why Alison and I are committed to helping USD thrive well into the future.”

The law school is counting on the generous support of San Diegans like Jarred and Alison Saba to involve an entire community of alumni and friends in enhancing the student experience at USD while ensuring the presence of an outstanding law school here in San Diego.



# PROUD TO GIVE BACK

## Improving Access to Education

Steve Hunsicker '75 (JD) and his wife, Anne Shelburne, are proud to support the USD School of Law's mission and significant efforts to make high-quality legal education accessible to increased numbers of deserving students.

When Steve reflects on his 30-year career as an associate and partner with Baker Botts in the firm's Washington, D.C. office, he says that a fortuitous series of events led him first to USD School of Law. Those influential events included an inspiring recent Harvard graduate who taught a business law class at Steve's undergraduate school at the University of Iowa

and a close relative who had served in the Navy during WWII and happily lived in San Diego for years thereafter.

"I believe I was lucky in my educational choices and legal career, and going to USD Law was a very good break for me. I am thankful that I chose to go to USD after being admitted and for having met inspiring faculty, accomplished San Diego lawyers, and smart students, all of whom had big impacts on me. All told, I think it was the first time I really applied myself academically."

While he was in his third year at USD, a lawyer at the law firm where he was clerking urged Steve to consider a fellowship opportunity at the University of Pennsylvania that the lawyer himself previously had been awarded. Steve spent a year at the Penn Law School and Wharton Business School earning an LLM degree. The law review article he wrote while at Penn was subsequently published by the University of Southern California Law Review and then in redacted form in Professor David L. Ratner's casebook and teaching materials titled "Institutional Investors."

"My experiences at Penn improved my resume and I received quite a few nice job offers. I accepted the Baker Botts offer to go to work in its relatively new Washington office working in the booming field of energy law. This was not long after the Arab oil embargo and I had vivid memories of lines at gas stations blocks long in San Diego. The U.S. government strongly reacted by enacting several pieces of legislation collectively known as the National Energy Act,

particularly intended to reduce, if not eliminate, the threat to the Nation of future shortages of oil and natural gas. That legislation and subsequent enacting regulations created lots of work for young lawyers across the country, but particularly in Washington. I ended up representing the likes of big companies like Amoco, Conoco, and Tenneco Oil in federal and state matters across the country.

“I retired from Baker Botts after three decades and subsequently worked for the presidential campaign of Senator John McCain. After the election, I ‘re-retired’ and started traveling and spending more time with Anne at our ‘hobby farm’ on the South Fork of the Shenandoah River near Luray, Virginia, in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley.

“My great and somewhat fortuitous experiences at USD, Penn, and Baker Botts made me want to give back to USD Law School in hopes that other law students and graduates would have some of the opportunities that I have enjoyed. For many years I have been involved with USD Law School’s Board of Visitors (BOV), an advisory and support group dedicated to the School of Law’s advancement as a leading center of legal education and scholarship.”

The BOV also plays an important role in helping the School of Law secure the financial support necessary to continue and expand its efforts and responsibilities as a leading center of legal education. One good example of such efforts is the funding of student scholarships, including those named in honor of beloved classmates, Ray Mercado ’75 (JD), to help support Latinx law

students at USD and Bill Baumgaertner ’75 (JD), to support Leadership Scholars.

“I have been impressed by the law school’s efforts to encourage and assist students from groups not well represented within the legal community in the past. It is a reason to be proud of USD and has moved Anne and me to contribute to scholarship funds as well as to support the law school in other worthwhile endeavors.”

Recently, Steve and Anne have been involved in a big undertaking by USD to study, fund, and build a new future chapter for the USD School of Law, its students, faculty, and scholars through a significant upgrading and expansion of the law school’s physical facilities. Still in the early planning and design stages, it is expected that the new facilities expansion, together with the newly completed Knauss School of Business, will constitute valuable “bookend” resources available to law and business students, faculty, and scholars. In addition to the offering of joint JD/MBA degree opportunities, and other interdisciplinary academic opportunities, it is expected that the expanded on-campus facilities and offerings will greatly strengthen ties between USD and the legal and business communities in San Diego, Southern California, and beyond.



# GAME CHANGERS: MAKING THE MOST OF OPPORTUNITIES TO ADVANCE LEGAL EDUCATION

## One Family's Commitment to Educational Opportunity

Dennis and Margot Doucette know the value of education. With five degrees between the two of them and college degrees for each of their four children, there is no doubt this family understands the significance of college, graduate, and specialty degrees. Nothing has the ability to transform lives, inspire creativity, and contribute to the public good more than opening the doors to educational opportunities. Their interest in supporting educational opportunities extends far beyond their own family. Dennis and Margot have charitably provided financial resources in the form of

scholarships for young people at the YMCA; and students at USD School of Law and the Design Institute of San Diego just to name a few.

They are passionate about ensuring a path for success for the next generation of students in much the same way their parents encouraged them to study, work hard, and dedicate themselves to helping others. With that goal in mind, the Doucettes have established endowed scholarships including one named after Dennis' parents Kenneth and Thelma Doucette. For Margot and Dennis, scholarships help to level

the playing field for all students to enjoy and appreciate a USD School of Law legal education.

Their appreciation for the virtues of a University of San Diego legal education likewise extend beyond student scholarships. As a longtime adjunct professor, Dennis is committed to student success at every level. When Dean Robert Schapiro met with USD President, James T. Harris, to consider candidates to lead the Law School's efforts to improve facilities – Warren Hall and the Pardee Legal Research Center – the choice was clear. They chose someone who serves on the Board of Visitors, has a stellar reputation as an adjunct professor, and someone who recently assumed the role of managing partner of one of San Diego's most prominent law firms, Procopio. Harris and Schapiro know Margot and her entire family share her husband's dedication to higher education.

Margot Doucette is the President of the Design Institute of San Diego (DISD), a private independent college, founded by her family in 1977, and devoted to professional education in interior design. Margot has over 25 years of experience in Private Postsecondary Education where she enjoys utilizing her legal education as the President and overseeing the implementation and oversight of accreditation criteria, federal and state compliance, and legislative requirements.

Dennis and Margot Doucette accepted the dean's invitation to lead the law school's effort to advance the mission of USD Law by focusing on a plan to provide the best environment for

learning, collaborating, and engaging students and faculty – far and near. Their vision includes greater access to meaningful technology to meet and exceed the needs of a global classroom; space for students to expand their reach for cutting-edge doctrinal and practical educational experiences; and cohesive adjacencies for staff and faculty to plan, write, and teach together – expanding the academic scholarship and joint publishing opportunities. Above all, improvements will center on providing the space necessary for students to put their best foot forward and learn in an atmosphere designed with health and wellness in mind. Planned enhancements will extend beyond the classroom to the entire community of San Diego – inviting graduates, leaders, and members of the public to engage in inventive programs presented by legal experts.

The impact of the Doucette's generosity, leadership, and inspiration will be significant for generations of law school graduates. With the help of alumni, donors, friends, faculty, and students alike – anything is possible at USD Law!



# THE RIPPLE EFFECT OF GENEROSITY

## How Lived Experience Informs Giving

When he entered law school, Michael Chavez had to sell the saxophone his mother purchased for him when he was in the fourth grade in order to pay for his books and other law school expenses. He learned firsthand about the financial stress of coming to school and paying for not just tuition, but fees, applications, and other expenses that can add up in significant ways.

Recognizing that his struggles were not unique Michael, now the Assistant Dean, JD Admissions and Financial Aid, has committed to providing graduating USD recipients of the San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association Scholarship with a Bar stipend. He wants to help alleviate stress from students at one of the most challenging times in their lives.

“From my own experience and still feeling the bookend of financial pressure even after you’ve graduated, I thought it was important to help out as much as I could for students in law school,” Michael says.

The San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association works to advance the cause of equality, empowerment, and justice for Latino attorneys and the Latino community through service and advocacy. They provide scholarships to law students who have contributed to the Latino/a community. Since 2007, the Fund has awarded over \$600,000 in funding to help law students pursue their legal careers. Michael is committed to providing each graduating USD student who is a recipient of this award with a Bar stipend. “It could be two people, it could be 10, it could



be more. I don't know. If more [students] receive a scholarship and will be taking the Bar exam, I will donate."

His story is a powerful reminder of the ripple effect that generosity can have. By alleviating some of the financial burdens faced by law students, he hopes to enable them to pursue areas of law that resonate with them in their professional careers, for the good of not just themselves but of the entire profession.

"It's important that students pursue areas of law that resonate with them, and new graduates can feel like they're stuck in one direction to pay their loans. They may take on or practice in areas that don't inspire them because of those financial pressures. I want students to live their lives as legal experts in ways that mirror their values and not in a way that mirrors their obligation to pay back debt."



In addition to his Bar stipend scholarships, Michael has also established the Hope Scholarship in honor of his mother to support members of the Black Law Students Association out of a belief that people need to help others as much as possible, even if they do not share the same background and lived experiences.



"There are commonalities in struggle. Getting to higher education is a struggle. Law school is a struggle. Getting ready for the Bar is an immense struggle. Practicing law is a struggle. I think it's important people think about how they can do more, even if they may not feel like they have enough."



# INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE THROUGH PHILANTHROPY

## Robert Gleason '98 (JD): Always Grateful. Never Satisfied.

“Always grateful. Never satisfied.” is one of the mottos Robert Gleason '98 (JD) president and CEO of Evans Hotels, ascribes to. Robert, through hard work and dedication, has built a successful career – he was the valedictorian of his law class and the first executive outside of the Evans family to run the day-to-day operations of the organization. Beyond professional achievements, he remains committed to giving back to the San Diego community and USD School of Law.

Robert began working for Evans Hotels during summers in high school, and he continued full-time after college focusing primarily on finance

and development work before becoming CFO. In order to deepen his legal knowledge and expertise to better serve the company in his new role, he entered the program as a part-time student in the mid-1990s.

Laughing slightly, Robert recalled, “I went in with the intention of just doing – not necessarily the minimum – but just taking classes, completing coursework, and passing the Bar. I became a lot more interested in the subject matter, interested in being a student again, and worked pretty hard at it and even did law review and had a published comment and spent a lot of time on more things than just school.”

“ My work is always geared towards building upon a sense of not just welcome, but real inclusion.

- ROBERT GLEASON '98

Robert recognized the educational opportunities he received and wanted to pay it forward. “There is always work to do, and I want to be part of the solution.” In service of that goal, Gleason spends much of his philanthropic effort supporting the next generation of students, particularly those who identify as LGBTQIA+.

### **MORE THAN JUST EQUALITY**

Robert’s philanthropic work at USD has a common thread – promoting inclusion, both within the larger San Diego community and within the legal profession.

“There’s a difference in tolerating differences to a recognition that differences make groups and teams stronger and celebrating those differences in a way that recognizes the strength that they bring,” he said.

Since 2012, Robert has provided his support towards several causes, notably including the PRIDE Alumni Affinity Award and the LGBTQ

Law Alumni Endowed Scholarship. “All of this work has been alongside efforts at the law school to be able to serve a much wider range of students, not just diverse in personal characteristics, but individuals who are interested in a wide range of fields. And you have to have an environment that is honestly inclusive enough that they feel truly welcome and engaged in the full life of the law school.”

### **LGBTQ Alumni Law Scholarship**



Scholarship Recipients



**“IT’S THE THING I’M PROUDEST OF.”**

In 2017, Robert helped establish the USD School of Law Name and Gender-Marker Change Clinic, which helps individuals navigate both the name and/or gender-marker change process.

He reflected, “It took a real community to come together and make it happen.” The impact of the clinic’s work is substantial; since 2017, the community has helped around 1,200 people navigate the legal system.

“Before they arrive, people receiving services from the clinic often feel disempowered. It’s the role of law students to provide all the paperwork and lead the conversation. They solve the problem, they interact with the participant, and they walk the participant through the whole thing. And when it’s all done, we send out a full set of documents for those participants to use in applying to the court for a name and or gender marker change.”

While there’s the very obvious benefit to the transgender and nonbinary community, there’s also a major benefit to law students. “They’re able to see the full arc of being able to resolve an issue and help a real person with something that in many cases they haven’t been able or willing to do for many, many years.”

### USD School of Law Name and Gender-Marker Change Clinic



Number of people helped by the clinic since 2018



Number of law students trained in the clinic



The clinic has assisted participants with birth certificates from all 50 states. The clinic also served people from Mexico, Colombia, and other foreign countries.

“ It’s the job of law schools to educate all kinds of lawyers.

- ROBERT GLEASON '98

# INSPIRING CAREERS COME TO A CLOSE



## CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF RALPH FOLSOM

After a 49-year career at the School of Law, Professor Ralph Folsom retired this past September. Professor Folsom is an expert in numerous law specialties, including International Trade Law, International Business Transactions, NAFTA/USMCA, and European Union Law. A prolific writer, Folsom has published over 140 books along with many articles and comments. Professor Folsom came to the School of Law in 1975 when he and his wife traded Britain's gloomy skies for sunny days in San Diego. His wife, a "mad dog sailor," insisted they had to live near the water. Folsom, who received other Law School offers and had worked on Wall Street, simply loved teaching.

Folsom was a Senior Fulbright Scholar in Singapore and a Visiting Professor at the University of Hong Kong, University of Aix-Marseille, University of Brest, University of Paris,

University of Toulouse, University of Montpellier, Sciences-Po (Aix), University of Puerto Rico, Monash University in Australia, and Tecnológico de Monterrey in México. At USD School of Law, he has held several Professorships and was instrumental in the development of its Masters Program for foreign law graduates and USD's Summer Law Programs Abroad.

Retirement comes with an asterisk for Professor Folsom – even though he will not be teaching, the writer in him refuses to put down the proverbial pencil. He will continue to update his many books using an office kindly provided at the Law School. He recently signed a contract for a new treatise on the U.S. Federal Trade Commission.

When asked what he was looking forward to in retirement, Professor Folsom responded with a slight laugh and said "We've been around the world quite a lot. My wife has been a boater for over 40 years." He plans to continue writing as he cruises the world with his Captain and wife of 54 years, Ruth "Pixie" Haughwout. Together, they gave a presentation on canal cruising in the south of France as part of the Bridges Academy Lecture Series, which aims to quite literally "bridge" the gap between USD and San Diegans over age 55 through educational opportunities.



## CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF ALLEN SNYDER

After more than three decades of teaching, Professor Allen Snyder retired as a full-time faculty member this spring. Snyder, a full professor since 1992, had originally wanted to pursue a career in medicine, until the Vietnam War changed his plans. Facing the potential of being drafted, Snyder went into a legal program that would potentially allow him to leave the service three months early. He joined a training platoon of 38 people – 37 of whom were preparing to be lawyers.

After his service, Snyder was interested in continuing to help people and began looking into representing people in mental hospitals, which caught the attention of Professor Emeritus Grant Morris. Morris received a grant to start a Mental Health Clinic at USD and hired Snyder to run the clinic. It should come as no surprise to anyone that Snyder and Lynne Lasry became lifelong supporters of the legal clinics, in addition to the Children’s Advocacy Institute and student advocacy teams.

Since then, Snyder has taught across several areas, including trial skills, negotiations, interviewing, and counseling. He has worked extensively with the National Institute for Trial Advocacy and the San Diego Mediation Center. He is a Senior Fellow at the Melbourne Law School and author of *A Practical Guide to California Evidence and Mental Disorder in the Criminal Process*.

Even though he is leaving teaching full time, Snyder still has a love for supporting legal education. “There is nothing more fun than hanging around with a bunch of young people. Older folks get mired in practice. It’s Sisyphian. You bring some wide-eyed young person in, and it’s pretty immediate feedback. It really sparks up your life.”

In retirement, Snyder looks forward to spending time with his wife, Lynne Lasry ’79 (JD) – an engaged alumna who has spent years supporting generations of School of Law students. The couple met at the School of Law in the late 70’s and have been together since.



CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY INSTITUTE  
UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO SCHOOL OF LAW

# USD SCHOOL OF LAW ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

## Pioneering Change and Making an Impact on California Legislation

In 1989, Professor Robert C. Fellmeth founded the Children’s Advocacy Institute (CAI) at the USD School of Law. CAI is an academic, research, and advocacy organization that works to strengthen the rights and improve the health, safety, and well-being of all children and youth.

CAI’s academic component is fully philanthropically funded thanks to endowments from private donors. However, **CAI must raise 100% of its advocacy program funding each year.** This support comes from external sources such as private gifts, grants, attorneys’ fees, cy pres awards, etc.

This year, donations supported **CAI’s Campaign to Protect Federal Benefits of Foster Youth.** This nationwide effort aims to prevent states from intercepting and claiming federal benefits intended for disabled or orphaned children and youth in foster care. By doing so, the School of Law ensures these young individuals can use their benefits for their own well-being, rather than having them diverted to cover foster care costs.

Private gifts also support CAI’s impact litigation and legislative advocacy programs. **In 2024, CAI sponsored or co-sponsored six bills in the California legislature.** These include bills designed to:

- Protect survivor benefits of foster youth
- Protect foster youth from identity theft
- Ensure that AI-generated explicit images of children are illegal to possess, distribute, and create
- Protect kids from cyberbullying on social media platforms
- Prohibit addictive technologies invented by social media platforms

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**In the 2023-24 fiscal year, CAI received over \$240,000 in gifts from nearly 100 donors, including USD Law alumni, current and former USD Law faculty, friends, supporters, family foundations, and members of the CAI Council for Children, an advisory board that reviews policy decisions.**

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By the Honorable Marty Block, 39th Senatorial District;  
 the Honorable Joel Anderson, 36th Senatorial District;  
 the Honorable Ben Hueso, 40th Senatorial District;  
 the Honorable Mark Wyland, 38th Senatorial District;  
 the Honorable Toni G. Atkins, Speaker of the Assembly;  
 the Honorable Rocky J. Chávez, 76th Assembly District;  
 the Honorable Lorena Gonzalez, 80th Assembly District;  
 the Honorable Brian Maienschein, 77th Assembly District;  
 and the Honorable Marie Waldron, 75th Assembly District;  
 Relative to Commending the

### Children's Advocacy Institute

**WHEREAS**, The Children's Advocacy Institute (CAI) is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary on November 15, 2014, and it is appropriate at this time to highlight its many achievements and underscore the positive impact it has made in the lives of children and youth throughout the State of California and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, Founded in 1989 at the nonprofit University of San Diego School of Law, CAI holds distinction as one of the nation's leading academic, research, and advocacy organizations working to improve the lives of children and youth, with special emphasis on refining the child protection and foster care systems and enhancing resources available to youth aging out of foster care; and

**WHEREAS**, The efforts of CAI comprise two distinct strategies of support: through its academic component, which encompasses the Child Advocacy and Dependency Counsel Training Program, the Institute trains law students and attorneys to serve as effective child advocates throughout their legal careers; in its research and advocacy component, conducted through its offices in San Diego, Sacramento, and Washington, D.C., CAI seeks to leverage change for children and youth through impact litigation, regulatory and legislative advocacy, and public education; and

**WHEREAS**, Primarily active at the federal and state levels, CAI strives to embrace all tools of public interest advocacy to further improve the lives of children and youth, and its most notable achievements include challenging the State to better reimburse foster parents as greater incentive to care for abused and neglected children; drafting landmark legislation that allows for public scrutiny of state and county child protective services; and helping to secure for foster children aging out of the juvenile justice system the same program eligibility assistance as those aging out of the dependency system, among myriad other vital contributions; and

**WHEREAS**, The Children's Advocacy Institute has evolved into a leading youth advocacy organization, a dynamic force striving to improve the quality of service and support for neglected and abused children and youth; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED BY SENATORS MARTY BLOCK, JOEL ANDERSON, BEN HUESO, AND MARK WYLAND, SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY TONI G. ATKINS, AND ASSEMBLY MEMBERS ROCKY J. CHÁVEZ, LORENA GONZALEZ, BRIAN MAIENSCHIN, AND MARIE WALDRON**, That the Children's Advocacy Institute be commended on the celebration of its twenty-fifth anniversary and on the vital role it has played in improving the quality of life for countless children and youth throughout the State of California and beyond, and extended best wishes for continued success in the future.

Joint Member Resolution No. 438  
 Dated this 15th day of November, 2014.

Honorable Marty Block  
 39th Senatorial District  
 (On behalf of the above Members)



“Working with youth has always been my passion. By joining the Children’s Advocacy Institute, I learned how this passion can intersect with my pursuit of a legal career,” said Adrielli Ferrer '22 (JD), 2022 Co-Recipient of the James A. D’Angelo Outstanding Child Advocate Award. “CAI’s courses introduced me to the several career options a child advocate can take. Participating in the Juvenile Delinquency Clinic, I also gained practical experience from directly representing teenagers in court. I am so grateful for the doors CAI has opened for me.”

**OVER 20 USD LAW GRADUATES  
 OBTAINED THE CHILD RIGHTS  
 CONCENTRATION OVER THE PAST SIX  
 YEARS. IN THE 2023-24 FISCAL YEAR:**



USD Law students took CAI’s Youth Law course



Took CAI’s Child Rights & Remedies course



Participated in CAI’s various clinical offerings

## CALIFORNIA STATE FOSTER PARENTS

*Recognition of  
 Outstanding Advocacy*

Presented to

**Children’s Advocacy Institute**

With sincere gratitude for supporting  
 Foster Children and their Foster Families

2011



# CLASS ACTION LAW FORUM BRINGS LAW PROFESSIONALS TOGETHER

## Awarding Scholarships to Promising USD Law Students

Western Alliance Bank (WAB) partners with USD School of Law to bring together class action and mass tort attorneys, share best practices, and provide an opportunity to network and build relationships at the Annual Class Action Law Forum (CALF). Sponsorship and registration net revenue from the forum benefits the Western Alliance Bank Scholarship fund which supports USD Law students. These students are engaged in work on the Class Action Law Forum under the guidance and leadership of Professor Shawn Miller. Attendees of the Class Action Law Forum have the opportunity to earn up to 18 MCLE credits if they attend the entire program.

In the last year, the number of CALF sponsors grew by 6.5% and the number of attendees increased by 21.62%, with 270 attendees total.

“CALF plays a critical role in students’ legal education, providing them with the opportunity to learn about mass tort and class action litigation, while interacting with experts in complex litigation,” said USD School of Law Dean Robert Schapiro. “The law school, students, and faculty are particularly grateful for the philanthropic support provided by the WAB sponsors, and attendees who fund student scholarships through the conference.”



“Winning the CALF scholarship from Western Alliance Bank means the world to me, especially as I prepare for the Bar exam,” said Dina. “It not only eases my financial strain but also fuels my determination to succeed. This support is a testament to the incredible community at Western Alliance Bank, and I am committed to giving back and supporting future legal professionals in the same way.”



Scholarship support touches the lives of students in meaningful ways and fuels generations of success. As the 2024 CALF scholarship recipient, Dina Qubain '24 (JD), shares her experience receiving the scholarship:

**The Keith F. Park Endowed Scholarship and Western Alliance Bank Class Action Law Forum Scholarship funds have granted \$70,518 in scholarships to 11 students over the past ten years.**



# LEARN TO GIVE. LEARN TO HELP.

## USD Alumni Champion Scholarships for First Generation Law Students

In early April, USD celebrated the successful conclusion of the 2024 Big Give, a 36-hour online fundraising campaign for USD School of Law. This year, a portion of the contributions supported a new endowed initiative: The First Generation Law Student Scholarship. This scholarship assists first generation students embarking on their journey through law school. Among the leaders of this effort stood San Diego native and three-time USD graduate, Ronson J. Shamoun '98 (BA), '02 (JD), '03 (LLM).

This year's achievement exemplifies Ronson's long-standing dedication to education and the USD community. Recognizing the financial challenges faced by many students, he strives to ease their burden and enable them to pursue

**\$22,000+**

Raised for the First Generation Law Student Scholarship

**35%**

2024 Big Give donors who supported first generation law student scholarships

their dreams of attending USD School of Law. Today his vision remains clear: to provide financial support for students pursuing legal education.

In 2013, motivated by his own experiences as a student, Ronson established the Ronson J. Shamoun RJS Tax Law Scholarship to benefit USD students pursuing an LLM in taxation. A few years later, he also established the RJS Law Tax Institute Scholarship derived from net revenue from the RJS Law Annual Tax Institute – a premier event that brings together the San Diego region’s top tax attorneys, CPAs, Enrolled Agents, and professors to discuss important topics on federal and state tax issues.

**To date, these two scholarships have helped over 20 USD students pursuing their LLM in taxation degrees.**

Beyond his philanthropic support, Ronson’s impact extends into the classroom. As an adjunct professor at the University of San Diego School of Law and Knauss School of Business, he teaches courses including Tax Practice and Penalties and Federal Tax Procedures and Policies. Ronson also sits on the University of San Diego School of Law Board of Visitors and School of Business Board of Advisors, demonstrating a deep commitment and passionate engagement within the USD community.



“ The importance of education and caring for others was instilled in me by my father at a very early age. I always carry that spirit with me — Learn to give. Learn to help. Going to law school is challenging, and I remember how valuable my USD professors and mentors were to me. I want to continue helping even more students so they can receive the same USD School of Law experience I did.

- RONSON J. SHAMOUN '98 (BA), '02 (JD), '03 (LLM)

## FIRST GENERATION SCHOLARSHIPS: HELPING NAVIGATE THE UNIQUE CHALLENGES OF LAW SCHOOL

Being the first in your family to attend law school is nothing new. For generations, students have been the first in their families to enroll in law schools. The difference is today's first generation students are seated next to second, third, and sometimes fourth-generation lawyers. The playing field for first generation students is steeper than ever before. They continue to have limited guidance from family members and close mentors who can provide insight into the process, including academic expectations, networking opportunities, and career planning, often leaving first generation students to independently learn and adapt to the demands of legal education and practice, while their classmates have grown up discussing the law and legal challenges around the dinner table.

First generation students are expected to “figure out” law school and the legal profession on their own. At USD, student success programs, academic fellows, and the entire Law Student Affairs Office are dedicated to supporting all students. This year, the law school implemented the JD Immersion Program to help level the playing field by teaching the basics of IRAC, outlining, test taking, and the Socratic method in the week leading up to the first day of classes. Immersion students learned the basics and, more importantly, formed their own support system of friends and mentors to sustain them in the early days of law school.

Thanks to the collective support of this First Generation Law Scholarship Fund, USD can empower students to overcome these obstacles and thrive in their legal education. Once the endowment is fully funded, this scholarship will support students in perpetuity. USD expresses gratitude to all who contributed to this fund, creating a lasting impact on our current and future students – the next generation of legal professionals – and the broader legal community.





Your gift gave me the confidence I needed to follow through on my dreams. Thank you for making this journey possible, and I hope to one day give to someone the gift you have given me.

— **Jake Moreno '24 (JD)**

Your generosity has empowered me to pursue my passion for corporate and transactional law and to make a tangible difference within the community. Thank you for being a part of my journey and for investing in the futures of students like me, who are eager to create positive change in the world through the practice of law.

— **Kevin Masso '25 (Expected JD)**

Your generous gift has had a profound impact on my educational journey, providing me with the financial support needed to pursue my dreams and excel in my studies. It has relieved a significant burden and allowed me to focus more on my academics and extracurricular activities. I am incredibly grateful for your generosity and belief in my potential. Thank you once again for your invaluable support.

— **Ashley Pyle '25 (Expected JD)**

This scholarship has been a tremendous blessing. It's not just financial support; it's a vote of confidence in my ability to succeed. Your belief in my potential both alleviates financial strain and gives me even greater motivation to excel in law school and beyond. Thank you for your generosity and for investing in my future."

— **Brian Buckley '26 (Expected JD)**

Your belief in the potential of aspiring lawyers like me reaffirms my commitment to excellence and reminds me of the importance of giving back to my community. As I continue my journey at USD School of Law, I am committed to upholding the values of integrity, compassion, and dedication instilled in me by both this esteemed institution and by generous donors like you. Your investment in my future empowers me to pursue my passion for health law litigation with unwavering determination and purpose.

— **Anna Lyons '25 (Expected JD)**

Thank you for your investment in the veterans at USD School of Law. We may be a small group but I think we have the capacity to make a large impact and your support helps make that possible."

— **Kasey Helms '24 (JD)**

Receiving this scholarship reaffirms my belief in the power of education and the importance of diversity in the legal field. I am immensely grateful for the opportunities that this scholarship affords me and promise to uphold the ideals and values it represents. Thank you once again for your support and for your unwavering commitment to diversity and inclusion in the San Diego legal community and at USD School of Law.

— **Raynier Ramos '24 (JD)**

Receiving this scholarship is not only an incredible honor but also a significant financial relief for both me and my family during this crucial period of my legal education.

— **Dina Qubain '24 (JD)**

# LASTING LEGACIES



## IN LOVING MEMORY OF ALUMNUS CAMERON WEISS '12 (JD)

School of Law Alumnus Cameron Weiss '12 (JD), passed away on September 10, 2023, after a long and brave battle with cancer. The devoted husband, uncle, son, and brother was determined, and courageously fought his diagnosis with strength and grace, while always maintaining his kindness and his sense of humor. In the hospital, he would thank every nurse and doctor. He was considerate and loving to all of those around him until the end.

In his honor, the Cameron and Katherine Weiss Sports Law Scholarship Fund has been established to support students who have expressed or demonstrated interest in pursuing a law degree to practice in the area of sports law, sports agency, or entertainment law.

Born at Mercy Hospital in San Diego on September 29, 1985, Cameron was a fan of sports from a very young age. A devoted baseball and football fan, he spent his

childhood at Qualcomm Stadium, and later Petco Park, with his dad, Marc, and younger brother, Daniel, watching his favorite players, Tony Gwynn and Junior Seau.

After receiving his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Southern California, and his law degree from the University of San Diego, Cameron parlayed his passion for sports into a groundbreaking career. His first role was with the Dodgers, “You could tell [he wasn’t] going to stick around and answer phones – but [he] had an uncanny ability as [a] young [guy] to empathize with the other side of the desk,” said former Dodgers’ director of human resources Joe Walsh about Weiss in a 2014 article in the New York Times.

That empathy – and inexhaustible drive – led Cameron to start his own company, Empire Athletes, in 2012; seven years later, he founded Dynamic Sports Group, where as president, he represented both baseball and football clients, negotiating over a quarter billion dollars in client contracts throughout his career.

A dedicated friend, Cameron created lifelong relationships with everyone he met. When he married his beloved wife, Katherine, he had eleven groomsmen, most of whom he’d known since middle school, and all of whom traveled to Maui from across the country for the event. He counted people he met from La Jolla Country Day, USC, and law school among his best friends.

Cameron fought relentlessly following his cancer diagnosis in 2022. He was predeceased by his beloved mother, Stefanie, his aunt, Tamara, and both of his great grandmothers, “G.G.” Rose Kahan, and “Nana” Birdie Leeds. He is survived by his wife, Katherine, his father, Marc, his brother, Daniel, his sister, Alexandra, his nephew Caleb, and his two dogs, Daisy and Rocky, along with all of his extended family and so many friends who adored him.



**IN LOVING MEMORY OF ALUMNUS  
FRANK RAGEN II '67 (BA), '72 (JD)**

Alumnus and Board of Visitors member Frank Ragen '67 (BA), '72 (JD), passed away on March 12, 2024. He was married to Josephine Ragen '75 (MEd), with whom he had two children, Catherine and Frank '92 (BA).

In memory of Frank J. Ragen II's exceptional life and legal career, the Frank J. Ragen II Memorial Scholarship was established to provide support to meritorious students with the drive to succeed in the highly competitive practice of law in perpetuity. Frank was a top-ranked attorney specializing in Criminal Defense. He began his professional life at

Travelers Insurance Company while attending USD School of Law in the evening.

While attending law school, Frank worked for the Honorable Howard B. Turrentine in the United States District Court where he developed his legal skills. After working with Judge Turrentine, he joined Federal Defenders of San Diego, where he spent over two years. His first trial and another early trial and appeal both went to the United States Supreme Court. The United States Supreme Court agreed with the defense arguments presented by the heads of the Federal Defenders office.

During his fifty years of practice, Frank was a member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, California Attorneys for Criminal Justice, and the Federal Bar Association. In 2019, Frank was the first recipient to be honored with the Honorable David H. Bartick Award for Civility and Professionalism. He served on the United States District Court Attorney Disciplinary Committee for eighteen years and was recognized in the Best Lawyers in America for decades.

The Ragen family has long ties to USD and its founding Society of the Sacred Heart. Frank's four sisters attended Sacred Heart Academy. His mother was on the Board at the College for Women, eventually merging with the College for Men and the Law School to establish the University of San Diego. His wife received her Bachelor's degree and a Master's in Special Education from USD. Frank earned his Bachelor's and Law degrees from USD.

His son and daughter-in-law are USD alumni, and his daughter-in-law's grandmother was instrumental in creating the Joan Kroc School of Peace Studies. Frank recently provided distinguished service as a member of the law school's Board of Visitors.



## IN LOVING MEMORY OF PROFESSOR WILLARD B. TAYLOR

Professor Willard B. Taylor passed away on May 17, 2024. He leaves behind his wife Virginia and his blended family, including his daughters, Martien, Severn, Alexandra, and Madeleine, by his sons-in-law, Neal, Scott, and Michael, by his grandchildren Juliet, Fre, Harlan, Heming, Willa, Olivia, Sebastian, Audrey, and Peter, and by his sister Juliet Taylor Walsh.

The Willard B. Taylor Endowed Tax Law Scholarship was established in his honor, to be awarded to law students who have demonstrated a commitment and interest in tax law on social public policy. In honor of Willard Taylor's values and significant contributions to the field, recipients of the scholarship will be selected more for their interest in studying tax law than for their high grades. Amongst the key donors to this scholarship are Sullivan &

Cromwell, where Willard became a partner in 1972. The scholarship endowment was recently finished by current law student Dan Pike '25 (Expected JD) and his wife Sarah.

Willard was widely regarded as the leading tax lawyer of his generation. He was a role model and inspiration to generations of talented professionals. He taught, wrote, and spoke widely, and he was a leader of the New York Bar including having served as the Chair of the Tax Section of the NYSBA. He was best known for, however, his enormous energy, efficiency, clarity, and breadth of focus. Other tax lawyers specialized in particular areas, but Willard specialized in every aspect of tax law. Clients spoke of him with reverence and awe after his retirement and continued to seek him out having developed deep friendships over his years of practice.

Willard was known for maintaining a polite and poised demeanor under the greatest pressure and for his commitment to teaching and mentoring the next generation of lawyers. He was committed to inclusion before its value was embraced – volunteering to teach when desegregation caused staff shortages in the South and promoting women and members of the LGBT community in the practice of law. He taught in the NYU tax program for 30 years and, at various times, was a visiting professor at the law schools at the University of San Diego, Yale University, the University of Toronto, and the University of Virginia.

*Originally published by Knight Funeral Home & Crematory.*



# CELEBRATING THEIR REUNIONS BY GIVING BACK

**Classes of 2018, 2013, 2003, 1998, 1993, 1983, and 1973**

USD School of Law has an annual tradition of welcoming back milestone reunion classes to commemorate the anniversary of their graduation. Reunions provide an opportunity to reunite and rekindle memories of your days at USD. Through a collective Reunion Class Gift, alumni celebrate their reunions by giving back and making a meaningful impact on their USD School of Law community.

In addition to annual named class scholarships, the 2023 Milestone Reunion Classes designated their Class Gifts to the Law Annual Fund, reflecting the combined dedication of alumni committed to sustaining excellence at USD School of Law. This support provides the

resources necessary to empower the USD Promise delivering meaningful hands-on practice experience during law school and ensuring post-graduation employment.

Alumni celebrating Milestone Reunions are encouraged to join the USD School of Law’s Maudsley Fellows leadership-giving society. This society is committed to enhancing the law school’s national reach and reputation through annual gifts of \$1,500 or more.

Maudsley Fellows have reciprocal membership in the University’s President’s Club, which provides access to exclusive benefits and special events.

## ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS

- Aberle Family Scholarship
- Advancing Black Leadership and Scholarship Fund
- Baumgaertner Family Scholarship
- Bruce D. and Laurie S. Poole Transactional Law Scholarship Fund
- BusinessLink Scholarship
- Cameron and Katherine Weiss Sports Law Scholarship Fund
- Class Action Law Forum Scholarship
- Class of 1971 Scholarship
- Class of 1976 Scholarship
- Class of 1979 Merit Scholarship
- Class of 1980 Scholarship
- Class of 1998 Scholarship
- Class of 2002 Scholarship
- Dean Donald Weckstein Memorial Scholarship
- DLA Piper Life Science and Technology Scholarship
- EALLS Social Justice in the Workplace Scholarship
- Finch, Thornton and Baird Build CA Scholarship
- Frank J. Ragen II Memorial Scholarship
- Fuentes Family Heritage Scholarship
- Gerson Law Firm APC Diversity and Inclusion Scholarship Fund
- Gomez Trial Attorneys DACA Scholarship
- Helen and Webster Kinnaird Law Scholarship
- Higgs Fletcher and Mack LLP Diversity Scholarship in honor of Craig Higgs
- Houser Family Scholarship
- Jason Ohta First Generation Scholarship
- Jay and Rebekah Jurata Law Scholarship
- Jeffrey T. Thomas Annual Named Scholarship
- Joel and Denise Golden Merit Award in Child Advocacy
- John Benassi Memorial Scholarship
- John Iannessa Scholarship
- Judge David Laro Scholarship Fund
- Julianne D. Fellmeth Public Interest Law Scholarship Fund 2
- LaRocco-Bologna Annual Named Scholarship
- Law Alumni Board Scholarship
- LGBTQ Alumni Law Scholarship
- Linden Root Dickinson JD/LLM Scholarship

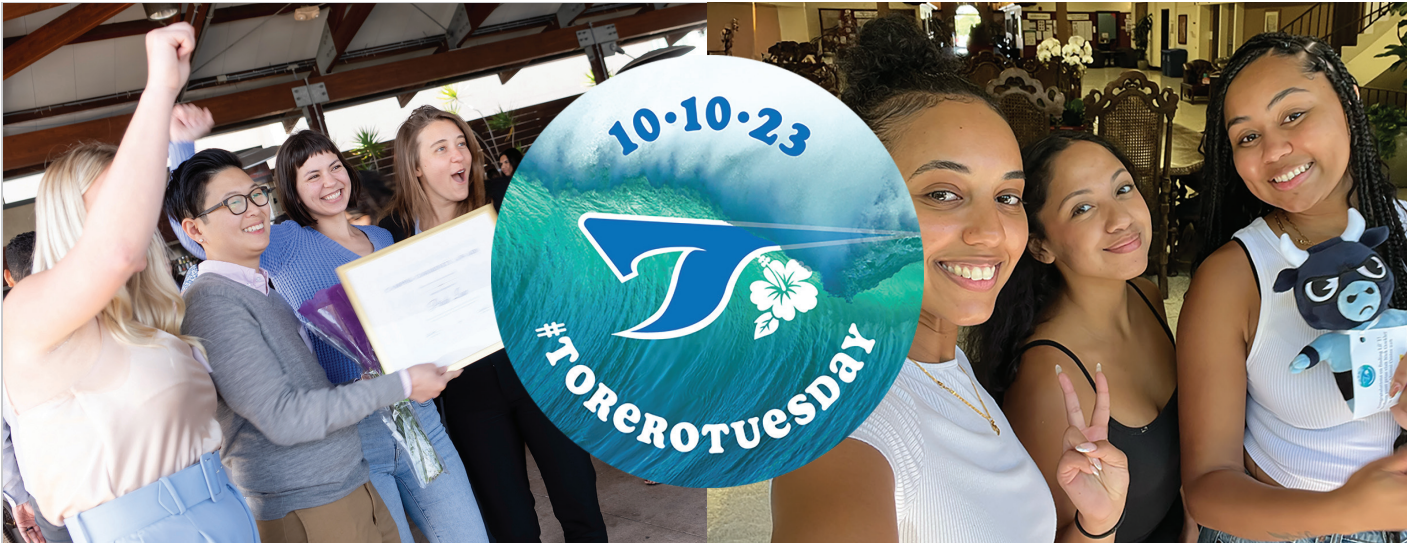
- Matthew J. Liedle Annual Named Scholarship
- The Sabri Shamoun First Generation Scholarship supported by Mike and Debbie Rider
- Michael and Karen Lurie Social Responsibility Law Scholarship
- Michael T. Thorsnes Civil Advocacy Scholarship Fund
- Mike White Scholarship for Excellence in Litigation
- Price Family International Studies Fund
- Procopio Scholarship
- Qualcomm IP Scholarship Program
- Raymond Joaquin Mercado Memorial Law scholarship
- Robert Brewer Student Veteran Scholarship
- Ronson J. Shamoun RJS Tax Law Scholarship
- RJS LAW: A Tax Law Firm TCI Scholarship
- Sol G. Dubroof Memorial Scholarship
- Thomas F. L. McCauley Annual Named Scholarship
- Turner Diversity Scholarship
- Professor Jorge A. Vargas DACA Scholarship
- VICAM in honor of Chad Peace
- Weiss Sports Law Scholarship Fund
- Westover-Giali Family Scholarship Fund
- William C. Kuebler Award
- Wilson Sonsini Diversity in Life Sciences Law Scholarship (Annual Named)
- Women's Law Caucus 2023-2024 Empowering You in the Law Scholarship

## ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

- Albert and Mae Lee Memorial Scholarship
- Alberta S. Casey Endowed Scholarship
- Alec Cory/Procopio Scholarship
- Blanchard Krasner French Legacy Endowed Scholarship Fund
- M. Carr Ferguson Graduate Tax Research Fellowship
- C. Hugh Friedman Endowed Scholarship
- The Christopher McCallister Memorial Scholarship
- Class of 1975 Scholarship
- Congresswoman Lynn Schenk Endowed Law Scholarship
- Darling Foundation Scholarship
- David S. Casey Trial Advocacy Scholarship
- Delroy Richardson Endowed Law Scholarship
- Denise Hickey Endowed Scholarship Fund

- Gary Shoemaker, Richard T. Mulvey, and Kim Koro Endowed Scholarship
- Distinguished Alumni Award Endowed Scholarship
- Donna Lee Arledge Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Kenneth and Thelma Doucette Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Faye D. Hunter Endowed Scholarship
- Fiorenza and Hernando Courtright Endowed Scholarships
- Founders Endowed Scholarship
- Founders Gala Student Scholarship
- Frank E. and Dimitra F. Rogozienski Scholarship
- Gerald and Donna McMahon Endowed Scholarship
- Grant Morris Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Irvin and Eleanor B. Kahn Endowed Scholarship
- Jack R. McGrory Endowed Veterans Legal Clinic/Student Veteran Legal Scholarship Fund
- James E. Spain Family Law School Student Aid Endowment
- John Winters Memorial Fund
- Joyce Nagata Maguire Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- Karen P. Hewitt Legacy Endowed Scholarship
- Keith F. Park Endowed Scholarship
- Kevin and Bryan Briscoe Memorial Scholarship
- Kim and Markus P. Koro Legacy Endowed Scholarship
- Law School Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Larry Mahlum Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Law Student Veterans Scholarship
- Lou Kerig Endowed Scholarship Fund
- The Honorable Louis M. Welsh Endowed Scholarship
- Mary and Alan Schulman Scholarship
- Michael Konz Memorial Scholarship
- Michael Mohr Memorial Athletic Scholarship
- Moller Scholarship Endowment
- Procopio International Tax Scholarship II
- Professor Joseph Darby Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Richard A. Bayer Endowed Scholarship
- Roseann Gerold Hoffman Endowed Scholarship
- Sister Sally Furay Endowed Law Scholarship
- Tim C. Rothans Public Service Scholarship
- Vern D. Schooley Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Virginia C. Nelson and Mark W. Andrews Legacy Endowed Scholarship Fund (pays to Class of 1979 Merit Scholarship)
- Warren Family Endowment For Student Assistance
- Willard B. Taylor Endowed Tax Law Scholarship





## TORERO TUESDAY

October 10, 2023

This annual campus-wide day of giving unleashes the competitive spirit throughout USD, with the generous support of faculty/staff, alumni, and friends of the law school.

### During the School of Law’s Torero Tuesday:

- Over 120 donors helped to raise nearly \$131,000!
- 44 donors in particular raised \$59,000+ in Law Student Scholarships
- Donors also favored the Law School Most Critical Needs Fund, raising \$25,000

Thank you to all challenge donors who supported this year’s Torero Tuesday! Special thank you to Professor Virginia C. Nelson ’79 (JD) and Mr. Mark W. Andrews for contributing \$14,350 to support the First Generation Graduate Student Scholarship Challenge.

And special thanks to Tom and Karen Mulvaney for funding the Social Media Challenge which

was won by the Black Law Students Association (BLSA)! Thank you for paving the way for USD students to explore exciting opportunities in the legal profession!

**\$130,775**

Total Dollars Raised

**126**

Total Number of Donors

**\$59,118**

Raised for Law Student Scholarships



## EMPLOYEE GIVING CAMPAIGN

April 3 - May 3, 2024

This month-long employee participation campaign fuels the philanthropic spirit of all faculty and staff across the campus every year. This year, Employee Giving was celebrated from April 3 to May 3, counting all gifts employees generously made during the current fiscal year.

Out of 153 recorded faculty and staff, 95 law school employees (58%) participated in the law school's Employee Giving Campaign!

### Law school employees focused their participation towards:

- \$121,500+ in the Law School Facilities Improvement Fund
- \$93,336 in Law Student Scholarships
- \$26,600+ in the Law School Most Critical Needs Fund
- \$3,000+ in the Legal Clinics



Raised for Facilities Improvement Fund



Raised for Law Student Scholarships



Raised for Law School Most Critical Needs Fund



## BIG GIVE 2024

April 9, 2024 (Bash) • April 10 - 11, 2024

The Big Give’s 36-hour campaign began with the 10th Annual Big Give Bash on April 9th, which jump-started USD’s fundraising efforts. Proceeds from the Bash energized the campaign, increased overall participation, and focused attention on the importance of first generation scholarships.

### This year during Big Give:

- About 418 donors helped to raise a record-breaking \$615,636!
- Challenge donors raised over \$266,000. Special thank you to all challenge donors!
- Donors singled out support for annual named, class reunion, and memorial scholarships – raising more than \$282,456.
- \$165,359 was raised in general student scholarship support.
- The First Generation Scholarship Fund was the focus of this year’s Big Give Bash auction.
- Out of the total number of donors during the campaign, 35% raised over \$22,000 for first generation scholarships!

Thank you for GIVING BIG during BIG GIVE! As the law school celebrated its 70th Anniversary, we can all take pride in our collective ambition to enrich the fine reputation of our law school. Thank you!

**\$165,350**

Raised for General Student Scholarships

**\$82,285**

Raised for Facilities Improvement Fund

**\$25,200**

Raised for Academic Centers & Institutes and Professorships



University of San Diego School of Law  
**Law Firm Challenge**

**LAW FIRM CHALLENGE**

**July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024**

The Law Firm Challenge at the University of San Diego School of Law is a year-long initiative uniting alumni within law firms to uphold the law school’s mission of cultivating student success. During the 2023-2024 academic year, the efforts of alumni at participating firms have made a lasting impact on law students and the greater San Diego legal community.

Funding from the challenge directly provides scholarship support, innovative educational programs, and expanded career opportunities to all law students. These resources empower students to achieve their goals by lessening their financial burdens, focusing and excelling in their studies, and preparing them for successful legal careers.

More than a fundraising effort, the challenge fosters camaraderie, friendly competition, and deeper connections among alumni, students, and the law school. There is strength in numbers and Law Firm Challenge exemplifies

the power of collective giving as alumni help propel the next generation of lawyers. **The law school invites you and your firm to take part in this concerted effort and work toward 100% alumni participation.**



Law Firm Challenge Donors



Participating Firms



Total raised for the School of Law

66 For many of us, law school would not be possible without scholarships, which provide students with the confidence and security to pursue their passions.

- SOPHIE PARKER '25 (JD EXPECTED)



# BUILDING A BETTER WORLD

## Student Bar Association President's Message



I am deeply honored to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your steadfast support of our student community at USD School of Law. As the 2024-2025 Student Bar Association president, I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you how your contributions touch the law school's diverse student body.

Law school is purposely challenging; the curriculum is rigorous, and the workload seems overwhelming at times. The journey leading up to graduation is well worth the effort. Students work diligently to earn their law degrees and

reach personal milestones by driving constantly to maintain stellar academic records and high test scores. Yet, despite their determination and academic achievements, many still face financial barriers. Your generosity becomes the critical factor in overcoming these obstacles, opening doors for students who might otherwise be excluded from law school classrooms.

For many of us, law school would not be possible without scholarships, which provide students with the confidence and security to pursue their passions. Personally, I would not have been able to afford the critical experience of a public interest internship during my 1L summer without the support of donor-funded programs, especially the Public Service Law Student Fellowship Fund. Thank you to all who have supported public interest programs and all forms of student scholarships. Along with my fellow classmates, I look forward to our future as alumni. We are inspired by your commitment to student success and look forward to following in your footsteps. Your continued support is instrumental in empowering the next generation of legal professionals. Thanks to you, USD law students are not only building a better life for themselves but also building a better world for all of us.

Once again, thank you for your generosity and firm belief in the law school's mission. Law students like me look forward to continuing to make a positive impact with your support.

**Sophie Parker '25 (JD Expected)**

*Student Bar Association President*



The Bona Fide Bash offered USD students a valuable opportunity to connect with attorneys who were eager to meet them and shared a passion for the mission of each hosting organization.

- BARBARA MACHADO '24 (JD)

# STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

## Rallying Around a Cause: USD School of Law's Student-Led Fundraising Success

Every year, student organizations at USD's School of Law host fundraising events to support causes they are most passionate about: scholarships and student experiences. Among these, the annual Bona Fide Bash and VICAM Benefit stand out for celebrating achievements and reaffirming USD's commitment to excellence in legal education and community engagement. These events, spearheaded by dedicated student leaders, continue to significantly impact their peers by providing essential support for their academic journeys and professional aspirations.



### FOSTERING COMMUNITY AND SCHOLARSHIP: BONA FIDE BASH

Student organizations within the USD School of Law found success at one of the largest student networking events this past April:

the 3rd Annual Bona Fide Bash. Hosted jointly by USD's Business Law Society (BLS), Women's Law Caucus (WLC), and Employment and Labor Law Society (EALLS), the event united students and local attorneys for an evening of networking, live music, and vibrant sunset views at Monarch Ocean Pub.

**\$6,747**

Scholarship Funds Raised

**180+**

Students and Legal Professionals Attendance

**3**

Key Scholarships Funded for the WLC, BLS, and EALLS

Proceeds from the Bona Fide Bash went towards the scholarships of the hosting student organizations – Empowering You in the Law (WLC), Business Law Society Scholarship (BLS), and EALLS Social Justice in the Workplace Scholarship, each of which is a testament to the values and missions of the respective organizations and represents a commitment to inclusivity, empowerment, and social justice.

Barbara Machado, a 2024 graduate of the School of Law and former president of the Women’s Law Caucus, reflected on her involvement: “The Bona Fide Bash offered USD students a valuable opportunity to connect with attorneys who were eager to meet them and shared a passion for the mission of each hosting organization. It provided an environment conducive to fostering connections with attorneys enthusiastic about engaging with students and supporting each organization’s goals.”

Barbara’s dedication to community and scholarship is evident in her role in establishing the Empowering You in the Law scholarship through the Women’s Law Caucus, for which the Bona Fide Bash raised enough proceeds to fund the scholarship for the 2024-2025 academic year. Her leadership has left a lasting legacy at USD Law as Barbara begins her career at Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP in its Real Estate, Land Use & Environmental Practice Group.



## SUPPORTING GLOBAL ADVOCACY: USD VICAM ANNUAL BENEFIT FUNDRAISER

On January 20th, 2024, the University of San Diego School of Law hosted its 6th Annual Benefit Gala in support of the Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot (VICAM) team. Held at La Gran Terraza on USD’s campus, the evening featured a cocktail hour, a three-course dinner, and a silent auction, all contributing to the event’s success in raising funds for student participants in civil advocacy competitions worldwide. Thanks to this event’s generous supporters, the VICAM team can send as many students as possible to international mock arbitration competitions this year.

Mikayla Seiler, president of USD VICAM and 2025 J.D. Candidate currently serving as a Law Clerk at CDF Labor Law LLP, expressed her gratitude for the program: “As the current president of this organization, I can easily say it has been the greatest experience I’ve had in law school. The international arbitration community is amazing to be a part of, and we have been able to make connections with tons of law schools from other countries, as well as network with current industry professionals.”

**\$3,500**

Raised out of the \$10,000 goal to support  
VICAM's annual scholarship program and  
students at international competitions

**14**

Students representing USD in competitions  
across the world

“ As the current  
president of this  
organization, I can  
easily say it has  
been the greatest  
experience I've had in  
law school.

- MIKAYLA SEILER '25 (JD EXPECTED)





# GIVING BACK IS CONTAGIOUS

**We Catch it From One Another!**

After working for three years to earn their law degrees, graduates steel themselves to study for the bar exam before starting their first jobs as full-fledged lawyers. In their first years, associates race to put into practice everything that they learned in the classroom and build a book of business, hoping to reach the top of their legal profession.

The path to success is a lot for young lawyers to take on. So, how do some recent grads do all that and still make the time to give back to improve the experience for the next generation?

Because nobody knows the stresses associated with law school more than USD’s most recent graduates do. They also know law

students treasure alumni support in all forms: scholarships, fellowships, and employment opportunities. Generous recent law graduates who choose to give back are honored with membership as “Young Maudsleys” in the law school’s Maudsley Fellows Society.

Robert “Bobby” Foster ’19 (JD) and Preston Bennett ’18 (JD) have two things in common. They are both Young Maudsleys and associates at Sheppard Mullin. Their law firm has an extensive pro bono program that strongly encourages associates and partners to use their legal skills to give back to the community. In keeping with the firm’s philosophy, Bobby and Preston go the extra mile to pay it forward by directing their philanthropic support to the USD School of Law students.



What motivates these two hardworking individuals to share their time, talent, and treasure with USD? That’s easy! Bobby benefited from two law firm scholarships while studying at USD. He was fortunate to network with Ashley Hirano ’09 (JD) and Mark Rackers ’07 (JD). Little did Bobby know they would end up being his OCI interviewers and lifelong mentors at the firm. Bobby continues to follow his mentors’ philanthropic lead at USD and in the community through his involvement with the Law Alumni Board, where he serves as President-Elect and significantly influences support for student scholarships.



Preston Bennett was also influenced by his time at USD School of Law to give back to current students. From the day Lisa Cannon, his Legal

Research and Writing instructor, taught him to write his first brief, Bennett knew that “USD had a big impact on my life, and I would not be where I am today without the amazing staff and people who helped me out.” His education was possible because of alumni scholarships. As a result, Preston is determined to be the alumnus who helps current students succeed by donating to scholarships at USD.

Trevor Whitehead ’25 (JD Expected) knows Preston and Bobby’s gifts “help prepare me to be a better lawyer.” Knowing a community of alumni supporters – like Bobby and Preston – are invested in their success can’t help but bolster the efforts of current students to achieve success and one day give back themselves. In that way, generosity becomes infectious.



“ USD had a big impact on my life, and I would not be where I am today without the amazing staff and people who helped me out.

- PRESTON BENNETT ’18



**DEAN'S SENIOR COUNSEL \$50,000+**

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- James Y. Hurt '16
- Curtis M. Jackson '18
- Julianna '16 and Daryoush Kat '22
- Jake Nishizu '21
- Briana N. Peters '23
- Jeffrey Platt '20
- Lauren '17 and Campbell C. Roseman '16
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*YOUR GIFT. YOUR IMPACT.*

# OUR THANKS.



*STAY CONNECTED WITH US  
AND SHARE YOUR STORY!*