



SOUTHWESTERN

LAW SCHOOL
Los Angeles, CA

Commencement

May 2025

The Rose Bowl
1001 Rose Bowl Dr., Pasadena, CA 91103

Ceremony Livestream

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SOUTHWESTERN

LAW SCHOOL Los Angeles, CA

110th Commencement Ceremony / Friday, May 16, 2025

Processional

Grand Marshals
Board of Trustees
Commencement Speaker
Honorary Degree Recipients
Administration
Faculty
Graduates

National Anthem

Piper A. Hinson '25

Welcome

Darby Dickerson, President & Dean
Peter Duchesneau '93, Vice-Chair, Board of Trustees

Class of 2025 Address

Hailey S. Roknipoor '25

Conferring of Honorary Doctor of Laws Degrees

Peter Duchesneau
Darby Dickerson

Recipients:

The Honorable Mónica Ramírez Almadani
Walter M. Yoka '80

Commencement Address

Walter M. Yoka

Conferring of Juris Doctor Degrees

Peter Duchesneau
Darby Dickerson
Associate Dean Cristina Knolton, Grand Marshal
Professor John Heilman, Grand Marshal
Professor Christopher J. Robinette, Grand Marshal

Recessional

Grand Marshals
Board of Trustees
Commencement Speaker
Honorary Degree Recipients
Administration
Faculty
Graduates

Honorary Degree Recipient

The Honorable Mónica Ramírez Almadani



Judge Mónica Ramírez Almadani proudly serves as a United States district judge for the Central District of California in Los Angeles. Before her judicial appointment in 2023, Judge Ramírez Almadani served as President and CEO of Public Counsel, one of the largest pro bono civil rights law firms in the country. She has had a diverse legal career. After receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard University in 2001 and her Juris Doctor degree from Stanford Law School in 2004, she clerked for the Honorable Warren J. Ferguson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Following her clerkship, Judge Ramírez Almadani spent the following four years working at the national ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project, where her practice focused on complex civil rights and immigration litigation in federal court. In 2009, Judge Ramírez Almadani moved to Washington, D.C., to serve in the U.S. Department of Justice during the Obama administration. She first served as Counsel to then Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division Thomas Perez. She later served as Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Counsel to then Deputy Attorney General James Cole, the second highest-ranking official with oversight of the entire Department of Justice.

In 2012, Judge Ramírez Almadani returned to her hometown of Los Angeles, where she served as a federal prosecutor in the Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California. Based on her many years of government experience, in 2015, then California Attorney General Kamala Harris appointed Judge Ramírez Almadani as a Special Assistant Attorney General of California. In that role, she helped oversee the California Department of Justice's Criminal Division and Division of Recidivism Reduction and Reentry, as well as key aspects of the department's work on civil rights and criminal justice reform.

Before joining Public Counsel in 2021, Judge Ramírez Almadani spent several years in private practice at Covington & Burling LLP and teaching at UC Irvine School of Law, where she was a visiting clinical law professor and co-director of the Immigrant Rights Clinic from 2019 to 2021.

Commencement Speaker & Honorary Degree Recipient

Walter M. Yoka



Walter M. Yoka '80 is a distinguished trial attorney and founding partner of YOKA | SMITH, a nationally respected litigation firm celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. A proud alumnus of Southwestern Law School, he has dedicated his career to excellence in class-action and complex tort actions, commercial litigation, and product liability.

Admitted to practice in California and multiple federal courts, Yoka has earned pro hac vice admissions in over 20 states. His courtroom successes include securing many defense verdicts, most recently in cases such as *Martinez v. Continental Tire* and *Chelgren v. The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company*.

A Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a member of the International Society of Barristers, Yoka has also been a leader in professional organizations that shape the legal profession. He served as President of the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) in 2014, President of CAL-ABOTA in 2021, and President of both the Association of Southern California Defense Counsel (ASCDC) in 2002 and subsequently, the Association of California Defense Counsel.

Beyond the courtroom, Yoka has played an active role in shaping California's civil justice system. He served on the California Judicial Council's Civil and Small Claims Committee and was appointed by Chief Justice Ronald George to the Judicial Council's Blue Ribbon Panel on Civil Case Administration and the Advisory Committee on Electronic Discovery, contributing to significant reforms in court procedures and electronic discovery rules.

Recognized as a Super Lawyer every year since 2004, Yoka has also been honored in Best Lawyers in America since 2006 and named Lawyer of the Year for Product Liability Litigation–Defendants in Los Angeles multiple times. He was the first inductee into the ASCDC Hall of Fame and has received prestigious accolades, including the Lee B. Wenzel Civility Award from ABOTA, the Champion of Justice Award from Loyola Law School's Civil Justice Program, and the 2025 Jim Robie Award for Civility and Professionalism from the Los Angeles County Bar Association.

Yoka remains deeply committed to legal education and mentorship, serving as Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees for Southwestern Law School.

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Director of PLEAS/Part-Time Day Program and Co-Director, Moot Court Honors Program

Byron G. Stier

Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives

Tracy L. Turner

Associate Dean for Learning Outcomes

Rachel VanLandingham

Co-Associate Dean of Research

Non-Faculty Administrators

Frank Acosta

Director of Facilities

Marcie Canal

Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Title IX Coordinator

Katrina Garcia

Director of Administrative Services

Michael Garcia

Director of Campus Safety and Security

Lisa M. Gear

Associate Dean for Admissions

Jordan Hall

Associate Dean, Student Services

Jessica Johnson

Assistant General Counsel and Title IX Coordinator

Suzanne Kunz

Director of Financial Aid

Debra L. Leathers

Associate Dean for Institutional Advancement

Steven Lopez

Chief Communication & Marketing Officer

Robert Mena

Associate Dean for Student Affairs

Sean Murphy

Chief Information Officer

Laura T. Ponder

Chief Financial Officer

Chanté Spann

Assistant Dean, Online Education

Oscar Teran

Associate Dean of Career Services

Julie Xanders

General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

Eileen Zwiers

Registrar

Emeritus Staff

Doreen E. Heyer

Senior Associate Dean for Academic Administration Emerita

Today, we celebrate **you**



Commencement Student Speaker
Hailey S. Roknipour '25 &
Commencement Singer Piper A. Hinson '25

Candidates for the Degree of Juris Doctor

Full-Time Day Program

Students who choose Southwestern's full-time day program complete their J.D. degree in three academic years of full-time study. During this time, they pursue a broad-based legal education with opportunities to focus on a particular area of the law. All first-year students participate in the designated curriculum. Second- and third-year students combine required courses with a wide range of electives to tailor a program suited to their interests and goals. Students take the designated curriculum of 15 units each semester during their first year and a course load of 10 to 16 units each semester thereafter. Students must complete 87 units to graduate.

Johnny S. Abdalnour^L

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Cynthia A. Aceves

B.A., Loyola Marymount University

M.B.A., Loyola Marymount University

Kimberly L. Aceves^I

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Daniel Aghayani^L

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Diana G. Aguilar^T

B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Sarina A. Ahmad^N

B.A., University of California, San Diego

Misha Sultana Alam^{T^L}

B.S., University of California, San Diego

Omar A. Alvarenga^M

B.A., University of California, Irvine

Jennifer Alvarez^{M^L}

B.A., California State University, Northridge

Marisa L. Amaya^{*}

B.A., University of Oregon

Amanda R. Arceo

B.A., Whittier College

Amir Arefian^{***^C}

B.S., San Diego State University

Ashkon M. Ariaee^C

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Daniella Ashouri^{L^I}

B.A., University of California, San Diego

Ani Avedisian

B.A., Loyola Marymount University

Shadi N. Azad^T

B.A., University of California, Riverside

Linda A. Babakhanyan^C

B.A., California State University, Northridge

Henry Barkhordarian

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Justine E. Barraza^I

B.A., Macalester College

Rocco D. Basile^L

B.A., California State University, Northridge

Shayan Bayat

B.A., California State University, Northridge

Michael Behboud^{L^{*}}

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Aria J. Beizai^{M^L}

B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Michaela Bekkerman

B.A., Southern New Hampshire University

Kevin A. Beltran Rivas

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Gittee S. Benhamou^L

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Viviana A. Bergerson^N

B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Laura T. Bertrand^I

B.A., Mississippi State University

Eshu Kaur Bhambra

B.A., University of California, Merced

Cole J. Bohlen

B.A., University of California, Irvine

Melinda Boyajyan

B.A., California State University, Northridge

Edward Q. Brickell^{*}

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

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J – *Journal of International Media and Entertainment Law*

C – *Law Commentator*

V – Military Veteran

* December 2024 Graduate

** January 2025 Graduate

*** July 2025 Graduate

**** December 2025 Graduate

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Donald J. Bullock

B.A., Vanguard University

Jenny Alexandra Bustos

B.A., Rutgers, The State University
of New Jersey

Ally V. Campbell

B.A., Southern Methodist University

Anthony J. Carini^{1S}

B.S., University of Nevada, Reno

Samira R. Carpenter

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Francisco M. Castro^{M1}

B.A., California State University,
San Bernardino

Kelsey E. Cohen¹

B.A., The City College of New York

Lawrence B. Curtis

B.A., University of Montana

Ashley K. Davis

B.S., California State University,
Dominguez Hills

Robert S. Del Toro

B.A., Chapman University
M.A., Chapman University

Dylan F. Derakhshanian^N

B.A., Chapman University

Laura Devoian^{C*}

B.A., California State University, Northridge

Matteo M. Dorian^{*}

B.S., University of California, Santa Barbara

Alexander R. Drew^{1V}

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

David Nicholas Echavarria¹

B.A., California Polytechnic State
University, San Luis Obispo

Cameron N. Edge¹

B.A., Morehouse College

Ashley M. Farris^N

B.A., California State University, Northridge

Stella M. Fisher

B.A., California State University, Northridge

Susana Fuentes^N

B.A., University of California, Irvine

Christina T. Gabriel

B.A., California State University,
Long Beach

Rima R. Gasparian

B.A., University of California, Irvine
M.S., University of Southern California

Levon Gezalian

B.A., California State University, Los
Angeles

Nikdel Ghaemi

B.A., University of California, Irvine

Lauren A. Gilfenbain

B.A., University of Colorado, Boulder

Edwin R. Giron-Montenegro^{CS}

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Jason Golriz^N

B.S., California State University, Northridge

Anahi D. Gonzalez

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Cassandra Gonzalez

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Jacquelyn Goryan

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Gevorg Goulian

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Joshua A. Gregorio^{*}

B.A., University of Arizona

Michelle N. Gubik

B.S., California State University, Northridge

Michael N. Habhab

B.A., California State University, Fullerton

Anna M. Hafflich

B.A., Occidental College

Sarah A. Hayden

B.A., San Francisco State University

Liza Hayrapetyan¹

B.S., University of California, Los Angeles

Jennifer A. Hays

B.A., University of Southern California

Jensen Hedley^S

B.A., University of California, Davis

Hovsep Hovhannisyan

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Norvik Hovsepian¹

B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Desirae L. Ibarra^L

B.A., University of California, Santa Cruz

Mohammad S. Ibrahim

B.S., San Diego State University

Lucy Igarian

B.A., California State University, Northridge

Ilene Isayan^T

B.S., California State University,
Los Angeles

Radha Jagasia¹

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Alborz Javaheri^{1JS}

B.A., University of California, Santa Cruz

Brendan A. Johnson^L

B.A., Michigan State University

Madeline Jones

B.S., Arizona State University

Michael E. Josephson^{*}

B.S., California State University, Northridge

Harriet R. Joya

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Claire T. Justman

B.A., California Lutheran University

Aubrey Corinne-Willis Kaiser^S
B.A., University of California, Irvine

James Karaoglanian
B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Lena A. Kazanchyan
B.A., Loyola Marymount University

Michaela R. Kearton^L
B.A., Chapman University

Alexandra E. Kerecman^{LJ}
B.A., American University

Kira Kiara
B.S., University of La Verne

David Kim^T
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Silvia E. Kirollos^I
B.A., California State University,
Long Beach

Orly Kohanarieh
B.A., California State University, Northridge

Bailey Kurahashi
B.S., University of La Verne

Elliot N. Labib
B.S., University of Southern California

Lauren K. Lacon
B.S., Oregon State University

Jonathan Z. Levin
B.A., California Polytechnic State
University, San Luis Obispo

Aaron Levy
B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Hooshawn Louyeh^N
B.A., University of California, Irvine

Robyn Kailiokalani Malaya^N
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Korina Maldonado
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Yervant S. Malkhassian^L
B.A., California Polytechnic State
University, San Luis Obispo

Lauren Marcarelli
B.A., University of Colorado, Boulder

Raffi Margossian^I
B.A., California State University, Northridge

Mihran Markarian
B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Pahola A. Mateo Gonzalez
B.A., University of California, Riverside

Ani J. Matevosyan
B.A., University of Southern California

Nylene B. Mather
B.A., California State University,
Long Beach

Sydney L. Mathis^J
B.A., University of Arizona

Annabelle Rose Mattaliano
B.A., University of Washington, Bothell

Olivia Catalina McGovern
B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Jenna McIntosh^S
B.A., College of Charleston

Kamilah Z. McMillon
B.A., California State University,
Long Beach

Daniel E. Medina
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Evelyn L. Medrano^{***}
B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Elena V. Mekikyan
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Artur Mheryan
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Jessica A. Mijares
B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Gayane Mikaelyan
B.A., Woodbury University

Sarah A. Miller
B.A., University of South Florida

Anahit Minasian
B.A., California State University, Northridge

Miko Minasian^{****}
B.A., California State University, Northridge

Miro Minasian
B.A., California State University, Northridge

Brianna D. Morales^{ML}
B.A., University of California, Santa Cruz

Karin Moskalensky^T
B.A., San Diego State University

Louis N. Mowers^{N1}
B.S., University of California, Santa Barbara

Cecilia E. Myers
B.A., Texas Christian University

Soovya N. Nagin
B.S., University of California, Los Angeles

The following notations after a graduate's name denote participation in the corresponding program during law school. For a full description of the honors program, refer to pages 21 and 22.

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- J – *Journal of International Media and Entertainment Law*
- C – *Law Commentator*
- V – Military Veteran

- * December 2024 Graduate
- ** January 2025 Graduate
- *** July 2025 Graduate
- **** December 2025 Graduate
- ♦ Southwestern Torch Bearer

Khatchig Nalbandian

B.A., California State University, Northridge

Nusha Nasiri

B.A., Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising

Catherine J. Nohra

B.A., University of Redlands

Sean W. Nolan

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Navid Nour

B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Min Suk Oh

B.A., University of California, Irvine

Blake A. Osborn

B.S., California State University, Northridge

Alex Ovasapyan

B.S., California State University, Northridge

Yana Ovsepyan

B.A., University of California, Davis

Cynthia Lizbeth Padilla ^{LJ}

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Niket R. Pandya

B.A., University of California, Riverside

Bianca Panosian

B.A., University of California, Irvine

Mary Pappas ^I

B.A., California State University, Northridge

Natalie I. Parsi ^T

B.S., Arizona State University

Herbert D. Paschal ^S

B.A., California State University, Northridge

Blakely R. Paymani ^N

B.S., University of Florida

Juliana B. Pech

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Cristian E. Perez-Quintanilla

B.A., California State University, Northridge

Molly R. Prendes

B.A., California State University,
Long Beach

Jacob D. Rabbanian

B.A., University of Texas at Austin

Isel R. Ramirez ^I

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Kimberly S. Recarte

B.A., California State University, Northridge

Samara Renteria ^J

B.A., California State Polytechnic
University, Pomona

Hayden M. Rexroad ^T

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Tanya J. Reyes

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Leslie A. Rowan

B.S., California State University, Northridge

Matthew D. Saadatfar

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Samantha Alejandra Salas

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Lucia D. Saldivar-Lozano ^L

B.A., California State University, Northridge

Anoush A. Salmasiyan ^{*}

B.S., California State University, Northridge

Tatiana K. Samouie

B.S., California State University, Fresno

Saro Sandaljian

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Devin A. Sawyer

B.S., Emerson College

Mikaela R. Sayyah

B.S., California Polytechnic State
University, San Luis Obispo

Andrew Secaida

B.A., California State University,
Long Beach

Victoria Alana F. Sese ^C

B.S., California State University,
Long Beach

Shania Jaine Q. Sevandra

B.A., California State University,
Long Beach

Annie Shahbazyan

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Kristen N. Shear

B.S., Arizona State University

Brandon Simanian

B.A., University of California, Santa Cruz

Olivia M. Slayton

B.S., California State University,
Long Beach

Mónet T. Smith ^I

B.A., Arizona State University
M.L.S., Sandra Day O'Connor College
of Law

Thania F. Smith ^N

B.A., California State University, Northridge

Setareh Soroush ^{T^I}

B.A., California State University, Northridge

Joel Sebastian Strote

B.A., University of Southern California

Nicolas Swanger ^L

B.A., California Baptist University

Lousine Tahmasian

B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Ahmed Tar

B.S., University of California, Los Angeles

Eden Taranto

B.S., Yeshiva University

Carol Y. Tognetti ^I

B.A., North Carolina State University

David R. Urbina
B.A., California State University, Fullerton

Maria Lianne G. Urriza
B.A., State University of New York
at Oswego

Luis A. Vega^L
B.A., University of California, Irvine

Victoria Venegas Gomez^S
B.A., California State Polytechnic
University, Pomona

Kyle K. Vuong
B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Shawn R. Wadhwani
B.A., University of California, San Diego

Layne A. Watson^{V*}
B.S., Thomas Edison State University

Tiffany Y. Wen^M
B.A., American University

Ashley A. White
B.A., California State University, Northridge

Kamron G. Williams
B.A., University of California, San Diego
B.S., University of California, San Diego

Justen Williams-Reed
B.A., Fisk University

Yaron Yasmeh
B.S., California State University, Northridge

Davit Yeritsyan^{*}
B.S., California State University, Northridge

Brandon H. Young
B.A., University of California, Riverside

Suzanna Zaroyan
B.A., American University of Armenia -
Armenia

Natalia Zepeda
B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Candidates for the Degree of Juris Doctor Part-Time Evening Program

The evening program is a four-year comprehensive course of study designed for students who would like to pursue their J.D. degree on a part-time basis. The program's schedule provides a way for students to attend law school while maintaining their full-time work responsibilities. Students must complete 87 units to graduate.

Stephanie Anderson^{ML}
B.A., University of Southern California

Sara Awad^{**}
B.A., University of California, Riverside

Tyler I. Battles
B.S., California State University,
Long Beach

Danielle J. Blackwell
B.S., Old Dominion University

Rashara C. Brown
B.A., University of California, Riverside

Rachel Bustillos
B.A., Arizona State University

Ernesto Daniel Bustinza^I
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles
M.A., Pepperdine University

Kristina Chirishian
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Ladijah Corder^T
B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Roksana M. Czech^{NI}
B.A., San Francisco State University

Anayensy De La Cruz-Zepeda^{ML}
B.A., California State University,
Long Beach

The following notations after a graduate's name denote participation in the corresponding program during law school. For a full description of the honors program, refer to pages 21 and 22.

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Program

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Program

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International Law*

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V – Military Veteran

* December 2024 Graduate

** January 2025 Graduate

*** July 2025 Graduate

**** December 2025 Graduate

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Camaryn E. Del Guercio

B.A., Boston University

Kaitlyn E. Del Valle ^S

B.A., University of California, Santa Cruz

Sean R. Fiore

B.A., University of California, Riverside

Denise Fitter ^M

B.A., Tulane University

Grabiela E. Franco

B.A., University of California, Santa Cruz

Anthony J. Gilmore ^{M^I}

B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Daniel A. Golub ^S

B.A., University of California, San Diego

Samuel E. Greene

B.S., Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

M.B.A., Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Ryan M. Hallett

B.A., University of Indianapolis

M.P.A., California State University, Fullerton

Victoria A. Hernandez

B.A., University of California, Irvine

Piper A. Hinson ^{M^L}

B.M., University of Southern California

Cipriana M. Huerta ^I

B.S., California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Andrew Hutchings ^N

B.A., University of New Orleans

Tamiqua Jones ^V

B.S., National Paralegal College

Tessa Krey ^L

B.A., University of California, Irvine

M.P.P., University of California, Irvine

Viet-Long Truong Le ^{J^{*}}

B.S., University of California, Riverside

Anne Wailani Martin

B.S., California State University, Sacramento

Monica A. Moreno ^{**}**

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Destinee J. Moya ^T

B.A., Whittier College

Kristy Ngo ^{M^L}

B.S., University of Phoenix

Katherine F. Nichols

B.A., The College of William and Mary

Graham Outerbridge ^{M^L}

B.A., Tufts University

M.F.A., American Conservatory Theater

Ara Pak ^I

B.A., New York University

Kimberly M. Quijada

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Phoebe Richards

B.A., Immaculata University

Vanessa A. Romang

B.A., California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Meghan N. Sproule ^N

B.A., University of Arizona

Kinga R. Tabares-Quraishi ^{**}**

B.A., California Baptist University

Nastassia Tiangco ^I

B.A., Virginia Tech

Helen Zardaryan

B.A., California State University, Northridge

Zhenyuan Zhu

B.B.A., University of Massachusetts Global

Candidates for the Degree of Juris Doctor

PLEAS and Part-Time Day Program

PLEAS (Part-Time Legal Education Alternative at Southwestern) is one of only a very few part-time day programs in the country designed to accommodate students with child- or elder-care responsibilities. Established in 1981, the four-year PLEAS schedule is typically arranged to enable parents and guardians to attend law school while their children are in school. A select number of other students are granted a similar schedule. Part-time day students attend classes with traditional full-time students, taking a designated curriculum during the first two years of study. There are many opportunities for elective courses and externships during the final two years. Students take 8 to 11 units each semester and attend two summer sessions. Students must complete 87 units to graduate.

Mikaela Celestine A. Almeda

B.A., William Paterson University

Aris Avedisian ^P

B.A., University of California,
San Diego

Shara Patty Darden ^{P*}

B.A., University of Maryland,
Baltimore County

Cassandra C. Diviak ^{****}

B.A., Loyola Marymount University

Raul Garcia ^{****}

B.A., University of California,
Los Angeles

Julia M. Lafferty

B.A., Temple University

Erika Malyan ^C

B.A., California State University,
Northridge

Layah N. Mosley ^{N^P}

B.A., University of California,
Santa Barbara

Ariannie X. Rodriguez ^P

B.A., University of California,
Santa Barbara

Joel R. Solis ^V

B.A., California State Polytechnic
University, Pomona
M.A., California State University,
Northridge

The following notations after a graduate's name denote participation in the corresponding program during law school. For a full description of the honors program, refer to pages 21 and 22.

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and Entertainment Law*

C – *Law Commentator*

V – Military Veteran

PL – PLEAS

* December 2024 Graduate

** January 2025 Graduate

*** July 2025 Graduate

**** December 2025 Graduate

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Candidates for the Degree of Juris Doctor

SCALE®—Two-Year J.D. Program

Established in 1975, SCALE is the first two-calendar-year accelerated J.D. course of instruction in the nation. SCALE students learn fundamental legal principles and develop core lawyering skills through an integrated curriculum that utilizes hypothetical problems as a teaching method while encompassing all essential subject matter taught in traditional required courses. Hands-on experience is provided in class and through externships in professional legal settings. SCALE's intensive workload relies on total immersion and is designed to begin acclimating students to the rigors of law practice. Students must complete 87 units to graduate.

Samvel Aleksanyan

B.A., California State University, Northridge
M.A., California State University, Northridge

Chinonso Anokwute ^{TIS****}

B.A., Williams College

Nicole D. Ballard ^J

B.B.A., Belmont University

Jina Katura Ballenger ^N

B.A., Columbia College Chicago
M.S., Northwestern University

Nadya Ashley Bayliss

B.A., University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Tessa M. Benoit

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Cindy Y. Berganza

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Itzel E. Burgos

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles
M.A., California State University,
Dominguez Hills

Jacob J. Caplan

B.S., Evergreen State College

Nika Chegenizadeh

B.A., University of California, Riverside

Daniel H. Chun

B.S., Pepperdine University

Eleonora Comaschi

B.A., Loyola Marymount University

Aria Dardashti

B.S., University of Southern California

Marola A. Daus

B.A., University of California, Irvine

Shayan Davatgar

B.A., University of California, Irvine

Briana K. Davolio

B.S., Salve Regina University

Sarah P. Dean-Gooderham ^M

B.A., Occidental College

Maya H. Dilanian

B.A., University of California, San Diego

Jamie DuBose ^N

B.A., University of Southern California

Bryana A. Espinoza

B.A., University of California, Santa Cruz

Matthew Ghalchi

B.S., University of Southern California

Michaela K. A. GoodarziRad ^J

B.S., Washington State University

Henna F. Jamal

B.A., Emerson College

Ghyun Kim

B.S., University of California, Riverside

Ella Grace Kimbell ^S

B.B.A., Baylor University

Areg Manasian

B.A., California State University, Northridge

Edgar Minasyan ^J

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University, Pomona

Samantha A. Monroe

B.S., University of California, Santa Barbara

Julianna Angela R. Montano ^{TI****}

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B.S., University of Southern California

David Olmedo-Barrera ^T

B.A., California State University, Fullerton

Cynthia N. Panosian

B.A., California State Polytechnic
University, Pomona

Joseph F. Perliss ^{L♦****}

B.S., University of California, Santa Barbara

Brian Ritter

B.A., Loyola Marymount University

Hailey S. Roknipour ^{NJ}

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Kristina Ruvalcaba

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

John P. Sanchez

B.A., California State University,
Los Angeles

- Michelle E. Sasoon**
 B.S., California State University, Northridge

Katie A. Selko
 B.A., Chapman University

Alec Sepetjian
 B.A., Pepperdine University

Ramneet K. Sidhu ¹
 B.S., University of the Pacific

Ramon J. Sison ¹
 B.A., New York University

Jessica R. Talavera
 B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara
- Aryan P. Tarighat**
 B.S., California State University, Northridge

Arian Tavakoli
 B.A., University of California, Irvine

Sydney E. Wong
 B.A., Tulane University

Zarish Zahid
 B.A., California State University, Northridge

J.D./M.B.A. Concurrent Degree Program

In partnership with The Peter F. Drucker and Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management of Claremont Graduate University, Southwestern established concurrent-degree programs for students who wish to combine a J.D. and Master's of Business Administration (M.B.A.). To earn the J.D./M.B.A. degree, students apply 16 units earned at the law school to the 60 units required for the M.B.A. degree and complete the remaining 44 units at Drucker.

David L. Gray ^{BFD}
 B.S., State University of New York
 at Albany
 M.B.A., Drucker School of Management

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N – Negotiation Honors Program	I – <i>Southwestern Journal of International Law</i>	
T – Trial Advocacy Honors Program	J – <i>Journal of International Media and Entertainment Law</i>	B - J.D./M.B.A.
S – Student Bar Association	C – <i>Law Commentator</i>	FD - Full-Time Day Program
	V – Military Veteran	SC – SCALE Program
		♦ Southwestern Torch Bearer

Student Organizations

Moot Court Honors Program ^M

The Moot Court Honors Program provides students with the opportunity to develop oral and written advocacy skills through competitions in appellate advocacy. Students who excel during the annual Moot Court Intramural Competition are invited to interview for Southwestern's nationally recognized Moot Court Honors Program. Those selected represent Southwestern in regional and national interscholastic competitions as oralists, brief writers, or board advisors. Members of the Moot Court Board of Governors are selected based upon scholarship and participation in previous competitions. Southwestern's moot court teams regularly win major regional and national awards for brief writing, oral appellate advocacy, and overall team excellence. Southwestern has earned a reputation as one of the most active and successful moot court programs in the country.

Negotiation Honors Program ^N

The Negotiation Honors Program provides students with the opportunity to develop and demonstrate core lawyering skills in the context of negotiating. Members of the program take part in competitions that allow them to apply the skills of legal research, writing, advocacy, and client counseling through negotiation exercises, expanding their experience in all aspects of legal practice. Top-performing students in the annual Negotiation Intramural Competition are eligible to interview for the Negotiation Honors Program. The Negotiation Board of Governors, made up of experienced team members, coordinates both the intramural competition finals and team preparation for interscholastic competition.

Trial Advocacy Honors Program ^T

The Trial Advocacy Honors Program provides students with the opportunity to develop oral advocacy skills through the annual Trial Advocacy Intramural Competition, the JEBS (Joseph Esposito/Bill Seki) Competition, and interscholastic competitions in which Southwestern students compete against students across the nation. The program prepares students to be effective courtroom advocates who are able to conduct direct- and cross-examinations and present compelling opening statements and closing arguments. Students who excel in the Intramural rounds are eligible to apply for positions in the Trial Advocacy Honors Program and represent Southwestern in regional and national trial competitions. The Trial Advocacy Board of Governors, made up of experienced team members, coordinates both the intramural competition finals and team preparation for interscholastic competitions.

Southwestern Law Review ^L

The *Southwestern Law Review* is a student-edited journal that publishes scholarly articles and commentary on California and federal law from prominent jurists, law professors, practitioners, and students on the *Law Review* staff. Each student member of the *Law Review* has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and writing skills. Students ranked in the top ten percent of the first-year day and SCALE classes and second-year evening and PLEAS classes, as well as students who excel in the annual summer Write-on Competition, are invited to participate. Members of the *Law Review* Executive Board are selected based upon scholarship, editing skills, legal research skills, extensive personal interviews, and overall contribution to the *Law Review*. Recent volumes of the *Southwestern Law Review* have examined civil rights and social justice, tort law and emerging technologies, immigration law, international and humanitarian law, bankruptcy and economic justice, environmental regulation, and the evolving landscape of legal education.

***Southwestern Journal of International Law*¹**

The *Southwestern Journal of International Law* publishes scholarly notes and articles contributed by students and members of the legal community on issues that complement Southwestern's extensive course offerings and faculty expertise in international and comparative law. Participation in the *Journal* allows students to develop their legal writing and research skills along with their substantive knowledge of topics covered by the *Journal*. Any Southwestern student in good academic standing who has completed at least the first-year day or SCALE program or at least the second-year evening or PLEAS program may compete in the summer Write-on Competition to earn a place on the *Journal* staff. Members who are recognized for outstanding contributions to the *Journal* are selected to serve on the Editorial Board during the subsequent year. Symposia, with proceedings later published in the *Journal*, have included "In the Shadow of Territorial Conflict Symposium: Legacies of Soviet-Era Media Control and Speech Norms," "Fake News and Weaponized Defamation: Global Perspectives," and "Freedom of Information Laws on the Global Stage: Past, Present, and Future."

***Journal of International Media and Entertainment Law*¹**

The *Journal of International Media and Entertainment Law* is a semi-annual publication produced by Southwestern's Donald E. Biederman Entertainment, Media, and Sports Law Institute in cooperation with the Forums on Communications Law and the Entertainment and Sports Industries of the American Bar Association. The Board of Editors is composed of Biederman Institute faculty and members of the Forums' committees. Students who are interested in entertainment, media, and sports law are selected to work with the Board on research, technical editing, and other tasks. The first of its kind, the *Journal* promotes scholarship focused on the international dimension of media and entertainment law and addresses all aspects of international and comparative law in these areas, including topics related to content, regulation, intellectual property, distribution, publishing, internet and technology, and transactions.

***Student Bar Association*^s**

The Southwestern Student Bar Association (SBA), to which all students automatically belong, has been recognized several times as "the most outstanding student bar association" in the region and nation by the American Bar Association/Law Student Division and other entities. The SBA Board of Directors is composed of elected executive officers, the American Bar Association/Law Student Division representative, class representatives, and directors of appointed committees. The SBA sponsors programs and events to promote student interests, provides a variety of extracurricular experiences for students, and encourages community service. Among the activities recently presented by the SBA and student organizations are the SBA Safe Spaces Series, PILC Trivia Bowl, Midnight Club and Sunrise Club, Hoover Toy Drive, and Bison Week festivities.

***Law Commentator*^c**

The *Law Commentator* is a student-run news magazine produced by and for the Southwestern student body in print and online formats. The student editors develop editorial and news policies and determine coverage. Features of the publication include articles and commentary by students, faculty, and administrators, on-campus programs and events, student accomplishments, alumni profiles, legal issues in the news, and media and entertainment developments.

Awards and Scholarships

Latin degrees cannot be determined until all grades have been completed and GPAs have been calculated.

Dean's Academic Leadership Award

The Dean's Academic Leadership Award was established by the Board of Trustees to provide scholarships to the highest-ranking upper-division students.

Rocco D. Basile
Kristy Ngo

Brian Ritter

Dean's List

The top ten percent of each class (SCALE, full-time day program, and part-time), based on annual GPA, determines who is on the Dean's List at the end of each academic year.

Johnny S. Abdalnour	Sarah P. Dean-Gooderham	Graham Outerbridge
Daniel Aghayani	Rima R. Gasparyan	Cynthia Lizbeth Padilla
Jennifer Alvarez	Jason Golriz	Ara Pak
Daniella Ashouri	Piper A. Hinson	Joseph F. Perliss
Rocco D. Basile	Desirae L. Ibarra	Brian Ritter
Michael Behboud	Brendan A. Johnson	Ariannie X. Rodriguez
Aria J. Beizai	Michaela R. Kearton	Nicolas Swanger
Gittee S. Benhamou	Alexandra E. Kerecman	
Viviana A. Bergerson	Yervant S. Malkhassian	
Itzel E. Burgos	Kristy Ngo	
Roksana M. Czech	Sean W. Nolan	
Anayensy De La Cruz-	Navid Nour	
Zepeda	David Olmedo-Barrera	

Dean's Fellows

Upper-division students in the top of their class are invited to serve as Dean's Fellows. Selection is based upon their expertise and experience with particular courses and professors. Dean's Fellows work with students on overall preparation and comprehension of coursework and help students develop effective study strategies to maximize their opportunities for academic success.

Cynthia A. Aceves	Bryana A. Espinoza	Jenna McIntosh
Daniel Aghayani	Anthony J. Gilmore	Elena V. Mekikyan
Omar A. Alvarenga	Edwin R. Giron-	Kristy Ngo
Jennifer Alvarez	Montenegro	Navid Nour
Daniella Ashouri	Jason Golriz	David Olmedo-Barrera
Nicole D. Ballard	Jensen Hedley	Graham Outerbridge
Michael Behboud	Piper A. Hinson	Cynthia Lizbeth Padilla
Gittee S. Benhamou	Andrew Hutchings	Mary Pappas
Donald J. Bullock	Desirae L. Ibarra	Joseph F. Perliss
Itzel E. Burgos	Lucy Igarian	Isel R. Ramirez
Ernesto Daniel Bustinza	Brendan A. Johnson	Brian Ritter
Roksana M. Czech	Michaela R. Kearton	Leslie A. Rowan
Anayensy De La Cruz-	Ella Grace Kimbell	
Zepeda	Tessa Krey	
Sarah P. Dean-Gooderham	Julia M. Lafferty	
Dylan F. Derakhshanian	Hooshawn Louyeh	
Jamie DuBose	Raffi Margossian	

Dean's Merit Award

The Dean's Merit Award was established by the Board of Trustees to provide scholarships to upper-division students who have demonstrated academic excellence and are in the top thirty percent of their class.

Johnny S. Abdalnour	Stella M. Fisher	Katherine F. Nichols
Kimberly L. Aceves	Denise Fitter	Sean W. Nolan
Daniel Aghayani	Rima R. Gasparyan	Navid Nour
Misha Sultana Alam	Edwin R. Giron-Montenegro	David Olmedo-Barrera
Omar A. Alvarenga	Jason Golriz	Graham Outerbridge
Jennifer Alvarez	Daniel A. Golub	Alex Ovasapyan
Stephanie Anderson	Anna M. Haflich	Cynthia Lizbeth Padilla
Daniella Ashouri	Piper A. Hinson	Ara Pak
Nicole D. Ballard	Andrew Hutchings	Juliana B. Pech
Henry Barkhordarian	Desirae L. Ibarra	Joseph F. Perliss
Justine E. Barraza	Radha Jagasia	Isel R. Ramirez
Rocco D. Basile	Brendan A. Johnson	Hayden M. Rexroad
Michael Behboud	Claire T. Justman	Tanya J. Reyes
Aria J. Beizai	James Karaoglanian	Brian Ritter
Michaela Bekkerman	Michaela R. Kearton	Ariannie X. Rodriguez
Gittee S. Benhamou	Alexandra E. Kerecman	Leslie A. Rowan
Viviana A. Bergerson	Silvia E. Kirolos	Lucia D. Saldivar-Lozano
Edward Q. Brickell	Tessa Krey	Ramon J. Sison
Donald J. Bullock	Viet-Long Truong Le	Nicolas Swanger
Itzel E. Burgos	Hooshawn Louyeh	Jessica R. Talavera
Ernesto Daniel Bustinza	Korina Maldonado	Arian Tavakoli
Anthony J. Carini	Yervant S. Malkhassian	Nastassia Tiangco
Roksana M. Czech	Raffi Margossian	David R. Urbina
Marola A. Daus	Sydney L. Mathis	Luis A. Vega
Ashley K. Davis	Jenna McIntosh	Layne A. Watson
Anayensy De La Cruz-Zepeda	Elena V. Mekikyan	Tiffany Y. Wen
Sarah P. Dean-Gooderham	Julianna Angela R. Montano	Yaron Yasmeh
Dylan F. Derakhshanian	Brianna D. Morales	
Laura Devoian	Karin Moskalensky	
Alexander R. Drew	Louis N. Mowers	
Bryana A. Espinoza	Kristy Ngo	
Ashley M. Farris		

Writing Fellows

Upper-division students with strong writing skills are invited to serve as fellows for the Writing Center. Selection is based on their academic performance, a writing sample, and ability to teach students. Writing Fellows work with students on the writing process, basic writing style, organization, grammar, and punctuation. They focus on strengthening students' writing and rewriting skills in the context of their writing classes and externships to prepare them to excel in the legal workplace.

Stephanie Anderson
Amanda R. Arceo
Destinee J. Moya

Wildman/Schumacher Scholarship

The Wildman/Schumacher Scholarship program was established in 1983 in memory of Paul W. Wildman, who served Southwestern for 28 years as a student, faculty member, dean, and president, and Southwestern's founder, John J. Schumacher, who championed legal education opportunities for students from a wide range of backgrounds and actively encouraged the enrollment of women and students of color long before other institutions did so.

Johnny S. Abdalnour
Kimberly L. Aceves
Daniel Aghayani
Misha Sultana Alam
Samvel Aleksanyan
Mikaela Celestine A.
Almeda
Omar A. Alvarenga
Jennifer Alvarez
Marisa L. Amaya
Stephanie Anderson
Chinonso Anokwute
Amanda R. Arceo
Amir Arefian
Ashkon M. Ariaee
Daniella Ashouri
Aris Avedisian
Sara Awad
Shadi N. Azad
Nicole D. Ballard
Jina Katura Ballenger
Henry Barkhordarian
Justine E. Barraza
Rocco D. Basile
Nadya Ashley Bayliss
Michael Behboud
Aria J. Beizai
Michaela Bekkerman
Kevin A. Beltran Rivas
Gittee S. Benhamou
Tessa M. Benoit
Cindy Y. Berganza
Laura T. Bertrand
Danielle J. Blackwell
Cole J. Bohlen
Melinda Boyajyan
Edward Q. Brickell
Donald J. Bullock
Itzel E. Burgos
Rachel Bustillos
Ernesto Daniel Bustinza
Jenny Alexandra Bustos
Ally V. Campbell
Jacob J. Caplan
Samira R. Carpenter
Francisco M. Castro
Nika Chegenizadeh
Daniel H. Chun
Kelsey E. Cohen
Ladijah Corder
Lawrence B. Curtis
Roksana M. Czech
Aria Dardashti
Shara Patty Darden
Marola A. Daus
Shayan Davatgar

Ashley K. Davis
Briana K. Davolio
Anayensy De La Cruz-
Zepeda
Sarah P. Dean-
Gooderham
Camaryn E. Del Guercio
Robert S. Del Toro
Dylan F. Derakhshanian
Maya H. Dilanian
Cassandra C. Diviak
Jamie DuBose
Bryana A. Espinoza
Ashley M. Farris
Sean R. Fiore
Denise Fitter
Raul Garcia
Rima R. Gasparyan
Nikdel Ghaemi
Matthew Ghalchi
Anthony J. Gilmore
Edwin R. Giron-
Montenegro
Jason Golriz
Daniel A. Golub
Anahi D. Gonzalez
Cassandra Gonzalez
Michaela K. A.
GoodarziRad
David L. Gray
Samuel E. Greene
Michael N. Habhab
Anna M. Haflich
Sarah A. Hayden
Liza Hayrapetyan
Jennifer A. Hays
Jensen Hedley
Victoria A. Hernandez
Norvik Hovsepian
Andrew Hutchings
Desirae L. Ibarra
Mohammad S. Ibrahim
Lucy Igarian
Ilene Isayan
Radha Jagasia
Henna F. Jamal
Brendan A. Johnson
Madeline Jones
Michael E. Josephson
Harriet R. Joya
Aubrey Corinne-Willis
Kaiser
James Karaoglanian
Kira Kiara
Ghyun Kim

Ella Grace Kimbell
Silvia E. Kirolos
Elliot N. Labib
Lauren K. Lacon
Julia M. Lafferty
Viet-Long Truong Le
Jonathan Z. Levin
Hooshawn Louyeh
Robyn Kailiokalani Malaya
Areg Manasian
Lauren Marcarelli
Mihran Markarian
Pahola A. Mateo Gonzalez
Sydney L. Mathis
Annabelle Rose Mattaliano
Jenna McIntosh
Kamilah Z. McMillon
Evelyn L. Medrano
Elena V. Mekikyan
Artur Mheryan
Jessica A. Mijares
Sarah A. Miller
Anahit Minasian
Miko Minasian
Miro Minasian
Edgar Minasyan
Samantha A. Monroe
Julianna Angela R. Montano
Brianna D. Morales
Monica A. Moreno
Karin Moskalensky
Cecilia E. Myers
Soovya N. Nagin
Nusha Nasiri
Kristy Ngo
Catherine J. Nohra
Sean W. Nolan
Navid Nour
David Olmedo-Barrera
Blake A. Osborn
Graham Outerbridge
Yana Ovsepian
Cynthia Lizbeth Padilla
Ara Pak
Cynthia N. Panosian
Mary Pappas
Natalie I. Parsi
Joseph F. Perliss
Molly R. Prendes
Jacob D. Rabbanian
Isel R. Ramirez
Hayden M. Rexroad
Tanya J. Reyes
Brian Ritter
Ariannie X. Rodriguez
Hailey S. Roknipour

Leslie A. Rowan
Matthew D. Saadatfar
Samantha Alejandra
Salas
Lucia D. Saldivar-Lozano
Tatiana K. Samouie
John P. Sanchez
Saro Sandaljjan
Michelle E. Sasoon
Devin A. Sawyer
Andrew Secaida
Katie A. Selko
Alec Sepetjian
Shania Jaine Q. Sevandra
Kristen N. Shear

Ramneet K. Sidhu
Ramon J. Sison
Olivia M. Slayton
Joel R. Solis
Setareh Soroush
Meghan N. Sproule
Joel Sebastian Strote
Nicolas Swanger
Jessica R. Talavera
Ahmed Tar
Eden Taranto
Aryan P. Tarighat
Arian Tavakoli
Nastassia Tiangco
Carol Y. Tognetti

Maria Lianne G. Urriza
Luis A. Vega
Kyle K. Vuong
Shawn R. Wadhwani
Layne A. Watson
Kamron G. Williams
Sydney E. Wong
Yaron Yasmeh
Brandon H. Young
Zarish Zahid
Suzanna Zaroyan
Natalia Zepeda
Zhenyuan Zhu

Biederman Scholars

The Donald E. Biederman Entertainment, Media, and Sports Law Institute of Southwestern established the Biederman Scholars program in an effort to recognize academic excellence and expand opportunities for promising future entertainment lawyers. Students selected as Biederman Scholars are eligible for special entertainment and media law educational, networking, and other mentoring opportunities. To be considered as a Biederman Scholar, students must be in the top twenty percent of their class, have excelled in Copyright, and have a demonstrated interest in entertainment, media, sports, or music law. Candidates are selected by the Biederman faculty and Associate Dean of the Biederman Institute.

Daniella Ashouri
Sydney L. Mathis
Navid Nour

Cynthia Lizbeth Padilla
David R. Urbina
Luis A. Vega

George and Katrina Woolverton Public Service Award

Established in 2010 through the generosity of Southwestern alumni George '75 and Katrina '02 Woolverton, the George and Katrina Woolverton Public Service Award is given to one graduating student in recognition of demonstrated and extraordinary dedication to public interest law activities while at Southwestern.

Sarah A. Hayden

Woolverton Family Public Interest Award

The Woolverton Family Public Interest Award honors one graduating student in recognition of exceptional dedication to public interest law activities while at Southwestern.

Donald J. Bullock

Harvey L. and Lillian Silbert Public Interest Fellowship Program

The Harvey L. and Lillian Silbert Public Interest Fellowship Program was established in 2000 by the Harvey L. and Lillian Silbert Foundation. This program permits students who are selected as Silbert Fellows to receive grants that will enable them to work and gain legal experience at nonprofit public interest organizations. The Silbert Foundation's generous gift not only assists numerous legal service providers but also benefits Southwestern students by providing them an opportunity to gain practical legal experience and exposure to public interest work.

Shara Patty Darden

Public Interest Law Summer Grant Program

The Public Interest Law Committee's Summer Grant Program was established in 1990 with the mission of providing financial support to students seeking full-time summer clerkships with a nonprofit legal services organization providing no-cost legal assistance to underserved, marginalized communities. This program makes it possible for students to acquire the practical experience necessary to address the needs of indigent communities. Recipients are selected annually based on the merit of their proposed summer clerk positions, participation in on-campus public interest activities, community work, and commitment to pro bono or public interest career practice.

Cynthia A. Aceves
Diana G. Aguilar
Jennifer Alvarez
Shadi N. Azad
Itzel E. Burgos
Francisco M. Castro
Sarah P. Dean-Gooderham
Maya H. Dilanian
Bryana A. Espinoza
Susana Fuentes
Edwin R. Giron-Montenegro

Daniel A. Golub
Anahi D. Gonzalez
Alexandra E. Kerecman
Sydney L. Mathis
Isel R. Ramirez
Kimberly S. Recarte
Samara Renteria
Katie A. Selko
Jessica R. Talavera
Carol Y. Tognetti
Maria Lianne G. Urriza

Public Interest Law Service Award

Southwestern's Public Interest Law Service Award honors selected graduating students who demonstrated significant dedication to public interest law activities while at Southwestern.

Diana G. Aguilar
Jennifer Alvarez
Anthony J. Gilmore
Daniel A. Golub
Desirae L. Ibarra

Public Service Program

Southwestern's Public Service Program was established in 2009 to encourage students to perform 25 hours of service each year as part of the legal profession's responsibility to ensure equal access to justice for all communities. In partnership with civil legal aid, nonprofit services organizations, and government agencies, students provide direct legal services, litigation and policy advocacy, and community legal education in a wide variety of settings and contexts. Students who perform a minimum of 75 hours of public service throughout their law school experience receive special recognition at commencement and have the notation "Public Service Distinction" placed on their law school transcript.

Jennifer Alvarez
Rocco D. Basile
Aria J. Beizai
Cindy Y. Berganza
Donald J. Bullock
Maya H. Dilanian
Cassandra C. Diviak
Alexander R. Drew

Daniel A. Golub
Sarah A. Hayden
Desirae L. Ibarra
Olivia Catalina McGovern
Daniel E. Medina
Kimberly M. Quijada
Isel R. Ramirez
Maria Lianne G. Urriza

Judge Harry Pregerson Public Service Fellows

Made possible by a grant from the Rodan Family Foundation in honor of the esteemed 9th Circuit Judge, the Judge Harry Pregerson (JHP) Public Service Fellows are selected students who demonstrate exceptional dedication to public service, and who are most likely to dedicate their legal careers to working on behalf of underserved communities and causes. Through funded summer fellowships, specialized training, leadership development, and facilitated interaction with practitioners, academics, and like-minded students, JHP Public Service Fellows also serve as an integral part of creating a service-minded culture, community, and leadership at Southwestern.

JHP Public Service Fellows undergo a competitive committee review process comprised of Southwestern faculty, staff, and alumni who select JHP Public Service Fellows on the basis of merit, potential for leadership, and demonstrated commitment or significant achievements in the field of public service.

Donald J. Bullock
Alexander R. Drew
Sarah A. Hayden

Desirae L. Ibarra
Maria Lianne G. Urriza

The History of Academic Dress

VINTAGE SOUTHWESTERN CLASS PHOTO



The traditional academic attire that we see as a colorful part of commencement exercises had its beginnings in the Middle Ages when the university first developed as an institution of higher learning.

The most important centers of intellectual life in the 10th century were the monasteries—the centers least affected by the disorders of the time. The relative stability of the monastic life left monks free to develop systematic graded education for the first time in the history of Western society. The first students were monks and priests, and the costumes they wore were more for protection from the weather than as distinctive regalia for the scholarly way of life. Caps were a necessity in the cold, drafty buildings, and capes and hoods were also worn for warmth. In later centuries, as the British universities passed from the control of the monasteries, the costumes took on brighter colors, and the hood was singled out as the item to be made distinctive for various degrees by color, trimming, and lining.

The use of caps, gowns, and hoods has been continuous in the United States since colonial times—the tradition having been transplanted from Oxford and Cambridge to the New World. However, the dress code was modified and the vivid colors so prevalent in Great Britain were eliminated. Before 1895, faculty academic costumes varied widely from university to university. Since few people knew the distinguishing marks or colors for the various degrees, the dress code was standardized for all American universities. At the same time, students began a movement that would spread throughout the country to make academic regalia an integral part of the commencement ceremony. A desire to make the festivities more impressive and interesting as well as to add grace and dignity to the ceremony led the students in this successful endeavor.

Southwestern students participating in today's commencement ceremony are wearing regalia for the degrees of Master of Laws and Juris Doctor. The gowns have full, rounded sleeves marked with three purple velvet bars. The academic hoods for both degrees bear purple and white edging identifying Southwestern Law School as the institution conferring the degree. The purple tassel signifies a legal studies degree.

Students who have been on the Dean's List (the top ten percent of each class at the end of each academic year) or participated in academic co-curricular honors or extracurricular service programs are wearing stoles in distinguishing colors as follows: Dean's List—scarlet with white lettering; Dean's Fellow—light green with white lettering; Writing Fellow—light purple with white lettering; Moot Court Honors Program—white with purple lettering; Negotiation Honors Program—green with white lettering; Trial Advocacy Honors Program—purple with white lettering; *Law Review*—gold with purple lettering; *Journal of International Law*—purple with gold lettering; *Journal of Media and Entertainment Law*—silver with purple lettering; *Los Angeles Public Interest Law Journal*—maroon with silver lettering; Student Bar Association—navy blue with gold lettering; *Law Commentator*—light blue with white lettering; and the Public Service Program—blue with white lettering. Southwestern Torch Bearers are wearing silver cords, honoring their connection with Southwestern alumni, faculty, or staff members. Military veterans are wearing red, white, and blue cords. Students with concentrations are distinguished as follows: Civil Litigation and Advocacy—gold; Criminal Law and Advocacy—teal; Critical Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies—forest green; Entertainment and Media Law—purple; Labor and Employment Law—white; Public Interest Law—burgundy; and Technology Law and Entrepreneurship—royal blue.

Congratulations, Graduates!



This program contains official lists of names of graduates who received degrees in December 2024 and unofficial lists of names of candidates for May, July, and December 2025 graduation. Degree conferral for anticipated May, July, and December 2025 graduates is not official until final grades for the student's final semester or term have been entered and graduation requirements have been verified. Southwestern's official registry for conferral of degrees is the Registrar's Office.