

Anahid Gharakhanian
agharakhanian@swlaw.edu
213.738.6786

Southwestern Law School
3050 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90010

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Southwestern Law School, Los Angeles, CA

Vice Dean (2012 to 2016, appointed by Interim Dean Austen Parrish and continued service under Dean Susan Westerberg Prager). (2020 to present, appointed by Dean Susan Westerberg Prager; continuing service under Dean Darby Dickerson)

Current Vice Dean (Academics) role includes oversight of the following: Faculty; adjunct faculty; Associate Dean of SCALE Program (2-year J.D.); Evening Program Director; Caregiving Students' Co-Advisors; Concentration Directors; Honors Program Directors and Faculty Advisors; Writing Center Director; Legal Analysis, Writing, and Skills Director; Associate Dean for Learning Outcomes; Associate Dean for Student Services; Associate Dean for Admissions; and Externship Program

Professor, Legal Analysis, Writing & Skills (Summer 2002 to present; last taught Fall 2020)

Director of the Externship Program (Summer 2005-2022); **Co-Director** (Summer 2022 to present)

Select Service:

- WSCUC Core Drafting Committee (2025-present)
- Academic Standards Committee (2005-2016; 2022-present)
- Admissions Committee (2014-present; 2017-present, Committee Chair)
- Curriculum Committee (2012-16; 2012-14, Committee Chair)
- Externship Committee (2002-2004; 2005-present; 2005-2022, Committee Chair)
- Faculty Recruitment Committee (2012-2013; 2023-present; 2024-2025, Committee Co-Chair)
- Mission & Values Committee (Formerly Dean's Taskforce on Equity, Inclusion & Belonging) (2020-present)
- SMaRT (Southwestern Managing Risk Team) (2022-present)
- Student Support & Emergency Team (2021-2022; 2024-present)
- Title IX Committee (2017-2024)
- Caregiving Students' Working Group (2024-2025, Chair)
- AI Detection Working Group (2023-2024, Chair)
- Status and Equity Task Force (2022-2024)
- Campus Health & Safety Team (formerly COVID Response Team) (2020-2023)
- ABA Self-Study Ad Hoc Committee (2013-2015, 2020-2022)
- Faculty Advisor, Armenian Law Students Association (2002-present)

DISTINCTIONS

Endowment to Honor Anahid Gharakhanian, established in 2018 by Charles Fairchild, Past Chair, Southwestern Law School Board of Trustees, providing three annual awards: (1) The Anahid Gharakhanian Excellence in Teaching Award; (2) The Anahid Gharakhanian Scholarship; and (3) The Anahid Gharakhanian Award for Outstanding Service.

AccessLex Institute Admission Innovation Grant Recipient, September 2025, for innovative waitlist admissions interview project co-led with Vice Dean Natalie Rodriguez.

Armenian Bar Association Education Leadership Award, January 2024.

EDUCATION

Harvard Law School, Juris Doctorate, Cum Laude 1992

- Prison Legal Assistance Project - represented state inmates in disciplinary and parole revocation hearings before the Massachusetts Department of Corrections

University of California, Los Angeles, Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy, Magna Cum Laude 1989

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Chadbourne & Parke LLP, Los Angeles, CA

1992-98 Associate Attorney; June to October 1999 contract projects

Responsible for all phases of complex litigation in state and federal courts as well as arbitration proceedings - ranging from defense of class actions and shareholder derivative suits to prosecution and defense of insurance and reinsurance, employment, business transaction, high-profile family law, and various commercial matters. Draft pleadings and all types of motions, conduct all aspects of discovery, present oral argument, negotiate settlements, brief and argue appeals.

PUBLICATIONS

- A. Gharakhanian, N. Rodriguez, "Breaking the Admissions Mold: Graduates' Personal Stories and the Admissions Tool that Made it Possible," *Southwestern Law Review* (forthcoming Nov. 2025)
- A. Gharakhanian, N. Rodriguez, E. Anderson, "'More than the Numbers': Empirical Evidence of an Innovative Approach to Admission," *107 Minn. Law Review* 2421 (2023)
- Law School Survey of Student Engagement blog post, June 2022, with Natalie Rodriguez, "Using Meaningful Admissions Data to Improve Legal Education and the Profession"
- AALS Section on Empirical Study of Legal Education and the Legal Profession, Spring 2022 Newsletter, "More than the Numbers: Empirical Evidence of an Innovative Approach to Admissions"

- CLE Self-Study, with co-author Carolyn Young Larmore, prepared a video version of our “Achieving Externship Success” paper and quiz to provide one-hour CLE self-study, Fall 2020
- A. Gharakhanian, C. Young Larmore, C. Parlett-Pelleriti, “Achieving Externship Success: An Empirical Study of the All-Important Law School Externship Experience,” 45 S. Ill. Univ. Law J. 165 (2021)
- A. Gharakhanian, “ABA Standard 305’s Guided Reflections: A Perfect Fit for Guided Fieldwork,” 14 Clinical Law Review 61 (2007)

PRESENTATIONS

- Southwestern Law Review Symposium Honoring Professor Catherine Carpenter, February 2025 – “Breaking the Admissions Mold: Graduates’ Personal Stories and the Admissions Tool that Made it Possible”
- Externship12 Conference, October 2024, Boston. Co-presenter, “From Data to Action: Responsive Externship Policies to Student Needs and Interests”
- CLEA Externship Committee-ABA Site Visit Panel, October 2023. Invited panelist
- Pacific Coast Association of Pre-Law Advisors Conference – co-presentation with Natalie Rodriguez, “More than the Numbers – Empowering Applicants through an Innovative Admissions Approach,” June 2023
- SoCalEx Webinar: Externship Supervision Best Practices – Spotlight on Feedback, April 2023. Lead Co-Organizer, presenter, and moderator
- Presentations in the Philippines to the Northern Luzon law schools as well as Manila law schools related to development of externship programs, March 2023. Invited by the Asia Foundation as plenary speaker and consultant
- RISE Alliance and USC Gould School of Law’s symposium, Intersectionality and Social Movements: A DEI Tool for Coalition Building in Legal Education, January 2023. Panelist
- Minnesota Law Review symposium, Leaving Langdell Behind: Reimagining Legal Education for a New Era, October 2022. Invited panelist; colleague presented our work
- AALS Clinical Section’s New Clinicians Program, May 2022. Plenary speaker
- AALS Empirical Section Workshop for Beginner Empiricists, June 2021. Planning group member and panelist
- CalEx CLE Webinar: Supervising Students Remotely, May 2020. Planning Committee Member and presenter
- Presentations accepted at Externships10 (March 2020), Association of American Law Schools Clinical Conference (May 2020), and Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference (July 2020)
- Externships10 (October 2020), virtual conference – co-presenter, “Externships Success and the Contributing Factors – Time for an Empirical View”; AALS Clinical (April 2021), virtual conference – co-presenter, “The Basics of Conducting Empirical Research to Shape Pedagogy or Promote Policy Change”
- CalEx Conference, June 2019, Stanford. Planning Committee Member. Lead organizer and presenter with other externship colleagues re (1) Externships and Learning Outcomes Assessments, and (2) Updates re Externships and Sexual Harassment/Discrimination Policies

- AALS Clinical Conference, May 2019, San Francisco. Works-in-Progress presentation re empirical research study "What Factors Lead to Externship Success"
- Externships9 Conference, March 2018, Georgia. Presentation with faculty from Duke and Cleveland-Marshall: "Training Fieldwork Supervisors: Foundations and Innovations – An Empirical View"
- National Conference of Bar Examiners Annual Bar Admission Conference, May 2017, San Diego. Presentation on behalf of IAALS: Foundations for Practice
- Greater Los Angeles Consortium of Externships (GLACE, now SoCalEx) Supervisor Training Forums, lead co-organizer and presenter, May and September 2017, April and May 2014, May 2011, September 2008, and June 2005
- Externships8 Conference, March 2016, Cleveland. Presentation with faculty from UCLA and Loyola as well as IAALS Director of Educating Tomorrow's Lawyers: "Foundations for Practice Survey – 24k+ Respondents: Implications for Externships"
- Externships7 Conference, February 2014, Denver. Presentation with faculty from Loyola Law School: "Dollars and Sense: What Makes Sense for Effective Experiential Education"
- Institute of Law Teaching and Learning Conference, Law Teaching for Adjunct Faculty – Becoming an Adjunct Workshop panelist, April 2013
- Externships6 Conference, March 2012, Boston. Presentation with faculty from Loyola Law School:
"Ethics and Professionalism: A Guide to Success in the Profession"
- Legal Writing Institute Conference, June 2010, Florida. Presentation: "Professionalism: Critical Lessons to Complement Legal Analysis, Writing, and Skills"
- Externships5 Conference, March 2010, Florida. Presentation with faculty from Chapman Law School related to a multi-year data compilation project involving several Greater Los Angeles law school externship programs, on which I took the lead
- Externships4 Conference, March 2008, Seattle. Workshop: "Transition to Practice: How Externships Relate to the Mission of the School and the Careers Its Graduates Typically Pursue"
- Co-Organizer, Externships3 Conference, March 2006, Los Angeles. Presentations: "Online 'Guided Reflections' – An Innovative and Effective Way to Satisfy New Standard 305(e)(7)"; "Setting Up and Administering an Online System for the Academic Component of an Externship Program"

SELECT COMMUNITY AND OTHER SERVICE

- Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS) "Foundations for Practice" Study Advisory Committee (2020-present)
- Southern California Externship Consortium and California Externship Consortium active member/facilitator (2005-present)
- LSAC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Member (2021-2023)
- Spearheaded agreement between Southwestern and the Human Rights Defender's Offices of the Republics of Armenia and Artsakh to host students at Southwestern (2019-present)
- American University of Armenia LL.M. Program, Program Review – external reviewer (2021-2022)
- Externships11 National Conference Planning Committee (2021-2022)

- CalEx CLE Webinar: Beyond Recruitment: Inclusion, Equity, and Belonging in Externships, March 2021. Planning Committee
- IAALS Focus Groups Facilitator for “Building A Better Bar” Study (June 2019 to Feb. 2020)
- AALS Clinical Section Externships Co-Chair (May 2019-May 2021)
- AALS Empirical Section on Empirical Study of Legal Education and the Legal Profession, Committee on Special Initiatives (Jan. 2021-Jan. 2022)
- Externships10 National Conference Planning Committee (2019-2020)
- AALS Balance Section (Executive Committee Member 2015; Board Member 2016-2017)
- ABA Rule of Law Initiative, Armenia Legal Education Committee Member (2016-2017)
- Advisory Committee Member, Korean Churches for Community Development (2015-2019)
- Southwestern Armenia Fellowship Executive Committee (2011-2015) – spearheaded the agreement between Southwestern Law School and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia to have an American-trained attorney work with the Ministry to assist in the development of rule of law; spearheaded implementation
- Temporary Judge, Small Claims Court, California Superior Court (1997-2001)

LANGUAGES

Fluent in Armenian; conversational Farsi