

COUNSELOR

A Gracious, Grounded Judicial Superstar

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*The Honorable
Tani Cantil-Sakauye '84*

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

In 2022-23, UC Davis Law emerged with a renewed sense of optimism fueled by the King Hall community's remarkable accomplishments and seemingly endless potential.

Although our community and world continue to face many challenges, the progress we made in recent months merits celebration. From our graduates' job success to our national agenda-steering faculty, headlining-grabbing alumni, and rankings-topping focus on diversity, equity and inclusion, UC Davis Law's impact is profound.

Fall 2022 ushered in exciting developments. The incoming class was among our most diverse ever. Nearly 60% are students of color, women make up a similar percentage, and almost a quarter of the Class of 2025 identifies as LGBTQ+. Nearly 20 percent are first-generation college graduates.

New faculty members Amelia Miazad and Mary Ziegler helped guide the national conversations on ESG (environmental, social, governance) issues and the future of reproductive rights, respectively. Professor Miazad weighed in for the New York Times on ESG and the fashion industry and brought vital context to our wonderful UC Davis Law Review symposium "The 'E' in ESG."

One of the world's foremost legal historians of the U.S. abortion debate, Professor Ziegler has been the leading voice in the national media on the myriad legal implications of the Supreme Court's *Dobbs* ruling. Professor Ziegler also has published two acclaimed books in the past year.

We will enhance our faculty further next fall by welcoming back acclaimed constitutional law scholar Professor Vikram Amar — former UC Davis Law senior associate dean and current University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign College of Law dean — and introducing new King Hall Professors Chimène Keitner, an expert on international law and human rights who currently holds a chair at University of California College of the Law, San Francisco, and Nila Bala, current legislative director for NYU Law's Policing Project.

We always knew our alums rank among the world's best attorneys, judges and activists. Now the world knows it, too. In 2022, President Joe Biden awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Sister Simone Campbell '77, a tireless advocate for social causes. Chief Justice of California Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye '84, another great friend to King Hall, made news in 2022 by announcing she would leave the judiciary after a long, stellar career. Read about the former chief justice and new state Supreme Court Associate Justice Kelli Evans '94, who continues King Hall's legacy on the state high court, in our cover package (pages 16-20).

As we wrap up the academic year, I remain awed by how fully our alumni, students, faculty and staff embody the King Hall community spirit and pursuit of equal justice for all. I hope that as you read about your community in these pages, you join me in taking pride in what we have accomplished together.

Sincerely,



Kevin R. Johnson

*Law school dean, Mabie-Apallas Professor of Public Interest Law,
and professor of Chicana/o Studies at the University of California, Davis*



**We always knew
our alums rank
among the world's
best attorneys,
judges and activists.
Now the world
knows it, too.**

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built consensus and a
better court system



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making a difference



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- 1) The California International Law Center welcomed local dignitaries to King Hall in September. Congressman **John Garamendi** delivered the lecture “Reflections on Protecting Democracy.”
- 2) Mexican Consul General for Sacramento **Liliana Ferrer** (with Professor **Amagda Pérez**, Associate Dean **Beth Greenwood** and Dean **Kevin R. Johnson**) discussed the Mexican government’s strategies to protect the diaspora in the United States.
- 3) Professors **Katherine Florey**, **Elizabeth Joh**, **Courtney Joslin**, **Aaron Tang** and **Mary Ziegler** discussed the implications of *Roe v. Wade*’s reversal in the September panel discussion “**After the Decision: The Fall of Roe v. Wade and What Comes Next,**” which drew more than 300 audience members. Ziegler, one of the world’s leading historians of the U.S. abortion debate, also organized the larger “**After Dobbs: New Directions in Reproductive Justice**” conference with scholars, activists, and state lawmakers from around the country in late March 2023.
- 4) Top legal scholars from around the U.S. converged on UC Davis Law in September for the second annual **Workshop for Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) and Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) Women in the Legal Academy**. Aimed at supporting and mentoring women who are aspiring to enter or are in the legal academy, the workshop drew around 70 participants (in-person and virtual). Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs **Afra Afsharipour** and Professor **Lisa Ikemoto** served on the event’s planning committee. Afsharipour and UC Davis Law Professors **Elizabeth Joh** and **Amelia Miazad** participated in panel discussions.
- 5) October’s “**Clean Water Act at 50**” conference, presented by the law school’s California Environmental Law & Policy Center, offered a retrospective on one of the most important environmental laws in modern history. Professor **Rick Frank** (pictured at podium) organized the event, and Professors **Karrigan Börk** and **Albert Lin** moderated panel discussions.
- 6) The **Aoki Center for Critical Race and Nation Studies**, directed by Dean **Kevin R. Johnson** and Professor **Raquel Aldana**, presented its annual interdisciplinary speaker series and Aoki and Hispanic Serving Institution Initiatives series featuring scholars from Davis and beyond. In October, School of Education Professor Danny C. Martinez (center, with Professor Aldana and UC Davis HSI Director Lina Mendez) addressed “Leveraging Black and Latinx Youth Ingenuity for Linguistic Solidarity.” 🌍

Renowned Speakers Address

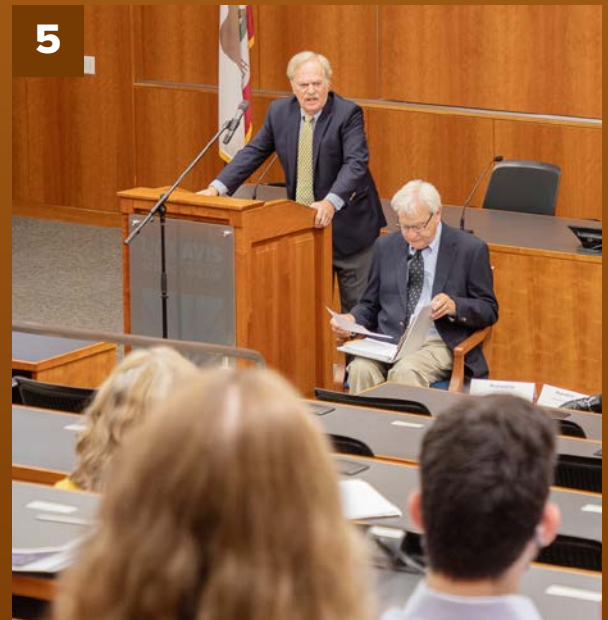
URGENT TO

In 2022, UC Davis Law hosted lectures and conferences featuring leading policy makers and legal scholars

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PICS



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2022-23 ALUMNI OF THE MONTH



**Laura Urias,
Class of 2006**

Laura Urias '06 has her own immigration practice in East Los Angeles. She has worked as a staff attorney for the United Farm Workers Foundation and Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice.



**Austin Quinn-Davidson,
Class of 2007**

The UC Davis School of Law 2022 Rising Star Alumna Award winner Austin Quinn-Davidson '07 was the first woman and the first openly gay person to serve as mayor of Anchorage, Alaska. She continues to serve on the Anchorage Assembly.



**Michael J. Holmes,
Class of 1998**

Michael J. Holmes '98 is the Office Operating Partner for Allen Matkins' San Diego office, where he focuses on commercial real estate transactions.



**Lynn Miyamoto,
Class of 1986**

Lynn Miyamoto '86 has a law practice focused on immigration in Sherman Oaks, California. She is a member of the UC Davis School of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors and serves on the Development Committee.



**Robert Brennan,
Class of 1987**

Since 1991, Robert Brennan '87 has protected consumers and personal injury victims at his own general practice firm, The Law Offices of Robert F. Brennan in Los Angeles.



**Brian Kang,
Class of 2003**

Brian Kang '03 is chair of Greenberg Glusker's Real Estate Group. He has been listed in Best Lawyers in America since 2018 and in Southern California Super Lawyers since 2013.



**Iris Yang,
Class of 1982**

Iris Yang '82 was a municipal law attorney at Best Best & Krieger LLP's Sacramento office until retiring in 2021. From 1994 to 2019, she was the City Attorney for Paso Robles.



**Rachel Ray,
Class of 2011**

Rachel Ray '11 is the UC Davis School of Law 2023 Rising Star Alumna Award winner. She is a managing attorney for the UC Immigrant Legal Services Center.



**Penny Westfall,
Class of 1984**

Penny Westfall '84 began her career as a nurse and retired as Sutter Health's Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, Bay and Valley Areas. Penny served three terms on the King Hall Alumni Association Board of Directors. (Penny sadly passed away in February 2023.)



**Justice Kelli Evans,
Class of 1994**

King Hall 2023 Distinguished Alumna Award winner Justice Kelli Evans '94 was sworn in as an Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court in January. Previously, Justice Evans served as an Alameda County Superior Court Judge.



**Ron Erickson,
Class of 1974**

Ron Erickson '74 is the founder and chairman of Know Labs, which is developing a noninvasive glucose monitor.

PROFESSORS HUNT, LEE JOIN THE AMERICAN LAW INSTITUTE

Professors **John P. Hunt** and **Peter S. Lee** have been elected to the American Law Institute, the nation's most prestigious non-governmental law reform organization. UC Davis Law now counts 23 current or emeriti faculty in the ALI.

Hunt's area of scholarly interest is law and finance. His recent work focuses on student-loan bankruptcy. Previously, his scholarship has addressed municipal bankruptcy, credit rating agencies, and mortgage securitization, transfer and modification.

Before joining the UC Davis faculty in 2009, Hunt was Research Director of the Law and Finance Program at the Berkeley Center for Law, Business and the Economy. He also has worked as a regulatory lawyer and litigator at two major law firms and as a credit derivatives research analyst.

Hunt received a J.D. from Yale Law School, a master's in financial engineering from the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business and a bachelor's from Harvard College. He served as a law clerk to the Honorable Stephen F. Williams of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

Lee teaches and writes in the field of intellectual property law, particularly focusing on patent law, innovation,

and technology transfer. His current scholarship explores the institutional context of innovation and the intersection of intellectual property law and the structure of innovative and creative industries.

His scholarship has appeared in *The Yale Law Journal*, *Stanford Law Review*, *California Law Review*, *Duke Law Journal*, *Michigan Law Review*, and other leading journals. He has received numerous awards for his scholarly work, including the UC Davis Chancellor's Fellowship, the Samsung-Stanford Patent Prize, and inclusion in *West/Thomson's annual Intellectual Property Law Review*.

Lee directs the law school's new Center for Innovation, Law, and Society, which seeks to explore the legal and social implications of innovation, science and technology. Lee proposed the creation of the center, which launched this spring with events featuring top scholars and attorneys from King Hall and elsewhere.

Lee holds a J.D. from Yale Law School and a bachelor's degree from Harvard University. He joined the Davis faculty after clerking for Judge Barry G. Silverman of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Professor Lee received the Distinguished Teaching Award in 2016. 🏆



John P. Hunt



Peter S. Lee



Kelli Evans '94



Stacy Boulware Eurie '95



Shama Hakim Mesiwala '98



Jose Castillo '06



Trisha Hirashima '04



UC DAVIS LAW ALUMNI Join, Rise in Judicial Ranks

King Hall alumni took the bench and ascended within the judicial ranks in impressive numbers in 2022 and 2023. These accomplished jurists reflect the inclusive excellence that defines the King Hall community.

Alameda Superior Court Judge **Kelli Evans '94** was sworn in as the California Supreme Court's newest associate justice in January. (Read more about Evans on page 20.)

Gov. Gavin Newsom appointed Sacramento Superior Court Judges **Stacy Boulware Eurie '95** and **Shama Hakim Mesiwala '98** to the Third District Court of Appeal. Boulware Eurie was the keynote speaker for UC Davis Law's Class of 2022 commencement. Mesiwala is a longtime UC Davis Law adjunct professor.

San Diego Superior Court Judge **Jose Castillo '06** has been appointed to serve as an associate justice of the Fourth District Court of Appeal, Division One. Castillo is a former King Hall Alumni Association board member.

Newsom appointed **Trisha Hirashima '04** as a Placer Superior Court judge. Hirashima previously served as a senior legal research attorney and part-time commissioner for the court.

Stephen Lau '02 has been appointed to the Sacramento Superior Court. General counsel at the Sacramento County Employees' Retirement System from 2019-2022, Lau previously served as assistant general counsel at the California Department of Business Oversight.

Mona Nemat '04 has become a Riverside Superior Court judge. A partner at Best Best & Krieger in 2022 and from 2007-2013, Nemat was a shareholder at the law office of Brissman & Nemat from 2013-22.

Newsom appointed **Fernando Valle '02** as an Orange County Superior Court judge. Valle previously was an Orange County senior deputy public defender.

Esmeralda Zendejas '06 has been appointed as a San Joaquin Superior Court judge. Zendejas previously worked as an attorney for the Department of Industrial Relations, as a deputy attorney general, and in several positions with California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.

United States Attorney General Merrick Garland appointed **Joyce L. Noche '99** as a judge for the Immigration Court in Santa Ana. From 2018-2022, Noche was the legal services director at Immigrant Defenders Law Center. 🏡



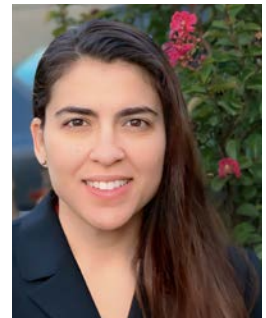
Stephen Lau '02



Mona Nemat '04



Fernando Valle '02



Esmeralda Zendejas '06



Joyce L. Noche '99



Sister Simone Campbell '77 with President Joe Biden, who presented Campbell with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in July 2022.

A SPIRIT OF SERVICE

Sister Simone Campbell '77 has led a life centered on making a difference

**“It’s about caring
for those who are
most often left out.
How can I, who has
been so gifted and
blessed, not seek to
include all?”**

— Sister Simone Campbell

By Catherine Kenny

Sister **Simone Campbell '77** jokes that she belongs to a community of troublemakers, referring to the religious community she joined when she was just 19 — the Sisters of Social Service. Her brand of “trouble” has led to a long string of successes as a religious leader, attorney, author and tireless advocate for racial and economic justice. Last July, she was recognized with the 2022 Presidential Medal of Freedom, the

nation’s highest civilian honor, for her decades-long advocacy for justice.

“I’ve never liked unfairness. I’ve never liked a power imbalance,” she said. “From a young age, I just had this idea that you had to act. You had to step in and fix things.”

Her pursuit of a law degree was rooted in this desire to make a difference. During one of her early experiences

with the Sisters of Social Service, she remembered giving testimony about proposed tenants' rights legislation at the Oregon state Capitol in Salem. When one of the legislators asked her about a particular covenant, she didn't know how to answer. "I went back to Portland and said, 'I have to go to law school.'" A legal background would provide the necessary tools to deal with legislation.

She said she was attracted to UC Davis School of Law because of its commitment to civil rights and poverty law, and because it offered clinics at the state Capitol. Shortly after graduating, she founded the Oakland Community Law Center, which provided legal services on a sliding-fee scale. More recently, she spent 17 years as executive director of NETWORK, a Catholic organization promoting social justice in public policy. Here, she focused on using tax law to benefit those who are most

Her advice for others who want to create change? "Listen with the ear of your heart and respond accordingly. Be engaged, step in and do it in community with others."

often left out, and lobbied on all kinds of economic justice issues, including health care, immigration reform and tax policy. Notably, her work was credited in helping to pass the Affordable Care Act in 2010. "It's about caring for those who are most often left out. How can I, who

has been so gifted and blessed, not seek to include all?"

In 2012, Campbell and the leadership at NETWORK found themselves at the center of controversy when the Vatican issued a reprimand to the Leadership Conference of Women Religious for promoting "radical feminist themes incompatible with the Catholic faith." Included in the censure was the criticism the Catholic nuns and lay staff at NETWORK were too progressive. "Criticism hurts when there's a truth in it, but they had no more truth than the man in the moon. We weren't going to be pressured by the hierarchy to say what wasn't true."

As it turns out, that reprimand served as an organizing force. Campbell scheduled a meeting and within weeks, Nuns on the Bus was formed and ready to debut with a road trip to oppose a then House-approved federal budget that slashed funding for safety-net programs. "Someone said I had to go in a 'wrapped' bus. That was the beginning of Nuns on the Bus. It was supposed to be a joke name."

Campbell is leading a new effort called "Understanding US" focused on political healing. She has received numerous awards including the Defender of Democracy Award from the Parliamentarians for Global Action and is the author of two books, *A Nun on the Bus* (HarperOne, 2014) and *Hunger for Hope* (Orbis Books, 2020).

Her advice for others who want to create change? "Listen with the ear of your heart and respond accordingly. Be engaged, step in and do it in community with others." 📖

This story originally was written for the spring/summer 2023 UC Davis Magazine.



Sister Simone Campbell '77 spoke to an audience at King Hall during an event in her honor in February.



DEAN JOHNSON RECEIVES

AALS' inaugural Michael A. Olivas Award

Dean **Kevin R. Johnson** has been awarded the Association of American Law Schools' inaugural Michael A. Olivas Award for Outstanding Leadership in Diversity and Mentoring in the Legal Academy. The award is a collective recognition by five AALS sections (Civil Rights, Education Law, Immigration Law, Minority Groups, and Student Services).

"I am incredibly honored to receive this award," Johnson stated in a press release announcing the honor. "I am especially touched because Michael was a friend, colleague, and an important mentor to me. He was a brilliant, prophetic scholar, and a risk-taking and path-breaking advocate for underrepresented groups in the legal academy, and the world. I am extremely grateful to be the first recipient of the Michael A. Olivas Award."

The award will serve as a memorial to Professor Olivas, an esteemed immigration law and higher education scholar

who died in April 2022. Olivas had most recently served as the William B. Bates Distinguished Chair in Law (Emeritus) and Director of the Institute for Higher Education Law and Governance at the University of Houston.

An internationally recognized scholar in the fields of immigration law and policy, refugee law, and civil rights, Johnson has served as dean since 2008.

During his time as dean, UC Davis Law has drawn national accolades for its focus on diversity, equity and inclusion, and for its rare majority-minority faculty. In fall 2020, Johnson created UC Davis Law's Racial Justice Speaker Series, which draws leading scholars from throughout the country.

Johnson received the award in January at the AALS Annual Meeting in San Diego. 🏛️

JOBS SUCCESS

Class of 2022 secures employment in record numbers

More than 90% of UC Davis Law's Class of 2022 has secured full-time legal employment, the highest jobs rate for a King Hall graduating class just out of law school in at least 15 years.

Career Services' emphasis on employer recruitment and individual relationships with students has yielded positive outcomes, Assistant Dean of Career Services **Craig Compton** said.

"Our numbers continue to rise," Compton said, in terms of employers participating in the law school's many Career Services programs. "Our entire office is dedicated to recruiting employers."

Employer engagement is spiking again. More than 260 participated in UC Davis Law's Small and Midsize Firm Fair, Public Interest and Government Job Fair, and in the law school's long-running on-campus interview (OCI) and resume-collection programs.

OCI drew 140 employers in fall 2022, a nearly 20% increase from fall 2021 and the highest number in more than a decade. More than 60 current UC Davis Law students received and accepted offers from some of the nation's most prestigious law firms.

The individual attention paid by Career Services counselors to students has been vital to recent jobs success. Counselors meet with each first-year student shortly after their arrival at King Hall and encourage more one-on-one meetings after that.

The Career Services office later assigns individual counselors to assist third-year students seeking post-bar employment. "We usually do that in January because we have an idea of who's still looking," Compton said. "Together we develop a tailored strategy for each student for exploring post-graduate opportunities." 📖



More than 90% of UC Davis Law's Class of 2022 has secured full-time legal employment, the highest jobs rate for a King Hall graduating class just out of law school in at least 15 years.

JUDGE RAMONA GARRETT '80

receives Solano County Bar Association award

In 1992, Garrett became the first female and first African American judge appointed to the Northern Solano Municipal Court. She served with distinction until 2015.

In November, the Solano County Bar Association recognized the extraordinary career of **Ramona Garrett '80** with its inaugural Legal Trailblazers Award.

Throughout her life, Garrett has overcome challenges. As a child, she spent time in the segregated schools of Arkansas while her family struggled to get by. Her father was in the Air Force, and the family moved around the world, from Libya to Japan. Eventually her family settled in Fairfield.

In high school, she became a mother. As a single mom with a newborn baby, she started college at Santa Clara University. Surviving on public assistance, scholarships, and loans, Garrett juggled motherhood and student life to earn her bachelor's degree in philosophy in 1974. After graduation, she found work as a salesperson for a cable television company in Fairfield. But she knew she wanted more.

Garrett was the first in her family to go to college, and relatives would ask her questions about their legal issues. She realized she was interested in the law and decided to visit King Hall. She has said that when she came to King Hall she immediately felt a sense of kinship.

As a student she excelled. She was president of the Black Law Students Association during her second year and remembers a family atmosphere among the students. Garrett also developed strong relationships with the faculty.

After graduating and passing the bar in 1980, Garrett joined a Vallejo civil law firm. She later became a prosecutor in Contra Costa County before joining the Solano County District Attorney's office in 1984.

Garrett then took on the infamous *People v. Stanley Verketis* case. The case involved a Vietnam veteran who killed a Fairfield police officer, a first in the city's history. Tensions ran high in the community, but Garrett prevailed, securing a conviction.

Appointed in 1992, Garrett served on the bench in Solano County for more than 23 years, first on the municipal and then the superior court. She was the county's first woman judge and first African American judge to sit on those courts.

At the Legal Trailblazers Award ceremony, UC Davis Law Dean Kevin R. Johnson introduced Garrett. California Supreme Court Associate Justice Martin Jenkins and Gov. Newsom's Judicial Appointments Secretary, Luis Céspedes, also were in attendance.

As part of the Admitted Students Weekend event this year, Judge Garrett was the keynote speaker at the MLK Dinner. 🌟



Judge Ramona Garrett '80



Bill Mantle '74, Karina Lee '24
and Dean Kevin R. Johnson.

BILL MANTLE '74, a true King Hall booster

One of UC Davis' biggest fans, **Bill Mantle '74** roots for Aggie sports teams and King Hall students with the same degree of enthusiasm.

To help ensure equal access to a UC Davis legal education, Mantle recently established the Mantle Family Scholarship. In 2021-22, he gave an extraordinary \$900,000 to UC Davis Law, including \$100,000 to further fund the scholarship. Mantle's gift helped lift the law school's 2021-22 fundraising total to an impressive \$2.63 million.

Karina Lee '24 said receiving the Mantle Family Scholarship was "the ultimate deciding factor" in bringing her to King Hall.

"I wanted to attend a law school like UC Davis where I would be taught by amazing professors in a supportive, collaborative

environment," Lee said. "I am extremely grateful that the scholarship created the opportunity for me to join the King Hall community."

Mantle gave \$800,000 toward a planned gift that now stands at \$3.8 million. It will support students' hands-on learning experiences in UC Davis Law's world-renowned clinics and elsewhere.

Explaining his extraordinary generosity toward his alma mater, Mantle said simply, "I am King Hall proud because we have such smart and committed students." 📖

RACIAL JUSTICE SPEAKER SERIES

continues to expand scope

Now in its third academic year, UC Davis Law's groundbreaking **Racial Justice Speaker Series** draws leading scholars and practitioners to explore systemic racism as it affects all communities of color and areas of law.

In September, UC Davis Law Professor and Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund National Senior Counsel **Leticia Saucedo** presented the illuminating lecture "Banking Access as a Civil Right," which detailed the legal strategies and theories used in MALDEF litigation against financial institutions that fail to provide access to DACA recipients and others.

Rutgers Law School Interim Dean, Professor of Law and former UC Davis Law faculty member **Rose Cuison-Villazor** returned to King Hall in October to deliver the innovative

lecture "Rewriting *Downes v. Bidwell*." Using the growing methodology of rewriting Supreme Court opinions to better understand the relationship between constitutional law jurisprudence and racial injustice, Cuison-Villazor re-examined the ruling that determined Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory yet not part of the "United States."

Also in October, the law school welcomed ACLU President and New York University Professor **Deborah Archer**, who delivered the riveting talk "The Power and Persistence of Racism" as both the endowed Edward L. Barrett Jr. Lecture on Constitutional Law and part of the Racial Justice Speaker Series.

Duke Law Professor **Veronica Root Martinez** closed out the series for fall 2022 with her topical November lecture "Building a Culture of Ethical Inclusion." Martinez explored how the #MeToo and #BlackLivesMatter movements forced firms to rethink their approaches to the status of women and people of color within their organizations.



Deborah Archer

For her fascinating February 2023 talk "Bad Mexicans: Race, Empire, and Revolution in the Borderlands," MacArthur Fellow and UCLA Professor of History, African Studies and Urban Planning **Kelly Lytle Hernández** looked to the past, to a rebellion at the heart of U.S. history — the revolt by the *magonistas*, migrant rebels who sparked the 1910 Mexican Revolution.

In a compelling March lecture titled "Between Race and Religion," UC Davis Sociology Professor **Bruce Haynes** explored what he calls "the shifting relationship between racism and anti-Semitism in American culture."

Rounding out 2022-23 were scheduled lectures by University of Pennsylvania Professor of Law and History **Serena Mayeri** (Brigitte Bodenheimer Lecture on Family Law); MALDEF President and General Counsel **Thomas Saenz**; and UC Davis Law Professors **Darien Shanske** and **Dennis J. Ventry, Jr.** 📖



Rose Cuison-Villazor



2022 CELEBRATING KING HALL

In March 2022, UC Davis Law honored the achievements of faculty, alumni and students at its first in-person “Celebrating King Hall” event in three years.

The gathering drew more than 100 people to recognize Distinguished Teaching Award recipient **Karrigan Börk**, Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient **Yeoryios Apallas '72** and Rising Star Alumna award winner **Austin Quinn-Davidson '07**.

Dean **Kevin R. Johnson** served as the evening’s emcee. Professor **Peter Lee**, a past Distinguished Teaching Award recipient, introduced his colleague, Börk. Student speaker **Nicole Opendo '23** discussed the importance of scholarships. 🏆

◀ Professor Peter Lee, student speaker Nicole Opendo '23, 2022 Distinguished Teaching Award recipient Karrigan Börk and Rising Star Alumna Award winner Austin Quinn-Davidson '07.

2023 CELEBRATING KING HALL

The community gathered again in March 2023 to recognize the Distinguished Teaching Award recipient, Professor **Courtney Joslin**, along with Distinguished Alumna Award winner Justice **Kelli Evans '94**, and Rising Star Alumna Award winner **Rachel Ray '11**.

Professor **Katherine Florey**, a previous Distinguished Teaching Award recipient, introduced Joslin, and scholarship recipient **Ethan Hicks '24** spoke about his journey to King Hall and success as a law student.

Dean **Kevin R. Johnson** once again served as emcee, pointing out that Ray, a managing attorney for the UC Immigrant Legal Services Center, and her husband, **Errol C. Dais '11**, had made history as the first couple to both receive Rising Star awards. (Dais won in 2021). 🏆



Distinguished Teaching Award recipient Professor Courtney Joslin, Professor Katherine Florey and Dean Kevin R. Johnson.

A Gracious, Grounded Judicial Superstar

In 12 years as the chief justice of California, Tani Cantil-Sakauye built consensus and a better court system.



Tani Cantil-Sakauye at the Sacramento office of the Public Policy Institute of California, for which she serves as president and CEO.

By Carla Meyer

Growing up in Sacramento, **Tani Cantil-Sakauye '84** did not envision she would scale the heights of California's judicial system.

But her mother, Mary, might have had an inkling. When Cantil-Sakauye, 63, was a teen, Mary took her to a "meet a lawyer" event organized within Sacramento's tightknit Filipino American community.

The lawyer, King Hall graduate Gloria Megino Ochoa '76, "was the first Filipino lawyer any of us had ever met," Cantil-Sakauye said. As Ochoa spoke, "My mother elbowed me and said, 'You could do that.'"

Could she ever. Cantil-Sakauye would follow Ochoa to Davis and embark on a public service trajectory culminating in a sterling 12-year tenure as chief justice of California. Appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2010, Cantil-Sakauye ushered the nation's largest court system through Great Recession budget cuts and a pandemic while forging a record of remarkable consensus with fellow justices.

Cantil-Sakauye retired from the court in January after declining to seek re-election to another 12-year term.

"By then I had been wearing a black robe for 32 years," said Cantil-Sakauye, a municipal and superior court judge and appellate justice before becoming chief. "I had accomplished the things I set out to do."

She left the state's judicial branch with "the best, highest budget we have ever had," and with initiatives she spearheaded in place, including a language access plan and a remote access program that helped the courts navigate the COVID-19 crisis.

"I gave it a lot of thought and decided I was still young enough to try something

different," she said. That something is her new role as president and CEO of the Public Policy Institute of California, the illustrious non-partisan think tank that helps shape state policy.

PPIC "takes on hard questions, and considers all sides," she said. "Being president of this organization ... is like being at the front end of the solution rather than the back end. The courts are places of last resort. The opportunity to come here and try to inform justice and policy and *prevent* crisis was like, 'that's a good place to be.'"

Cantil-Sakauye was forthcoming and gracious as she reflected on her career during a January interview at PPIC's Sacramento office and a February Q&A with UC Davis Law Marketing and Communications Executive Director Kelley Weiss conducted during a King Hall event in Cantil-Sakauye's honor. Influenced by an upbringing by one-time farmworker parents and her education at King Hall, that career is distinguished by an insistence on civility and equal access to justice for all.

'What Do People Need on the Ground?'

The first Filipina American and second female state chief justice, Cantil-Sakauye ascended the court system without the usual markers of advantage dotting résumés at her level. Her education was entirely public: Sacramento's McClatchy High, Sacramento City College, and UC Davis for undergraduate study and law school. Before taking the bench, she was an assistant Sacramento district attorney.

This lack of any skipped steps "informed my role in public service and my understanding of what people

need," Cantil-Sakauye said. "What do people need on the ground? 'How do we navigate education or work or a justice system?' I always put myself in the shoes of the person who's standing at the door trying to get in."

Her parents viewed education as "the golden ticket," she said, although neither was given much opportunity to pursue it. Her father miraculously parlayed a second-grade education into a career as an airplane mechanic. Her mother, who grew up following the crops with her family, finished high school and took a job with the state before entering community college at 50, alongside Cantil-Sakauye's older sister, Kim.

"Excited and inspired" by her mother's education journey, Cantil-Sakauye enrolled at Sac City while still in high school. She developed her extraordinary oratory skills (2011 and 2018 King Hall graduates will recall her extemporaneous eloquence as their commencement speaker) on the Sac City speech and debate team. This was in the analog 1970s, when everything admin was in person.

"I waited in the community college office," Cantil-Sakauye recalled. "I asked, 'How do I transfer to a university?' They gave me a list. I checked it off. I had to go in all the time to say, 'Am I following the list correctly?'"

Such experiences "informed how I view justice from the eyes of the person who's standing in the courtroom — and it's bewildering."

Cantil-Sakauye devoted her time as chief to making the courts more approachable, and justice more accessible. An early advocate of bail reform, she was part of the 7-0 high court ruling in 2021 that defendants could not be held in jail just because they could not afford bail.

Cantil-Sakauye "has had an enormous impact on justice in California,"

Cover story

from page 17

UC Davis Law Dean Kevin R. Johnson said. “Faced with incredible challenges, she sought and achieved solutions, always with an eye toward equity and fairness.”

Johnson noted that Cantil-Sakauye’s push for equal access went beyond defendants, praising a 7-0 decision, written by Cantil-Sakauye in 2014, that allowed undocumented immigrants to practice law in California.

Building Consensus

Before she could achieve her aims, Cantil-Sakauye needed a workable budget. She had inherited a court system weakened by layoffs, furloughs and “disparate” funding that favored some courts over others even in better times.

As part of her budget reform efforts, Cantil-Sakauye visited courts and bar associations up and down the state, rallying judges and lawyers to help convince the Legislature that change, and money, were needed. This shoe-leather approach entailed “thousands of miles of travel and living out of a suitcase during my first year as chief.”

It resulted in a new level of collegiality that was not just helpful, but essential. Because most California judges are elected, “I am not the boss of any of them,” Cantil-Sakauye said. “The only way we get along is if we agree.” From her tenure as chief, she is proudest of how the judiciary joined in a true “branch collaboration,” she said.

Jake Dear ’83 saw Cantil-Sakauye’s consensus-building firsthand, as chief supervising attorney for the state high court. Dear and Cantil-Sakauye met during law school but did not know each other well before working together. Dear recently wrote about Cantil-Sakauye’s legacy for the California Supreme Court Historical Society.

A 40-year veteran of the court, Dear notes that serving as chief justice had



Dean Kevin R. Johnson introduced Cantil-Sakauye at a February King Hall event honoring her career.

evolved over time into “a gargantuan task, requiring a person of special focus and drive.” Cantil-Sakauye showed “steely determination” as well as patience and endurance, working nights and weekends to fulfill dual roles as justice and chief administrator. “In the process, she made the judiciary stronger and more unified.”

Cantil-Sakauye’s steelier qualities shone in her 2017 open letter to then-U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions condemning ICE agents’ arrests of undocumented immigrants at California courts — a letter that renowned immigration law scholar Johnson calls “courageous.”

The arrests were “entrenchment by the executive branch on the judicial branch’s good name,” Cantil-Sakauye said. “People come to courts because they’re in crisis ... and they come in good faith. Then to be arrested in a courthouse on a civil warrant and be taken to where no one knows where you went — and not be represented by counsel — felt horribly unfair.”

A lifelong Republican, Cantil-Sakauye quietly switched to “no party preference” in 2018. (Or at least she kept it quiet before a reporter noticed

the change to the court website.) She had considered the move for a while, before the “spectacle” of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh’s confirmation hearings sealed her decision.

“I felt that it was just inappropriate for the judiciary or the executive branch to have this process that seemed to be degrading to everyone,” she says now.

Through retirements and new appointments, Cantil-Sakauye served with 11 fellow justices — Democrat, Republican, no-party preference — on the seven-person state high court. “I had the pleasure of serving with great, open-minded, confident, brilliant people with whom we could all have disagreement, but it was never personal,” she said.

Cantil-Sakauye’s court reached unanimity 85% of the time. Although she denies having any outsize sway on colleagues — “I am just one vote” — her influence is clear when contrasted with the 74% unanimity rate under her predecessor, Chief Justice Ronald George.

The agreeable Cantil-Sakauye court stands in sharp contrast to a U.S. Supreme Court that seems hopelessly split along party lines. But the systems are too different to compare, Cantil-Sakauye said.

“We have a year’s worth of discussion before oral argument,” Cantil-Sakauye said, noting the federal high court discusses little before oral argument. “As soon as the case is argued, within 90 days, we have an opinion. That front-loading gives us a chance to dialogue with each other.”

An Education in Cooperation

The collaboration and civility that marked Cantil-Sakauye’s time on the bench are, not coincidentally, fundamental to King Hall.

Cantil-Sakauye attended law school alongside her sister, Kim — “she is the smart one,” Cantil-Sakauye says — and found a further sense of belonging among her fellow students.

King Hall offered “an incredibly nurturing and welcoming environment,” Cantil-Sakauye said. “When you needed a book in the law library, and it was checked out, someone would loan you theirs.”

Back then, Davis was less populated, with less to do. “We made our entertainment,” Cantil-Sakauye said. She played on the intramural basketball team Justice O and the Supremes, named for Sandra Day O’Connor, the first female U.S. Supreme Court justice.

“We sent her a T-shirt with our name on it,” Cantil-Sakauye recalled with a laugh. Years later, she would meet O’Connor, a fellow civics education advocate.

“I asked her, ‘did you ever get the T-shirt?’ She couldn’t remember.”

By that time, O’Connor had retired and was “very giving of her time” to bar associations and law schools, Cantil-Sakauye said. The same can be said of Cantil-Sakauye, a frequent speaker at Sacramento legal community events and her alma mater, even as an active jurist.

A Friend to UC Davis

A loyal double Aggie, Cantil-Sakauye said she admires how UC Davis has evolved since she left.

“Chancellor May and Dean Johnson do a terrific job on outreach to the community and keeping in mind vulnerable populations.”

In addition to speaking at commencements, Cantil-Sakauye received the law school’s inaugural Distinguished Alumna Award in 2016. In 2020, the University of California named her one of 55 “Remarkable Women” in UC Davis history. But Cantil-Sakauye’s involvement with her alma mater always has been more granular than grand.



Kim Cantil, Tani Cantil-Sakauye and Cindy Lee, King Hall Class of 1984.

Her daughter received an undergraduate degree from Davis, and her niece a J.D. Cantil-Sakauye consistently brought in externs from Davis to the Supreme Court. She speaks often at Filipinx Law Students Association events, and even dropped in on a Judicial Process class taught by Sacramento Superior Court Judge Lawrence Brown ’89.

The former chief justice “has such an incredible presence, and every time she speaks, I come away inspired,” said Courtney Patton ’24, a Filipinx Law Students Association leader who has met the chief and heard her speak at FLSA and other community events.

FLSA Co-Chair Josh Concepcion ’24 also has seen Cantil-Sakauye speak several times. The first, at a Sacramento Filipino American Lawyers Association event, played like a 40-years-hence version of Cantil-Sakauye’s experience with Ochoa.

“I felt waves of inspiration not just from seeing someone who looked like me in the legal profession,” says Concepcion, “but someone who looked like me *and* was sitting on the highest court in our state.” 🌟



Students Courtney Patton ’24 and Josh Concepcion ’24, speaking here with the former chief justice at the February King Hall event, say she inspires them.

JUSTICE KELLI EVANS '94

helps build King Hall legacy on state high court

In January, students, faculty, staff and alumni gathered in King Hall's courtyard to celebrate the appointment of Associate Justice **Kelli Evans '94** to the California Supreme Court.

"I remember the first time I set foot in King Hall and saw the statue of Dr. King and knew I had come to the right place," Evans told the audience. The Martin Luther King Jr. Service Award winner in her 3L year, Evans credits her UC Davis Law education as integral to her distinguished career in public service.

"At King Hall, you learn how to passionately state your positions, to be clear writers, and you learn how to do the right thing, and to speak up," Evans said.

Gov. Gavin Newsom selected Evans, previously an Alameda Superior Court judge, to fill the seat vacated by then-Associate Justice Patricia Guerrero's elevation to chief justice after Tani Cantil-Sakauye '84 announced she would retire. Sworn in by Gov. Newsom in January, Evans became the second UC Davis Law graduate to sit on the state high court, after Cantil-Sakauye.

Before joining the judiciary, Evans served as chief deputy legal affairs secretary in Gov. Newsom's office. She previously served as special assistant to Attorney General Xavier Becerra in the California Department of Justice; senior director for the administration of justice at the California State Bar; and as associate director of the ACLU of Northern California. Evans also worked as a senior trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, and as an assistant public defender for Sacramento County.

"There is no single pathway to career fulfillment," Evans said during her King Hall visit, directing her remarks to students. "Make sure you do what you want to do, not

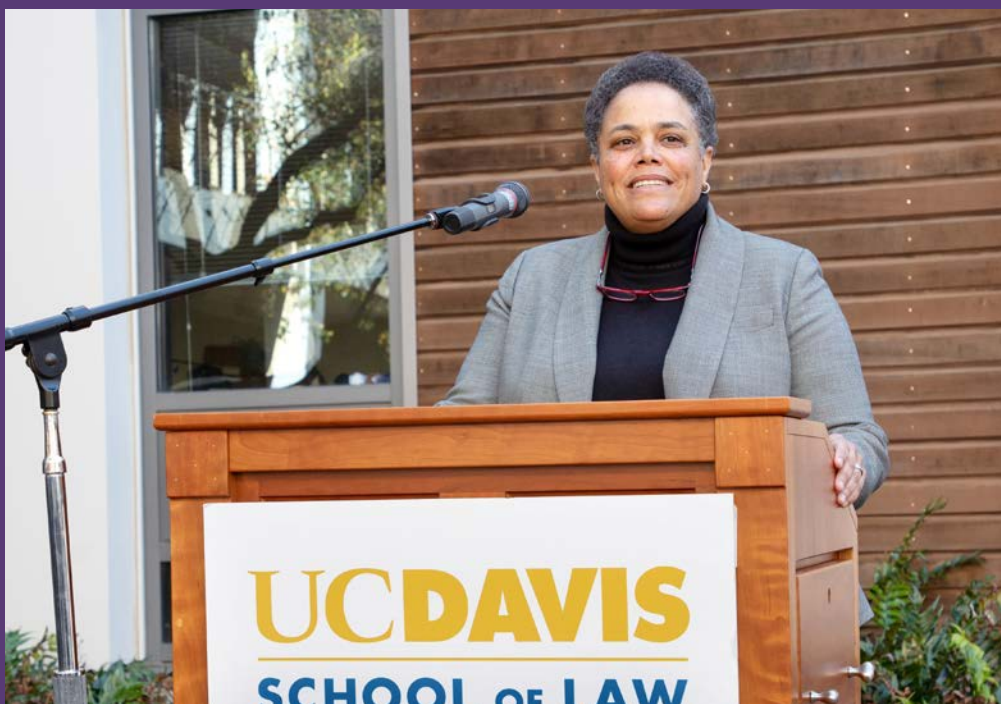
"At King Hall, you learn how to passionately state your positions, to be clear writers, and you learn how to do the right thing, and to speak up."

— Justice Kelli Evans '94

what you think you are expected to do. I think I have been so happy in my career because that's advice I gave myself and have tried to follow."

"I have done a lot of different things, but there is a connection there — they are all building blocks for one another," Evans continued. She encouraged students to be willing to "change things up" in their own careers.

In the spring, Evans delivered the keynote speech at the Black Law Students Association annual banquet and received the Distinguished Alumna Award at "Celebrating King Hall." 🏆



Justice Kelli Evans '94 at a January King Hall event celebrating her appointment.

NOTABLE ROLES **FOR ALUMNI**



Julia Mendoza '08

Julia Mendoza '08 joined the Loyola Law School faculty in 2022 as an associate professor of law. She is an interdisciplinary legal scholar who focuses on criminal law and education.



Esmeralda Soria '11

Two UC Davis School of Law alumni won California State Assembly races in November.

Esmeralda Soria '11 (D-Fresno) prevailed after a close Assembly race against Republican challenger and former Merced County Sheriff Mark Pazin. Soria served two terms on the Fresno City Council, to which she was elected in 2014.



Carrie Rosenbaum '02

Carrie Rosenbaum '02 joined the Chapman University Fowler School of Law faculty as a visiting assistant professor for the 2022-23 academic year. Her scholarship rests at the intersection of immigration and criminal law and explores questions of rights and equality through an interdisciplinary lens.



James Gallagher '07

Longtime Assemblyman **James Gallagher '07** (R-Yuba City) won re-election over Democratic challenger David Zink. Gallagher has served as Assembly Minority Leader since February 2022. Before joining the Assembly in 2014, Gallagher served on the Sutter County Board of Supervisors.








JUSTICE DEFINED *Scholars of King Hall*

PODCAST



SCAN ME!

Insights from the law school's world-class faculty:

-  **Ep. 1:** Women and M&A with Afra Afsharipour
-  **Ep. 2:** Constitutional Right to Fish with Karrigan B rk
-  **Ep. 3:** Our Democratic First Amendment with Ashutosh Bhagwat
-  **Ep. 4:** Learning From Mistakes with Irene Joe
-  **Ep. 5:** Legal Deserts with Lisa Pruitt
-  **Ep. 6:** The Fall of Roe with Mary Ziegler
-  **Ep. 7:** Rights of Migrant Children in Custody with Holly Cooper

FACULTY EXCEL IN 2022-23



Raquel Aldana

Our faculty continued to enhance UC Davis Law's outstanding reputation in 2022-23.

Professor **Raquel Aldana** became a member of the prestigious Council on Foreign Relations. Aldana also was re-elected chair of the Latin America and Caribbean Council of the American Bar Association's Rule of Law Initiative.



Aaron Tang

Chancellor **Gary S. May** selected Professor **Aaron Tang** as a UC Davis Chancellor's Fellow. The fellowship includes a one-time award of \$25,000 to be used in support of research, teaching and service activities.



Carlton F.W. Larson

Retiring Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer cited Professor **Carlton F.W. Larson** in his *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen* dissent. Breyer cited Larson's 2009 article "Four Exceptions in Search of a Theory: *District of Columbia v. Heller* and Judicial Ipse Dixit."



William S. Dodge

Faculty published op-eds in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Boston Globe*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Atlantic*, the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, and *Slate*, and commented extensively for outlets including NPR, PBS, CNN, CBS and NBC.

Professor **William S. Dodge** filed an amicus brief with the Supreme Court in an international comity case, started the Transnational Litigation Blog with Professors Ingrid (Wuerth) Brunk (Vanderbilt), Maggie Gardner (Cornell) and John Coyle (North Carolina), and lectured in France on human rights litigation in U.S. courts.



Donna Shestowsky

Professor **Donna Shestowsky** completed a groundbreaking



Brian Soucek

empirical study on online dispute resolution in collaboration with Pew Charitable Trusts.

The Motion Picture Association cited and quoted Professor **Brian Soucek's** article "The Constitutional Irrelevance of Art" in a Supreme Court amicus brief in the key trademark case *Jack Daniel's Properties, Inc. v. VIP Products LLC*.



Mary Ziegler

Professor **Mary Ziegler**, one of the world's leading historians of the U.S. abortion debate, and colleagues **Katherine Florey**, **Lisa Ikemoto**, **Elizabeth Joh**, **Courtney Joslin**, **Carlton Larson** and **Aaron Tang** have helped lead the national commentary following the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* in the Supreme Court's *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision.



Katherine Florey

Joh's long-running podcast with co-host Roman Mars, *What Roman Mars Can Learn About Con Law*, offers insights on *Dobbs*, the Jan. 6 hearings, former President Donald Trump's continuing legal battles, and many other pressing issues. 📻



Lisa Ikemoto



Elizabeth Joh



Courtney Joslin

PROFESSOR SAUCEDO

combines theory, practice in senior role with MALDEF

By Carla Meyer

Professor **Leticia Saucedo** has found a certain “synergy” to her dual roles as King Hall faculty member and National Senior Counsel for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

Saucedo supervises MALDEF attorneys around the country, bringing to the venerable Latino civil rights organization insights gained during two decades as a scholar who “looks at the forest while everybody’s in the trees,” she said.

In turn, through knowledge obtained from working MALDEF cases, Saucedo can impart to her students that “it’s not all about policy and the bigger picture, but that there is actual skill in bringing that all down to the trees level.”

A full-time MALDEF attorney for four years before entering academia in 2003, Saucedo assumed her two-year, half-time National Senior Counsel role in July 2021. From her distinct vantage point as a practitioner and a leading scholar in employment, labor and immigration law and their intersections, Saucedo can assess how theories she and fellow scholars have presented play out in the field — within an organization that encourages such considerations.

“The synergy between the practice and the theory works its way out in MALDEF,” Saucedo said. “It has always been this wonky place — nerdy in the sense that it is high-quality litigation and people are always thinking about, ‘What happens if we make this argument in this case?’ or ‘Here is an issue affecting our community — how do we tackle that issue through litigation?’”

Saucedo began her initial stint with MALDEF in San Antonio not long after graduating from Harvard Law School.



Leticia Saucedo

Previously a community and union organizer, Saucedo had entered law school “already thinking in terms of tactics and strategy,” she said, and found MALDEF’s wide-lens approach aligned with hers. She took on education, employment and immigration cases, including a mass-action employment discrimination case involving primarily immigrant workers.

Saucedo always kept in touch with MALDEF colleagues after her transition to academia, and would discuss her research on immigrant workplaces with the organization’s President and General Counsel Thomas Saenz. The timing was perfect when MALDEF called Saucedo in 2021 about possibly assuming a new role while the vice president of litigation and her team turned their full attention to MALDEF’s voting rights docket.

“I never thought of leaving academia, but the pandemic really made people think about how they do their work, what kind of work they are doing, and how the work they are doing is effective,” Saucedo said. “Tom basically gave me the opportunity to ... investigate the very cases I have been thinking about and writing about for 25 years.” With the full support of UC Davis Law Dean **Kevin R. Johnson**, Saucedo

began her stint with MALDEF while still performing law school duties, including teaching Torts in the spring.

While supervising beginning and mid-career MALDEF litigators, Saucedo tries to “really think through their eyes — the arguments they are making in their cases, and the arguments the other side is making,” to help them strategize, she said. At the same time, she gathers ideas for future research.

“I will think, ‘OK, this is an issue we need to look at as academics, outside of litigation, but I can’t think about it now because I am about to prepare for a deposition.’ It is almost like working in a live lab, where the research will come up as you do the work.”

MALDEF and King Hall converge again on the topic of banking access, where colleague Professor **Shayak Sarkar** “is theorizing and MALDEF is doing its work,” Saucedo said. Sarkar’s groundbreaking 2021 California Law Review article “Capital Controls as Migrant Controls” explored the use of capital as a tool for immigration control, through bank deregulation and national security measures that erect financial barriers. As Saucedo detailed in her illuminating fall 2022 Racial Justice Speaker Series talk “Banking Access as a Civil Right,” MALDEF has sued financial institutions on behalf of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients and others denied banking or credit access.

Her return to case work has been invigorating, Saucedo said. As a former litigator, she always was assured in teaching strategy to students, yet could not help but occasionally wonder, “If you have been out of it for 20 years, do you really know how it works?”

“And it turns out,” Saucedo said, “I do.” ■

NEW CENTER spotlights innovation, law, and society

Building upon its rich history of scholarship and teaching at the intersection of law, innovation, and technology, UC Davis Law launched a Center for Innovation, Law, and Society in January.

Professor **Peter Lee**, an expert in intellectual property law, proposed the center's creation and serves as its inaugural director. The center kicked off its activities with a spring speaker series. It is the fourth specialized UC Davis Law center, joining the Aoki Center for Critical Race and Nation Studies, the California Environmental Law and Policy Center, and the California International Law Center.

"We have a great cohort of faculty working in law and innovation, construed broadly," Lee said, noting that UC Davis Law offers more than 30 classes that meaningfully address legal aspects of innovation and technology.

"I work in IP, but the center certainly goes beyond IP," Lee said. "We have people doing fantastic work in bioethics, data privacy, environmental law" and other areas — from antitrust to reproductive rights — informed by legal issues related to innovation and technology. "It was a very conscious choice to not call it a 'law and technology' center but to use the broader concept of 'innovation.'"

Student interest was another key factor in starting the center.

"Our students are really energized about these issues," Lee said. "A lot of people come to King Hall because they want to work in law and technology or law and innovation, and we want to provide more programming for their benefit." He noted that the King Hall Intellectual Property Law Association "has had a robust presence for years."

UC Davis' proximity to Silicon Valley and to Sacramento, an emerging area for startups, gives the new center a natural advantage in drawing speakers. Lee aims to tap the large pool of King Hall alumni working in innovation-related fields to speak at center events. 📍



Professor Peter Lee, middle, served as moderator for the Center for Innovation, Law, and Society's opening event. Professors Elizabeth Joh, left, Lisa Ikemoto, Albert Lin and Stacy-Ann Elvy participated.

"A lot of people come to King Hall because they want to work in law and technology or law and innovation, and we want to provide more programming for their benefit."

— Peter Lee

FACULTY BOOKS

Afra Afsharipour

Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law

- **Comparative Corporate Governance** (with Martin Gelter), Edward Elgar Publishing (2021)
- **Handbook on Corporate Governance in India: Legal Standards and Board Practices** (with Manali Paranjpe), The Conference Board (2021)

Ashutosh Bhagwat

Boochever and Bird Endowed Chair and Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law

- **Our Democratic First Amendment**, Cambridge University Press (2020)

William S. Dodge

John D. Ayer Chair in Business Law and Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law

- **Transnational Litigation in a Nutshell** (with George A. Bermann & Donald E. Childress III), 2d ed., West Academic Publishing (2021)

Stacy-Ann Elvy

Professor of Law

- **A Commercial Law of Privacy and Security for the Internet of Things**, Cambridge University Press (2021)

David Horton

Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law

- **A Primer on Law School and the U.S. Legal System: Beasties v. Monster**, Wolters Kluwer, Aspen Coursebook Series (2020)

Kevin R. Johnson

Dean and Mabie-Apallas Professor of Public Interest Law and Chicana/o Studies

- **Immigration Law and Social Justice** (with Bill Ong Hing & Jennifer Chacón), Wolters Kluwer, Aspen Casebook Series, 2d ed. (2021)

Courtney Joslin

Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law

- **Sexuality, Gender & the Law** (co-authored with William N. Eskridge Jr. & Nan D. Hunter), Foundation Press (2023)
- **Social Parenthood in Comparative Perspective** (co-edited with Clare Huntington & Christiane von Bary) NYU Press (forthcoming 2023)

Carlton F.W. Larson

Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law

- **On Treason: A Citizen's Guide to the Law**, Ecco/HarperCollins (2020)

Leticia Saucedo

Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law

- **Race, Gender and Contemporary International Labor Migration Regimes: 21st Century Coolies?** (with Robyn Magalit Rodriguez), Edward Elgar Publishing (2022)
- **Latinos and the Law: Cases and Materials** (with Richard Delgado, Marc-Tizoc Gonzalez, Jean Stefancic & Juan F. Perea), West Academic Publishing (2021)

Aaron Tang

Professor of Law

- **Supreme Hubris: How Overconfidence is Destroying the Court – And How We Can Fix It**, Yale University Press (forthcoming 2023)

Mary Ziegler

Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law

- **Roe: The History of a National Obsession**, Yale University Press (2023)
- **Research Handbook on International Abortion Law** (editor), Edward Elgar Publishing (2023)
- **Dollars for Life: The Anti-Abortion Movement and the Fall of the Republican Establishment**, Yale University Press (2022)
- **Reproduction and the Constitution**, Routledge Press (2022)
- **Abortion and the Law in America: Roe v. Wade to the Present**, Cambridge University Press (2020) 📖



2023 MLK Day of Service and Celebration activities included a naturalization workshop. Read more about MLK Day on page 27.

KEY DEI INITIATIVES move forward

By Carla Meyer

As part of continuing efforts in the pursuit of ensuring diversity, equity and inclusion, two law school committees submitted reports at the end of 2021/22 addressing matters ranging from curriculum reform to student recruitment to DEI training for all.

The Educational Policy Committee announced DEI curriculum reforms and the Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion released its inaugural strategic plan. The reports offer recommendations on augmenting King Hall’s existing DEI achievements, which include a rare “majority-minority” faculty and student body, First Generation Advocates program, an array of wellness programming, and a groundbreaking Racial Justice Speaker Series.

“If you are truly committed to issues of DEI, the work never ends,” Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs **Afra Afsharipour** said.

The Educational Policy Committee suggested a series of initiatives highlighted by a new upper-level course graduation requirement. The faculty unanimously approved the recommendations. The requirement takes effect with the fall 2023 incoming first-year class. The law school will

present a menu of options from which students can choose a class.

Many existing courses likely would qualify, noted Professor **Brian Soucek**, chair of the 2021/22 committee. They include Access to Justice; Comparative Forced Migration; Critical Race Theory; Employment Discrimination; Gender, Sexuality and the Law; Race and the Law; Reproductive Rights, Law, and Policy; and Tax and Distributive Justice.

The American Bar Association House of Delegates recently voted to amend ABA Standard 303 to require law schools “provide education to law students on bias, cross-cultural competency, and racism” at “the start of the program of legal education” and “at least once again before graduation.”

UC Davis Law already requires implicit bias training for first-year students, and offers a social justice-minded community book read. In fall 2022, DEI consultant and strategic development specialist **Marion Cloete** and UC Davis Law Director of Diversity and Student Life **Alexis Elston** led the 90-minute training for 1L students and Academic Success tutors. Students, faculty, staff and alumni participated in the fall 2022 community read of Zach Norris’ book *Defund Fear: Safety Without Policing, Prisons, and Punishment*.

Each academic year, the law school also offers a “Critical Perspectives” lecture series organized around the first-year curriculum and presented by the Aoki Center for Critical Race and Nation Studies.

The Educational Policy Committee consulted with the Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Created in 2021 by Dean **Kevin R. Johnson**, the committee is chaired by Elston and consists of faculty, students, staff and an alumni board member. Senior Assistant Dean for Student Affairs **Emily Scivoletto** is an ex-officio member.

Over 2021-22, the committee discussed how to expand on the law school’s



Students discuss Zach Norris’ book “Defund Fear” during the fall Community Read.

excellent DEI work. Its strategic plan urges that, among other things, the law school continue to:

- Cultivate an inclusive atmosphere and sense of belonging;
- Support community mental health;
- Recruit diverse staff members and students; and
- Develop and provide more resources to students from lower-income backgrounds.

The report contains what the committee calls “seeds of ideas that will grow into a sustainable DEI plan.”

“We now have a very systemic process to ensure that our diversity, equity and inclusion programs and culture are moving forward every year,” Scivoletto said.

Student input was essential to both reports. Educational Policy Committee student representatives included **Arton Falahati '22**, **Neha Malik '23** and **Amanda Eppley '24**. Malik also was part of the DEI Committee, with fellow Class of '23 members **Celine Bisson**, **Giselle Garcia**, **Andie Johnson**, **Cinthia Padilla Martin** and **Aminah Shakoor**. 🌱

RANKINGS RECOGNIZE DEI emphasis

UC Davis Law ranks **No. 1** among the nation's law schools in “**greatest resources for women**,” according to The Princeton Review's “Best Law Schools, 2023” compilation released in January. Davis also placed high for “**best quality of life**” (No. 10).

Davis ranked **No. 1** for students and **No. 3** for faculty in a study of women's historical representation in U.S. law schools released in August 2022.

In November, PreLaw Magazine ranked UC Davis Law **No. 3** in the United States and **No. 1** in California on its “**Top Schools for Racial Justice**” list. UC Davis Law's groundbreaking Racial Justice Speaker Series, now in its third year, draws leading scholars to explore systemic racism as it affects all communities of color and areas of law.

An “**Access and Equity**” ranking of the nation's law schools released last year placed UC Davis **No. 1 in California**. The ranking assessed law schools based on access and equity measures significant to prospective Black and Latino law students. 🌱

MLK DAY OF SERVICE AND CELEBRATION captures spirit of King Hall

UC Davis School of Law students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends marked the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday Jan. 16 with the law school's fourth **MLK Day of Service and Celebration**.

Around 150 items were collected in a donation drive to benefit Sacramento's Malcolm X Academy, and donations from a blood drive assisted more than 60 patients in need. A keynote speech by U.S. District Court Judge **Trina Thompson** inspired a crowd filled with students from King Hall and elsewhere.

Volunteer opportunities continued later that week with a naturalization workshop at the Sacramento Mexican Consulate held in conjunction with the Immigration Law Clinic and UC Immigrant Legal Services Center. (See photo on page 26.)

Thank you to the Black Law Students Association, the 2023 MLK Day Working Group, Director of Diversity and Student Life **Alexis Elston**, Senior Assistant Dean for Student Affairs **Emily Scivoletto**, Professor and Immigration Law Clinic Co-director **Amagda Pérez** and everyone else involved in planning this year's activities. 🌱



Professor Clay Tanaka donates items during the MLK Day of Service and Celebration.

REUNIONS

UC Davis Law held its community-affirming milestone reunions in November. More than 200 people attended, and our Class of 1972 marked a special reunion – 50 years! With special thanks to the Class of 1972 reunion committee: David Beatty, Steve Boutin, David Hicks, Rex Hime, Andy Holmer, Roger Masuda and William Owen. It was wonderful to see all who came out to catch up and reminisce with classmates.



CLASS OF 1972



CLASS OF 1977



CLASS OF 1982



CLASS OF 1987



CLASS OF 1992



CLASS OF 1997



CLASS OF 2002

REUNIONS



CLASS OF 2007



CLASS OF 2012



CLASS OF 2017

LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING COURSE

highlights King Hall's close ties to Capitol

By Carla Meyer

For the past two years, UC Davis Law has offered a fall course rare in its content and reflective of King Hall's proximity to the Capitol.

Legislative Drafting, taught by Capitol-insider adjunct professors **Chris Micheli** and **Jessica Gosney**, instructs students on the finer points of statutory interpretation and other aspects of bill drafting.

"The goal is to expose students to drafting legislation — with a focus on California — which is also an excellent background for statutory interpretation and drafting regulations, ordinances, or other legal documents," said Micheli, a veteran attorney-lobbyist and partner in the Sacramento governmental relations firm Aprea & Micheli. "We walk our students through the main differences between drafting legal documents such as contracts and drafting different forms of legislation."

Legislative drafting comes with its own style requirements, notes Gosney, an attorney with the California Office of Legislative Counsel, the nonpartisan public agency that drafts legislative proposals, prepares legal opinions, and provides other confidential legal services to the Legislature.

"Most legal writing is also advocating for a client or position," Gosney said. "While legislation advances a policy goal, it should be neutral in its language."

Students receive weekly drafting assignments, and by semester's end must submit an entire draft bill demonstrating the principles they learned during the semester.

The course is unique among California law schools, Micheli said, and "probably one of the few in the nation dedicated solely to drafting different forms of legislation." Although many law schools offer legislation-related clinics, few dedicate a semester-long course to the topic, he said.

The course benefits students interested in becoming legislators, legislative staffers or Office of Legislative Counsel attorneys as well as future government agency attorneys, lobbyists and others involved in the drafting process.

"Almost every attorney will draft or interpret legislation, regulations, or ordinances in the course of their practice," Gosney said. "Having a strong foundation in statutory interpretation and drafting is an important skill for any attorney." 🏛️



Congratulations to the remarkable **CLASS OF 2022!**

On May 15, the King Hall community gathered at the Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts for the first in-person commencement in three years.

Serving as the event's emcee, Dean **Kevin R. Johnson** commended the Class of 2022 for its remarkable resilience through a law school experience that included a full year of remote instruction due to the pandemic and rampant political and social upheaval in the United States. Through it all, Johnson said, the Class of 2022 persevered and remained committed to academic excellence, public service and social justice.

Chancellor **Gary S. May**, faculty speaker **David Horton**, student speaker **Khrystan Policarpio '22** and the event's keynote speaker, Sacramento Superior Court Judge (and now Third District Court of Appeal Justice) **Stacy Boulware Eurie '95** echoed Johnson's sentiments.

"Your law school experience has been distinct and challenging in unforeseen ways," Boulware Eurie told the graduates. "As we honor and reflect on how much you, and those close to you, have witnessed and endured these past three years, it is also a time to openly celebrate. Today, you become part of a new generation of lawyers who will bring a unique appreciation for how the legal system can serve the public during times of need."

Horton told the graduates that "for the past three years, I have been blown away by your intelligence, kindness and ability to handle adversity."

"Those are the traits that brought you to law school on that very first day," Horton continued. "Those are the traits that



brought you to this auditorium today. And those are the traits that hold the seeds to your future success."

Thanks to faculty marshals **Lisa Ikemoto** and **Menesh Patel**, Law School Medalists **Ruth Hoover '22** and **Alex Wheeler '22** and everyone involved for helping make the Class of 2022 commencement such a memorable and celebratory event. 🌟

CELEBRATING PUBLIC SERVICE

In April 2022, UC Davis Law celebrated the Class of 2022's dedication to public service at the **Public Service Graduation** in King Hall. The class collectively devoted nearly 30,000 hours to service during law school. Special congratulations to **Dayja Tillman '22**, recipient of the annual **Martin Luther King Jr. Service Award**.

At the annual 3L spring barbecue that followed that evening, the King Hall Alumni Association honored **Khrystan**

Policarpio '22 with its annual award for service to the law school community. Policarpio also was the student speaker at the Class of 2022's commencement. 🌟



Dayja Tillman '22 received the Martin Luther King Jr. Service Award (left). The Hon. Stacy Boulware Eurie '95 was the keynote speaker at commencement (below).



Alumni Board President Nancy Wieben Stock '76 and Alumni Association Award recipient Khrystan Policarpio '22 at the 3L spring barbecue.





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