

Commitment to a More Diverse Legal Profession

The most recent report from the American Bar Association found that the nation's practicing bar is not representative of the diversity in the United States. The Saturday Academy of Law (SAL) was created as an opportunity to expose students from diverse backgrounds to the practice of law, and help them understand that a career as an attorney is a viable option.

With a commitment to encouraging diversity in the legal profession, UCI Law has led SAL since 2009. From the beginning, our vision has been to reach as many ninth graders as possible. We are excited at the expansion of the SAL program to include three California school districts:

- **Anaheim Union High School District**
26th largest school district serving more than 31,000 students.
- **Garden Grove Unified School District**
14th largest school district serving more than 46,000 students.
- **Santa Ana Unified School District**
7th largest school district serving more than 56,000 students.

These three school districts, located in Orange County, represent the areas with the greatest need, highest percentages of English language learners and first generation high school students in our community. We are excited to see the positive impact this expansion will have on the new communities that it serves and the legal profession as a whole.

Our Supporters

SAL has received tremendous support from a variety of generous groups, including Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo, Automobile Club of Southern California, Brown Rudnick LLP, DLA Piper, Experian Information Solutions, Inc., Orange County Bar Association Charitable Fund, Orange County Coalition for Diversity in the Law, Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas Company, TROY Group, Inc. and UC Irvine School of Law. For more information on how to join this list of esteemed supporters, please contact Veronica Alexander at valexander@law.uci.edu. Or pledge online at www.law.uci.edu.



UCI Law
Saturday Academy of Law

University of
California, Irvine
School of Law

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The Saturday Academy of Law (SAL) at the University of California, Irvine School of Law, is a program that provides ninth grade students with a unique opportunity to improve their reading, writing and critical thinking skills while learning more about the legal profession and higher education opportunities.

On six consecutive Saturdays each fall and spring semesters, ninth graders travel to UCI Law to learn about the First Amendment in a law school setting. SAL classes are taught by a credentialed district teacher, supported by undergraduate teaching assistants and UCI Law students. In addition to the academic content, SAL students hear from various guest speakers, including Superior Court judges, law firm attorneys from both large and small firms, government and public interest attorneys. At the conclusion of each session, families and supporters celebrate the students with a closing awards ceremony. More than 500 students have completed the program since it launched in 2009.

The program creates a pipeline of law school candidates who represent the diverse backgrounds and experiences of Orange County residents, with the hope that many will return to their communities to serve underrepresented populations. The first SAL graduates started college in fall 2012, and since then a majority of SAL alumni have enrolled in four-year colleges and universities across the country, including UC Irvine. In the inaugural SAL class, 61 percent of the students immediately enrolled in postsecondary institutions.

Application Process

Eligibility Requirements

- Ninth grade student enrolled at Anaheim Union High School District, Garden Grove Unified School District or Santa Ana Unified School District by program start date
- Jr. High/Middle School GPA of 2.5 or higher
- Currently enrolled in upper level math by program start date
- Attendance is mandatory at all six Saturday sessions

Students who successfully complete SAL will receive extra credit when applying to any of the University of California campuses. In addition, several SAL graduates have been chosen to participate in the highly selective Project SELF program, which provides internships for 11th graders at local law firms.

Apply Online

1. Download the application at law.uci.edu/SAL.
2. Read the Student Expectations document (located online also).
3. Complete the application with a digital signature from a parent or guardian. Parents or guardians must have a valid email address to apply their digital signature. NOTE: Application must be saved to your computer to enable digital signature function.
4. Send application and required essay as an email attachment to SAL@law.uci.edu by the application deadline.

Apply at Your School

1. Request an application from the College/Career Counseling Office at your high school.
2. Read the Student Expectations document, located at www.law.uci.edu/SAL.
3. Return completed application with required essay to the College/Career Counseling Office by the application deadline.

For questions, application deadlines and more about SAL please email SAL@law.uci.edu.



Reviews by SAL Alumni

“The Saturday Academy of Law means to me that there are people out there who want us to succeed in life. Coming here is a good thing because it means I’m pushing myself. SAL has taught me a lot. Many things I didn’t know about. For example, when we learned about how to manage a case and the steps that have to be made in order to come to a fair conclusion. SAL has made me think about being a lawyer.”

“Saturday Academy of Law is a very special program. To me it was an amazing learning experience. It means a lot to me especially because it got me out of my comfort zone and allowed me to meet some amazing and intelligent people who share the same interests as me, which is their interest in law, and one day hopefully becoming a lawyer.”

“Since I’ve been here, I’ve become more interested in becoming a lawyer. It seems fun but challenging at the same time. You get to change people’s lives which would be amazing if I could do that someday. Being exposed to all this knowledge and information about my rights and what you need to do in order to be successful was a great experience.”

“These Saturdays have been very marvelous and I have learned so much about law. I never thought this program would be so exciting. I remember the first day I came in and I didn’t want to talk at all but now I have improved those skills. My favorite Saturday has been when we met two lawyers and it really inspired me to push myself in school and to think about my future. It’s sad that we only get 6 Saturdays to come to this program. I think there should be more great programs like this.”



“The Saturday Academy of Law means the world to me. I’ve always wanted to be a lawyer. This was my first time learning anything about government. We learned the amendments, the rights we have been given. We went into depth on the first freedom’s limits. I know now what I can and cannot say. It was an amazing experience to me. I hope everyone interested in law will be able to experience this as well.”

“Something that stood out to me at SAL was when the lawyers showed me that even though they had a hard childhood they rose above that and managed to still be successful.”

Remarkable college destinations for SAL alumni include:

California, UC Berkeley
California, UC Irvine
California, UCLA
California, USC
Massachusetts, Amherst College
Ohio, Denison University
Oregon, University of Oregon
Washington, Central Washington University