SCHOOL OF LAW
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA IRVINE

CREATING THE IDEAL LAW SCHOOL FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
UCI LAW seeks to create the ideal law school for the 21st century by doing the best job in the country of training lawyers for the practice of law at the highest levels of their profession. Our innovative curriculum stresses hands-on learning, interdisciplinary study and public service.

“By every measure we are succeeding in creating a top law school, with a faculty ranked among the best in the nation and students who have done superbly in passing the bar, gaining prestigious judicial clerkships, and landing impressive jobs in every area of legal practice.”

The University of California, Irvine School of Law is a very special place. From the outset, our goal has been to be one of the top law schools in the country, and by every measure we are succeeding. We do not want to replicate other law schools, but instead wish to take advantage of our wonderful opportunity to create the ideal law school for the twenty-first century.

The Law School emphasizes preparing students for the practice of law at the highest levels of the profession. All students are required to take a clinical course where they represent real clients, including negotiating for them and arguing for them in court, under the supervision of a faculty member. All first year students are required to do intake interviews in a legal service or public defenders’ office so they have contact with clients from the beginning of their legal education. We have an extensive externship program that allows students to receive academic credit for their learning experience while working with a judge or a non-profit organization.

The Law School has a deep commitment to public service. All students and faculty are strongly encouraged to do pro bono work and I am proud that over 90% of our students do this. The Law School funds public service work during the summer, a “bridge program” after graduation to provide financial support for students seeking public interest jobs, and a generous loan repayment assistance program.

The Law School has attracted terrific faculty and teachers. A recent study ranks their scholarly impact as seventh in the country, behind Yale, Harvard, the University of Chicago, Stanford, New York University, and Columbia.

We have worked hard to create a warm, collegial community. Our small class size helps enormously in this regard. But there is also a strong commitment from all in the community—administrators, staff, faculty, and students—to do all we can to make UCI Law School a unique, warm, supportive environment.

I am so proud of all that we have accomplished in making UCI Law School a place of excellence in teaching, scholarship, and public service. We are committed to building on these successes to do even better in the years ahead.

Erwin Chemerinsky
Dean and Distinguished Professor of Law
Raymond Pryke Professor of First Amendment Law
“There is a demand for new lawyers to be exceptionally responsive to the needs of clients. And the only way they can really do so in the long term is for us to be sure that legal education properly prepares them. As a new law school, UC Irvine has the flexibility and drive to respond to these market demands.”

—Gary Singer, Partner, O’Melveny & Myers LLP

How do you prepare law students to apply what they learn in school to all of the challenges to come after graduation? Start with real-world experience.

Our faculty has crafted a curriculum that is focused on providing a balance between rigorous academics, practical knowledge and learning through experience. In every year of law school, we want our students to have practice experience. First year students are required to go to a public defender or a legal services office to do intake interviews as part of their Lawyering Skills course, so that they have contact with real clients throughout their law school experience. By the time they graduate, students will have substantial experience legally representing a client of an in-house legal clinic.

The Pro Bono Program at UCI Law provides opportunities for students to put the skills and knowledge they gain in the classroom into practice by providing a valuable service to underserved communities and causes. Whether students are inspired to dedicate their careers to public service or incorporate pro bono practice into their private practice, UCI Law strives to instill a deep commitment to public service in its students.

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The Pro Bono Program compiles a list of pre-approved pro bono projects which students can engage in throughout the semester and during breaks. Students can also craft their own pro bono project, subject to approval.

Alternative Breaks: The Pro Bono Program also provides students with unique and in-depth opportunities to volunteer with public interest organizations during academic breaks. These provide students with intensive experience and the chance to make a real difference in the lives of others in their community.
“Over the past 30 years I’ve interviewed, hired and worked with many young associates, and only a recent UC Irvine Law hire has come fresh out of law school with such a unique ability to understand practical consequences and strategic issues in litigation, combined with legal research and writing.”

—Ellen Relkin, Counsel, Weitz & Luxenberg, P.C.

UCI Law

What can you learn in a clinic that you can’t learn in a classroom? How to turn theory into practice. At UCI Law, we think that clinical experience is a key component of making a law school student “practice-ready.” Every student graduating from UCI Law completes at least one semester of clinical education. We offer at least six core clinics, three elective clinics for second or third-year students, and the ability to create individualized custom clinics with approval, offering students the flexibility to pursue real-world experience in their areas of interest.

In clinics, students work directly with clients under close supervision, and special consideration is given to the ethical issues, values and the responsibilities of professional practice.

UCI Law also provides an externship program which offers academic credit for students working for judges, non-profit organizations and government agencies. Externships provide students the opportunity to begin to build their professional identity, improve their oral advocacy, research, writing and analytic skills, and gain a better understanding of the fundamental values of their profession and their professional responsibility as lawyers.

“There are set clinics at the school, but I really wanted to stay at the Orange County DA’s office because I’m very interested in criminal law. We did not have a clinic tailored to criminal law. I was allowed to tailor my own clinic to give me experience before I apply for a job.”

—Guadalupe (Lupe) Gonzalez, Class of 2014

UCI Law
“One thing that I really love about UCI Law, together with our interdisciplinary studies, is the speaker series. It’s incredible.”

CRYSTAL ADAMS, CLASS OF 2014

In an increasingly complex world, lawyers need to understand not only the law but how it applies to many varied disciplines. A criminal lawyer should have an understanding of psychology; an intellectual property lawyer should have an understanding of economics. At UCI Law students learn about the connections between disciplines and how to apply their legal education to many aspects of legal practice. We want to teach lawyers how to think flexibly and be prepared for a rapidly changing and increasingly complex world.

Interdisciplinary Faculty: This interdisciplinary perspective is ingrained in our curriculum and is embodied in our faculty, many of whom hold joint appointments in related disciplines at UCI: Elizabeth Cauffman, in Social Behavior and Education; Linda Cohen, in Economics and Law; Joseph DiMento, in Planning and Law; Howard Gillman, in Political Science and Law; Jeffrey Helmreich, in Philosophy and Law; Elizabeth Loftus, in Psychology and Law; Bill Maurer, in Anthropology and Law; Keramet Reiter, in Criminology and Law; Carroll Seron, in Criminology and Law; William Thompson, in Social Behavior and Law; Kerry Vandell, in Business and Law; and Jeffrey Wasserstrom, in History and Law.

University Resources: UCI School of Law has the distinct advantage of being located on a university campus that already has strong interdisciplinary programs with law and related fields that law students can take advantage of. These include the Center in Law, Society & Culture; the Center for Psychology and Law; and the School of Social Ecology, which combines the study of law with the social, behavioral, environmental, and health sciences.

“Law schools across the country have emphasized theory and doctrine for decades but have failed in adequately evolving their curriculum to prepare their graduates for the legal profession. UCI Law is among only a handful of schools that emphasizes experiential learning. If medical schools require their students to see patients, why should law schools not hold their students to the same standard?”

—Hagop Boyaci, Class of 2014
“Another student and I helped create the Supplemental Security Income clinic. It is really great to work on these important issues and see how much your legal education can come into play.”

MEG TANAKA, CLASS OF 2013
“UCI Law dares to be different. It has the guts to say that the status quo is not the best we can do, and in fact, the possibilities for what legal scholarship could look like are endless. Our school is a bold institution that challenges time-honored practices, and dares to ask if there might be a better way to learn to practice law.”

— Anna Bennett, Class of 2014

Appellate Litigation Clinic allows students to represent a client in an appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Students (in almost all cases) meet the client, investigate the issues on appeal, review the trial record, develop and research a theory and write an Opening Brief, ultimately arguing the case before the Ninth Circuit. The substantive nature of the cases is often immigration (political asylum, cancellation of removal, ineffective assistance of counsel), although it can also involve prisoner § 1983 civil rights cases on behalf of inmates or habeas cases.

Directors: Peter R. Afrasiabi and Kathryn Davis

Community and Economic Development Clinic gives students the opportunity to do transactional work on behalf of community groups, individuals, non-profit organizations and small businesses. This Clinic focuses on the development of transaction-oriented lawyering skills, and provides students with business skills, the fundamentals of business law, and an introduction to public-spirited legal work outside the litigation context.

Directors: Carrie Hempel and Robert Solomon

Consumer Protection Clinic provides a unique opportunity for students to obtain multiple perspectives on consumer law. The Clinic facilitates student work with the California Monitor, which provides advice and support to the California Attorney General in enforcing the landmark $25 billion national mortgage settlement. Students work to improve implementation of the settlement relief, assess bank compliance with the settlement terms, and respond to consumer complaints about bank conduct.

Directors: Katherine Porter and Luz Herrera

Environmental Law Clinic offers students the opportunity to work on cases and matters involving environmental and natural resources issues. Clinic students take an active role in the development of cases and non-litigation matters, assuming substantial responsibility at an early stage. As part of a team, students are responsible for strategic decisions, client communication, legal research and writing, and management of matters.

Director: Michael Robinson-Dorn

Immigrant Rights Clinic allows students the opportunity to represent individuals and organizations on a range of legal issues, including workplace exploitation, deportation, and immigration enforcement. Immigrant communities have been both targeted by aggressive federal-local law enforcement initiatives and been the sites of innovative social and political organizing. IRC provides scarce pro bono legal services to defend immigrants and to support their political engagement through grassroots and advocacy organizations.

Director: Sameer Ashar

California Department of Fair Employment and Housing Civil Rights Clinic is the nation’s largest state civil rights agency, responsible for enforcing the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA), Unruh Civil Rights Act, Ralph Civil Rights Act, and Disabled Persons Act. The DFEH receives, investigates, mediates, and litigates complaints of discrimination based on numerous protected classifications filed by the public, including race, disability, gender, gender preference, and familial status.

Director: Jon Ichinaga

Domestic Violence Clinic gives students the opportunity to gain experience in multiple areas of the law and in multi-dimensional lawyering skills, while evaluating the benefits and limits of various interventions into the complex problem of domestic violence. Students can expect to assist clients with housing, public benefits, and other legal and non-legal issues to help clients achieve freedom from violence. Students will also engage in a community legal education or policy advocacy project.

Director: Jane Stoever

International Human Rights Clinic provides students with the opportunity to work on litigation cases that have broad effects beyond our borders. The Clinic focuses on international human rights litigation in U.S. courts, especially under the Alien Tort Statute (28 USC §1350). Students participate in the litigation of pending cases at the trial court and appellate levels, including strategy discussions, evaluation of claims, discovery, briefing and preparation for oral arguments.

Director: Paul Hoffman

International Justice Clinic works with activists, lawyers, diplomats, scholars and NGOs at home and around the world to develop and implement advocacy strategies concerning accountability for human rights abuses. Clinic students pursue research, engage in on-the-ground fact finding, conduct interviews in cross-cultural settings, and prepare written and oral reports of their findings. Future students will focus on oral and written advocacy, coalition building, legal research, and legislative drafting, all while taking on a ‘primary advocate’ role in specific areas of human rights law.

Director: David Kaye
"I have such respect for my classmates. They are intelligent, insightful, supportive, and keep me entertained after long library hours."

RENEÉ AMADOR, CLASS OF 2014

The UC Irvine School of Law community is dedicated to providing an environment where all students can succeed, grow, and enjoy their experience in law school. Whether in school or in the workplace, good lawyers know how to work together to get the best results. United in this belief, our community’s shared goal is to create a law school where students see one another as colleagues instead of competitors, and where faculty and the legal community can work closely with students to help them reach their fullest potential. Each student is assigned a mentor from the local legal community, and the student-run UC Irvine School of Law Community Fellows mentor each new class to make sure every student gets the support he or she needs to thrive, and to build a collegial, supportive community.
A richly rewarding student life provides the opportunity to balance the challenge of law school with the support of a close-knit student culture and a wealth of activities to support any interest. As part of the University of California Irvine, students enjoy access to the resources of a major public university located in the heart of Southern California, only minutes away from the Pacific Ocean.

The Irvine Ranch Land Reserve includes 37,000 acres designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior as a National Natural Landmark. Our area enjoys miles of biking, hiking and running trails. Disneyland and other theme parks are a short drive away, as are the Orange County Performing Arts Center and the South Coast Repertory Theatre.

Once they accept an offer of admission and submit a positive Statement of Intent to Register, students may apply for guaranteed housing in one of our six on-campus communities: Palo Verde, Verano Place, Campus Village, Vista del Campo, Vista del Campo Norte, or Puerta del Sol. Students can also take advantage of the Off-Campus Housing and Roommate Finder to seek out housing near campus or on the beach.

At UCI Law, students participate in building student organizations from the ground up, many of which are unique to UCI Law. Being a new law school means our students have an opportunity to create institutions that are more responsive to present and future needs.

ORGANIZATIONS
- Adelphi Christian Fellowship
- American Constitution Society (ACS)
- Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA)
- Black Law Students Alliance (BLSA)
- Children’s Advocacy Group
- Criminal Law Society
- Disability Law Society
- Entertainment Law Society
- Environmental Law Society
- Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Law Society
- The Federalist Society
- Immigration and International Migration Law Society
- Intellectual Property and Cyberlaw Society (IPCS)
- International Law Society (ILS)
- Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project
- Jewish Law Association
- J. Reuben Clark Law Society
- Latina/o Law Students Association (LLSA)
- Law and Economics Society
- National Lawyers Guild
- Neuroscience, Law, and Ethics Association
- Oral Advocacy Association
- Orange County Human Rights Association (OCHRA)
- OutLaw
- Space Law Society
- Student Animal Legal Defense Fund
- Student Bar Association (SBA)
- underRepresented Student Alliance (uRSA)
- Women’s Law Society (WLS)

PUBLICATIONS
- Law Review
- Voice

“Ever since my initial tour with the administration, and my initial meeting with students from the DFEH Clinic, the incredible energy and spirit of the institution were visible everywhere.”

—Stephen Cho, Class of 2013
“Meeting students, staff, and faculty at Admitted Students’ Day, and learning more about the kinds of work that so many people at the school were doing, only confirmed my sense that this was a special place, and that I had an opportunity I could not pass up.”

— Jonathan Markovitz, Class of 2014

Internship and Externship Opportunities are a central part of UCI Law’s focus on training new lawyers to be practice-ready. Our externship program offers academic credit for students doing legal work for judges, non-profit organizations, and government agencies.

Financial Support UCI Law has a generous program that provides financial aid based on both need and merit. Public Interest Fellows receive three-year, full-tuition scholarships in addition to specialized programming and mentoring. The Public Interest Law Fund and the Al Meyerhoff Fellowships provide funds for students doing public service work during the summer. After graduation, there are many forms of financial help for students wanting to do public service work, including a generous Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP).

Clerkships are a prestigious and highly-prized way for law students to gain valuable experience working in the judicial system. UCI Law students have received a very high number of clerkships, ranking second-highest in the nation in 2013.

“Large law firms and other law firms are hiring UCI students, and the reports I’m getting are that they are doing well. Judges like me are hiring UCI students and the numbers there are also positive. My clerk from UCI has done very well, which reflects the goals we were setting over two decades ago.”

THE HONORABLE ANDREW J. GUILFORD, U.S. District Court, Central District of California
“I wanted to be part of the process of building a new type of law school, where students are encouraged to participate outside of the classroom and contribute to the culture and legacy of the school.”

—Shaleen Shanbhag, Class of 2014
“I remember my first day of law school, one of my professors saying ‘At other schools you'll hear professors say, look to the left, look to the right, one of you will not be here when you graduate. We say the opposite. We say you'll all graduate, you'll all pass the bar, you will all get good jobs.’ And that's the attitude they have. They want you to succeed, and everyone's there to get you to succeed.”

—Andrea Smith, Class of 2013
“For me to know that I’m getting rigorous training is very helpful, and it gives me a lot of confidence for when I actually go out and have a summer job, or do pro bono experience and help real clients.”

—Crystal Adams, Class of 2014

FIRST-YEAR COURSES
Legal Profession I
Lawyering Skills I
Common Law Analysis: Contracts
Procedural Analysis
Statutory Analysis
Legal Profession II
Lawyering Skills II
Common Law Analysis: Torts
Constitutional Analysis
International Legal Analysis

ELECTIVES
Access to Justice in China
Administrative Law
Advanced Criminal Procedure
Advanced Legal Writing
Advanced Legal Writing: Business Drafting
Advanced Writing: Law Review
American Legal History
Animal Law
Appellate Advocacy
Applied Lawyering and Law Practice Management

Banking Law
Bankruptcy Law
Basic Tax
Business Associations I: Private Companies
Business Principles for Lawyers
The Business and Regulation of Fund Investors
Business Law
Business Torts
Cause Lawyering
China Law
Community Property
Comprehensive Immigration Reform Seminar
Conflicts of Law
Constitutional Law: First Amendment
Copyright Law
Corporate Tax
Criminal Procedure
Critical Race Theory & Law and Identity Reading Group
Dispute Resolution
Drug Discovery, Development & Commercialization
Education Law & Policy
Election Law
Employment Law

CURRICULUM
Employment Discrimination Seminar
Entertainment Law
Environmental Law
Environmental Law & Policy
Estate & Gift Taxation
Evidence
Evidence Plus
Family Law
Federal Courts
Federal Income Taxation
The Federal Judge
Federal Public Land and Natural Resources Law
Human Rights and Protest in 20th and 21st Century China
Immigration Colloquium
Immigration Law & Policy
Insurance Law & Policy
Intellectual Property Law
Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Law
International Business Transactions
International Contracts
International Environmental Law
International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
International Trade Law
Investment Management Regulation
Labor Law
Land Use and Development Control Law
Law and Sexuality
Law and Social Movements
Law and Theory Relating to the 2008 Financial Crisis
Legal Analysis of Evidence

Mergers & Acquisitions
Multi-Party Dispute Resolution Workshop
National Security Law
Natural Resources Law
Negotiations & Mediation
Organizations, Operations & Tax Aspects of Public Charities & Private Foundations
Patent Law
Property
Public Companies
Reason and Passion in the Law
Regulation of U.S. Securities Markets
Regulatory Design & Innovation
Remedies
Reproductive Technologies
Secured Credit
Securities Regulation
Sexual Orientation and the Law
Sports Law
Statistics for Lawyers
Technical Protection of Authors’ Rights
Trademark Law
Trial Advocacy
White Collar Crime
Writing for Law Review

Note: Not all courses are offered every term.
“There is an opportunity to build something new from the ground up, an emphasis on public service, and a strong commitment to integrity, mutual respect, and camaraderie at UCI Law that I know I would never get anywhere else. Now that I am here, I know I was right to choose UCI Law.”

—Leah Gasser-Ordaz, Class of 2014

UCI Law’s Centers and Institutes provide in-depth focus and programs in specific areas of the law. The several centers created so far have forged partnerships in Asia as well as locally in Southern California to share ideas and sponsor further research. Additional centers and institutes are planned in the future.

The John S. and Marilyn Long U.S.-China Institute for Business and Law is forming close partnerships with universities in China and includes a chaired professor in China business and law at UC Irvine, conferences, sponsored research, and exchanges of faculty and students.

The Center in Law, Society and Culture brings together UCI faculty and graduate students who share interests in law, society, and culture, and sponsors collaborative research projects by graduate and professional students. UCI Law Prof. Catherine Fisk is co-director.

The Center for Land, Environment, and Natural Resources seeks to make UCI Law a nationally recognized site for scholarship, education, community outreach and public engagement on environmental, natural resources and land use law.

The Korea Law Center will pursue the mission of promoting practical solutions to problems arising at the intersection of U.S. and Korean law.

The planned Center for African Legal Studies will become a global forum for implementing public service activities with a focus on two core initiatives: the rule of law and access to justice, and international business law and entrepreneurship.

“I chose UCI Law because during orientation, I could tell the greatness the school will achieve from the faculty and existing students. I did not want to miss out on an opportunity to be a part of that legacy.”

MIMI ANH, CLASS OF 2013
PREPARING NEW LAWYERS TO BE PRACTICE-READY ALSO MEANS PREPARING THEM TO FIND A PRACTICE. UCI Law prepares students in three critical areas of career development: job search skills, career education and mentoring, and recruiting and networking opportunities. These skills are critically important to a new lawyer’s career, and UCI Law helps nurture their growth with programs and services throughout the year.

Job Search Skills: The legal profession comprises many areas of practice, each requiring a distinct set of knowledge, skills, and abilities. Throughout the academic year, we conduct panel discussions, brown bag lunches, and workshops covering a broad range of topics including job search nuts and bolts, substantive practice overviews, and self-assessment.

Career Education and Mentoring: The Career Development Office (CDO) educates students regarding legal employment opportunities in the following sectors: public interest, government, law firms, corporate counsel, and alternative careers. The CDO also works closely with students to develop the professional skills necessary to enter the job market as competitive, practice-ready applicants.

Recruiting and Networking Opportunities: The CDO organizes on-campus interview opportunities and hosts panels and receptions that public interest, government, and private sector employers alike participate in throughout the year.

THE UCDC PROGRAM

The UCDC Law Program is a uniquely collaborative, full-semester externship program in Washington, DC. The program combines a weekly seminar-style course with a full-time field placement to offer law students an unparalleled opportunity to learn how federal statutes, regulations, and policies are made, changed, and understood in the nation’s capital. During the four months of total immersion in the theory and practice of Washington lawyering, students will have contact with all three branches of the federal government, independent regulatory agencies, and advocacy nonprofits.

The program includes law students from Berkeley, UCLA, UC Davis, and UC Irvine. Students will receive 13 units for successful completion of the program: 10 units for the field placements and 3 units for the required companion course, “Law and Lawyering in the Nation’s Capital.”

As of now, there is no cap on enrollment. The program typically enrolls between 15 and 35 students. The program is housed at the University of California Washington Center, a UC facility located at 1608 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., just minutes from the White House and most government departments and agencies.

“I know that employers are really impressed by what the school is doing, and by what they see from UCI law students when they go out into the legal profession.”

NICK SCHUCHERT, CLASS OF 2015
PART OF A MAJOR RESEARCH UNIVERSITY LOCATED IN THE HEART OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. Since 1965, the University of California, Irvine has combined the strengths of a major research university with the bounty of an incomparable Southern California location. UCI’s unyielding commitment to rigorous academics, cutting-edge research, leadership and character development makes this campus a driving force for innovation and discovery that serves our local, national and global communities in many ways.

With more than 28,000 undergraduate and graduate students, 1,100 faculty and 9,400 staff, UCI is among the most dynamic campuses in the University of California system. Increasingly a first-choice campus for students, UCI ranks among the top 10 U.S. universities in the number of undergraduate applications and continues to admit freshmen with highly competitive academic profiles. Orange County’s second-largest employer, UCI generates an annual economic impact on the county of $4.3 billion.

Location, location, location. With UC Irvine’s ideal coastal Southern California location—between Los Angeles and San Diego and surrounded by coastline, mountains and desert—students have a wealth of recreational venues and cultural options.

“In my 1L year, there was a lot of reading to do. And the beach is just 15 minutes away. So rather than work in the library, I’d drive to the beach with a folding chair, set it up and read my casebook for a couple of hours. I think probably very few other law schools have the option of doing that!”

DAVID RODWIN, CLASS OF 2012