



# CF Newsletter

June 2014

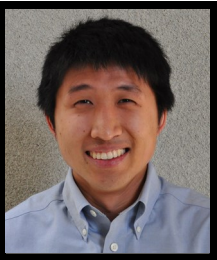


Welcome UCI Law Class of 2017!

My name is Jennah Jones, and I am the Director of Student Life. I have a variety of responsibilities, but I particularly enjoy helping new students and working with our Community Fellows (CF)! Community Fellows are a group of 2/3L student leaders who are committed to building a positive community at UCI Law through 1:1 and group mentorship with incoming students. They will plan large and small scale programs throughout your 1L year.

Later this summer you will learn who your specific CFs are, but we wanted to introduce the whole team. You can tell there are different personalities among the CFs (even by their messages), but they all have one thing in common: they are excited to work with you. We can't wait to see you in August.

Smiles, Jennah



Hi Friends, Francis here! I'm going to be one of your community fellows for this year, and I'm excited to get to know all of you. I grew up in the Bay Area and hope to practice there once I graduate. My favorite things include: food, sleep, and laughter. This

summer I am working in-house at Pacific Gas and Electric Company in San Francisco and am also concurrently serving as a Research Assistant to Professor Christopher Whytock, who taught your mock class at ASW (he's the best; I'll introduce you if you haven't met him already :D).

The summer before 1L year, I went on food adventures, read fantasy novels, and hung out with my rabbit, Mr. Rabbit. Do not do anything law school related over summer (put down that hornbook, gunner); you'll do more than your fair share in law school. I hope your summers are full of beach trips, mimosas, and happiness. See you soon :)]

<3, **Francis Yao**



Hi UCI Law 1Ls! My name is **Jessica Brostek**. I'm a 2L and really looking forward to getting to know all of you! I'm from Costa Mesa, went to UC Berkeley for college, and worked at an IP/Business Litigation law firm in Irvine for a year between college and law school. Beyond that, I'm a huge foodie and Orange County local so

if you ever need any dinner or happy hour suggestions, I'd love to help. My other interests include: Cal Athletics (Go Bears!), Los Angeles Lakers, art history, running, yoga, hiking, traveling, and Beyoncé. I'm currently externing for Judge Staton at U.S. District Court in Santa Ana and will be participating in Early Interview Week with law firms at the end of the summer. During my summer before 1L, I traveled to Paris and London with my best friend, relaxed at the beach, read a lot of books for fun, and enjoyed time spent with my family and friends. I highly recommend taking some R&R this summer. 1L is a lot of work, which you're all totally capable of, so enjoy this summer, have adventures, and relax! Again, really looking forward to meeting all of you and feel free to reach out this summer with any questions you may have!





**Morgan McCombe**

The summer before law school I relaxed, did a lot of hiking, and read several interesting books. I hiked various Pacific Coast trails around the Bay Area and I read a number of law related books, including *A History of American Law* by Lawrence M. Friedman, and

*The Concept of Law* by H.L.A. Hart. I also read some really nerdy science fiction books, like William Gibbon's *Count Zero*.

This summer I am working at Public Law Center, a public interest law firm in Santa Ana that provides free legal services to low income and underrepresented individuals in Orange County. I work on project Operation Veterans Re-Entry, which is a program designed to provide a wide range free legal services to veterans in the community, such as veterans benefits, landlord-tenant disputes, and discharge upgrades. I am fortunate that I found a project where I can learn practical legal skills while working on issues that I feel passionate about.

I look forward to meeting you. Welcome to UCI Law.



**Ariela Rutkin-Becker**

Ariela is spending her summer in Manhattan as a Legal Intern with the Vera Institute of Justice, a nonprofit that combines expertise in research, demonstration projects, and technical assistance to help make the justice system work more effectively. (She is also training for a 45-mile bike race that she will ride with her mom and college roommate to raise money for a cancer hospital in Buffalo, New York.) The summer before law school (last year) she was finishing up her time as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer with Inter Tribal Sports, a nonprofit focusing on Native American youth in the southern California tribal communities.



**Tanya Taylor**

This summer I am externing for the United States Bankruptcy Court, Central District of California in Santa Ana. Before 1L Year I played soccer both professionally and semi-professionally. I also made sure to spend a lot of time with family and friends!



I was Like many of my classmates, I chose UCI because I knew it would give me an excellent and unique law school experience. I also thought the school would help me pursue a career in public interest law. Indeed, the school has given me both of those things. I loved (almost) everything about

my first year and am currently working as a summer law clerk with the Office of the Federal Public Defender, my dream employer. However, the school has given me more than I bargained for. It gave me an environment where teachers and students are equally excited about class and compassionate about the law. Being enveloped by this culture for the past year, I've learned a great deal about myself and expanded my professional interests. I'm looking forward to exploring these new interests during the next two years and beyond.

While I am usually not one to give unsolicited advice, I know that the summer before law school can be a stressful time. Don't let it be. Go have fun.

**-Sam Cretcher**



**Hayley Penan** is a rising 2L with interests in litigation, health care law, entertainment law, and public interest law. Before law school, after graduating from UC Berkeley for undergrad, she worked for Lonely Planet Publications and then the Legal Aid Society of Orange County. She is currently an extern for a Federal Magistrate Judge in Sacramento. She loves skiing, yoga, dancing, singing, and doing anything outdoors. She grew up in Orange County and is happy to provide the lowdown on the local scene or show anyone new to the area around town.





**Emily Cross** is proud to be the first Montanan to attend UCI Law. She graduated from the University of Montana in 2013 with her Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy and minors in music and economics. After graduation she spent the summer relaxing, traveling, and spending time with loved ones. This summer, she is externing for Judge Stephen Reinhardt on the Ninth Circuit and working for Professor Rick Hasen as a research assistant.



**Emile Ayoub**

This summer I am externing in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California, all while trying to watch as many World Cup games as possible. Before law school, I worked as a law clerk and operations coordinator for a small corporate and real estate transaction firm in Los Angeles. I am a huge Lakers and basketball fan, and a big UCLA Bruins fan as well.



**Ryan Tikker**

This summer I'm externing in Bankruptcy Court in Santa Ana at the Ronald Reagan Federal Courthouse. It is great to get a behind the scenes look at judicial procedure and also have a hand in drafting the tentative rulings. I also moonlight at a civil litigation firm and work nights and weekends sometimes. The nights I do not have to work are wonderful as like to play basketball and binge-watch Mad Men, while not worrying about homework or having to study. It's truly glorious.

When I made the difficult decision to attend law school, I worked for a hedge fund in Century City. I decided to leave to go backpacking in Europe for a few months. Upon my return I worked for a housing company and then a financial planning practice for about a year.



Hello all! My name is **Aglaia Ovtchinnikova**, and I am beyond excited to welcome you to the UCI community! I went straight through to law school after graduating from GWU in 2013. The summer before law school, I worked part time at a tennis club and part time within the legal department of a high tech company. This summer, I'm exploring my interest in civil litigation at a small boutique firm in Irvine. I advise you to relax as much as possible this summer, and try to do the following three things before starting your 1L year in the fall: create as many memories as possible with friends and family, read a book for pleasure, and finally, take an afternoon to consider what truly matters to you and write yourself a letter to refer to when things get crazy during the semester. If you have any questions, feel free to get in touch. Congratulations and welcome!



I grew up in the Bay Area and graduated from the University of California, San Diego. This summer, I am interning for The Clorox Company in Oakland (it has been a blast so far!). The summer before law school I was working for a lab in San Diego. I made sure to take a little bit of time off and I highly recommend that you do the same! Go on a short vacation, see your friends and family, and, most importantly, relax. I was very nervous before 1L and I can assure you that there is no reason for you to be nervous. You are all more than qualified to be here and we cannot wait to add each of you to the UCI Law family. **-Lauren Wong**



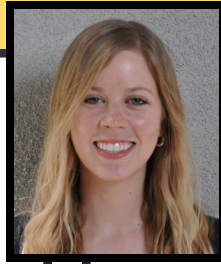


Hey folks!

My name is **Nefi Acosta**. I am originally from Mexico City, but I was raised in Utah. I graduated from Utah Valley University with a BS in Political Science in 2011. After college, I

took two years off to get my feet wet and see if law school was right for me. Consequently, I worked in a courtroom as a court administrator for one year, then I worked as legal assistant to attorneys who represented children in court proceedings. I loved working on cases and learning about the law, but I wanted to be the one arguing the cases before the court, not just watching it. That's why I came to UCI Law. This summer I am happy to be working as a judicial extern in the Ninth Circuit with Judge Reinhardt. I love salsa dancing, playing basketball, and the outdoors.

Cheers!



This summer I am working at a U.S. Attorney's Office and am updating a textbook. Last summer I was finishing up work until school started, but made sure to have a week or two to get settled and learn the area. Be sure to watch some great movies, go for a run, and get together with your friends before you arrive this fall!

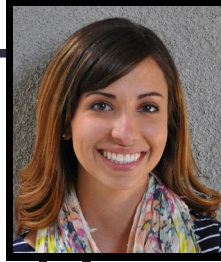
**-Tara Schonhoff**



**Jordan Aiken**

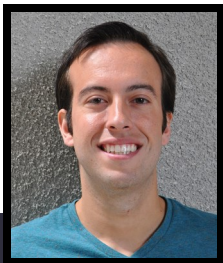
During my summer before starting law school I worked as a research assistant, painted, spent time with friends and

family and traveled. This summer I am working at the ACLU of Southern California on the LGBT Rights, Reproductive Justice and Gender Equity Project. It has been an amazing experience so far and it has been wonderful to put into practice so much of what we learned last year. We are really excited to meet you in a couple of months! Relax and enjoy your summer--sleep, read for pleasure and get fresh air, that is all you need to do to prepare for 1L. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions over the summer. See you soon!



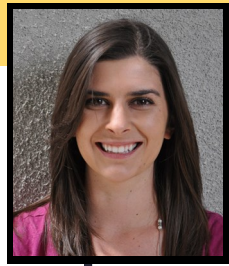
Hi! My name is **Natalie Diaz**. I enjoy eating Mexican food and donuts. I also am the proud mother of a feisty dog named Eevee. She is pretty famous, so I am sure you will meet her. I went into law school right out of undergrad and because I switched from the quarter system to the semester system I had a whopping 6 weeks off!! During my "time off" I decided to visit NYC for the first time and did every touristy thing possible. It was exhausting and in retrospect I should have spent the summer lounging by a pool eating taquitos. Currently, I am working as a law clerk for Legal Services of Northern California in the downtown Sacramento office. I am really enjoying being in Northern California and have been spending my evenings going to happy hours and not knowing what to do with my free time. It's great! Welcome to law school... it's not that bad, take a deep breath :)

<3 Natalie



My name is **Michael Olson**. I'm from Woodland Hills, California and graduated as a history major from UCLA. I took the summer before law school off and spent as much time as possible with my friends and family. This included watching a lot of terrible television shows and going to Six Flags Magic Mountain pretty much once a week. This summer I am externing for a bankruptcy judge in Santa Ana and playing a ton of basketball.





Hello! My name is **Mandy Luper** and I am a rising 2L at UCI Law. I'm originally from Temecula, CA (just north of San Diego), and went to UCLA for undergrad, majoring in Political Science with an emphasis in International Relations. The summer before 1L I hung out with friends, did fun outdoorsy activities, and tried to read as many books for fun as I could! (I was also working at a law firm, but that's less interesting.) This summer I am working at the US Attorney's Office-Southern District, Civil Division. It has been an incredible experience so far and I am very excited for the rest of summer! Can't wait to meet you all! **Enjoy your summer, relax and have fun!**



**Jamila Benkato**

Summer before 1L: I was the Program Director at a refugee center in Grand Rapids, MI and had another part time job. I took a week off to visit my brother in London, but other than that I worked right up until my move. My road trip here was my "vacation." It was busy, but I loved my job!

Summer 2014: I'm working at the Washington Lawyers' Committee D.C. Prisoners' Project, helping incarcerated clients pursue their claims against the D.C. Dept. of Corrections and the Federal Bureau of Prisons. It's really interesting work and being in D.C. is fantastic. Shoot me an email if you have any questions!



Hi I'm **Nancy Sotomayor!** I'm a rising 2L, and currently working for a judge in San Francisco this summer. I'm an Orange County native but hoping to move to San Francisco after graduation. I'm always up for a concert or music festival. I enjoy going out, mostly to bars that are not in the peninsula. Currently I'm obsessed with *Game of Thrones*, just like everybody else, and I also happen to be reading the series.



Hi Rising 1Ls!

My name is **Micah Morris** and I'm excited to be a Community Fellow for your class and to plan some extra activities for non-traditional students. Though I'm originally from the Washington, DC area, I've spent most of the past 18 years in the San Francisco Bay Area, where I was a high school teacher. In the summer before I started law school, I did a lot of traveling, cooking, and jam-making, and tried to take care of all the big and little tasks that go along with moving and becoming a student again. This summer, I'm back in Washington, DC as an intern with the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division and I'm loving it. I'm excited to meet you all in August!



Hello 1L's. My name is **Claire-Lise (CL) Kutlay**. I am a current 3L at UCI Law. I spent the summer before law school traveling around Eastern Europe, an experience I highly recommend! I spent the summer after 1L working at the District Attorney's Office in Orange County. This summer I am at a boutique entertainment law firm in Los Angeles. I look forward to meeting you all - CL



Save

These

Dates...

**Wednesday, August 13— Friday, August 15: Orientation**

During Orientation you will meet your Community Fellows, and have a pizza dinner with them on either Thursday or Friday night!

**Friday, August 22: Field Day**

Join your Community Fellows for some good, old fashioned fun with relay races and other field day games! This is a great way to celebrate the end of your first week of classes, get to know your classmates, and earn bragging rights!

**#MotionToChangeVenue**

#MotionToChangeVenue is a new initiative from the Community Fellows this summer. We all know how difficult the moving process can be, so the CF team wants to help lessen that burden, and help you move in! At UCI you are a valued member of the family, and we want to welcome you in style. This initiative seeks to build on the notions of family and community that the law school has embodied since its beginning! Please stay tuned for more information later this summer on how to sign up for assistance with moving in.

