Let’s Go Change the World

UCI Law

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE SCHOOL OF LAW
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Now is a more important time than ever to be a law student. The world needs you. It needs lawyers dedicated to racial justice, a diverse and inclusive legal profession, and the public interest. It needs lawyers ready to ensure equal access to legal representation and to help communities and businesses rebuild as we emerge from the global pandemic. At the University of California, Irvine School of Law, we are driven to improve our local, national, and global communities and we are committed to equipping you to meet these important legal needs, preparing you to be leaders for systemic improvement of our justice system, and giving you the foundations for launching successful careers as lawyers.

Launched with a groundbreaking approach to law that was practical, experiential, public service oriented and global in perspective, UCI Law revolutionized legal education when it opened its doors in 2009. Our new school drew a nationally-ranked founding faculty and welcomed extraordinary students. Our vision was of a law school that would impact the world through its dedication to training passionate, talented and socially conscious students; generating expert knowledge on topics of importance to society; and providing free legal services to our communities. Our success is undeniable. We are already ranked No. 27 among U.S. law schools by U.S. News & World Report and our peer reputation ranking is No. 21. Our programs are also highly ranked: No. 8 for Clinical Training, No. 11 for Tax Law, No. 11 for Legal Writing, No. 17 for Criminal Law, No. 19 for Constitutional Law, No. 22 for Dispute Resolution, No. 25 for Intellectual Property Law and No. 25 for International Law. All in just 10 years.

We are one of the most diverse law schools in the country. U.S. News ranks UCI Law No. 9 overall for diversity, and we are the No. 1 most diverse law school in the top 30. Forty-eight percent of our graduates are people of color. Our revolutionary approach has produced diverse alumni, many who are the first in their families to practice law. In fact, we are known for training the “next generation of first generation lawyers.” Our graduates are among the most sought after legal professionals in the nation. Our success is proven. We are No. 26 in the nation in placing our students in prestigious federal court clerkships (No. 3 in California), earned an A+ ranking for practical training of students, ranked No. 3 in community service, and listed as one of the best law schools for diversity. All in just 10 years.

Already, UCI Law has demonstrated that we will not—and we have not—let the challenges of the day keep us from doing all that we do so well. Our commitment to teaching is stronger than ever. Our students continue to offer extensive pro bono legal services to those in need, and our legal clinics are as busy as ever helping their clients and giving our students the unparalleled practical training that UCI Law is known for. We are providing some of the nation’s leading programming on the legal aspects of the pandemic, including a “COVID-19 and the Law” lecture series. Through UCI Law’s centers of excellence such as our Center on Law, Equality and Race and our Center for Biotechnology and Global Health Policy, our students, faculty, and community examine critical topics at the intersection of law and society. Working together, our students and faculty continue to have an important impact on law and policy.

UCI Law is poised to tackle the most significant challenges facing the legal profession and society today. Our award-
winning, interdisciplinary, and diverse faculty are up to the challenge. Ranked No. 12 in the nation for the impact of our scholarship, we will grapple with important issues, including the profound moral, ethical and legal questions raised by the global pandemic, emerging technologies, family violence, the environment, health policy, tax, implicit bias, criminal justice, immigration, international human rights, and a myriad of other issues. We also continue to innovate our groundbreaking curriculum to ensure that our students are equipped with the skills to thrive in the profession, inform policy, and be leaders in our rapidly changing world. Our unprecedented success will continue. Because we are unconstrained by decades – or centuries – of dated practices, we will capitalize on our freedom to break new ground. We are thoughtful risk-takers. We are willing to innovate and forge our own path. Law is at the center of every critical issue facing our society today. UCI Law is making a difference.

In addition, the supportive community that is a signature of the UCI Law experience continues to thrive. We’ve been engaging with our students through continuous online programming including Town Halls with the Dean, Law Talks by UCI Law faculty, and meetings with the Career Development Office, the Externship Office, the Public Interest Office, and other student facing departments. We’ve held virtual Happy Hours hosted by the Student Bar Association (SBA) and other student organizations. We’ll continue our wonderful Community Fellows Program, which pairs second-year and third-year students with first-year students for mentoring and social activities, as well as our Family and Friends Day that gives students an opportunity to invite your friends and loved ones to participate in a day of your life as a UCI Law student.

Please consider UCI Law and find out what makes us an exciting, special and preeminent law school. Let’s go change the world together.

Warmly,

L. Song Richardson
Dean and Chancellor’s Professor of Law
Commitment to Diversity

At UCI Law, we are committed to fostering an environment where students – regardless of background, race, nationality, religion, gender identity, political perspective, or any other dimensions of our lived identities – feel heard, welcomed and fully and deeply included. Since our inception, we have consistently been listed as one of the best law schools for diversity in preLaw Magazine and ranked No. 9 in the U.S. News & World Report diversity index, and the No. 1 law school out of the top 30 law schools (2021 ranking).

We believe that a culture of inclusion makes stronger lawyers, inspires innovation and encourages teamwork. We are proud to promote these values and believe a huge part of academic success comes from hearing a variety of perspectives.

Dedicated to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The UCI Law Committee on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion is an on-campus organization whose mission is to lead in the creation of a diverse, equitable, and welcoming environment for all students. Made up of students, staff, and faculty, the Committee strives to create change and address issues of equity and diversity through support, advocacy, and education. We recognize that genuine solidarity among all members of the UCI Law community is necessary in order to develop a strong and inclusive institution. As a result, the Committee is determined to help create a campus environment where each member of the student body, staff, and faculty feels included and valued. We are deeply committed to being a place where all belong.

Associate Dean for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

In her new role as the UCI Law Associate Dean for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Professor Mehrsa Baradaran oversees the planning and implementation of goals related to diversity and inclusion within the law school. She works to organize faculty development programs, with both formal and informal mentoring, and address individual issues raised by women and underrepresented minority faculty. Additionally, she meets with other campus representatives to discuss current and best practices to promote faculty diversity and inclusion across campus.

“Coming to UCI was the perfect decision for me. As a first-generation college and law student, I did not have the support structure that many others enjoy. At UCI Law, I discovered a faculty and staff that genuinely care about their students and want them to succeed. Those mentors opened doors and instilled me with the confidence to succeed academically and professionally.”

Chris Lawrence
UCI Law 3L
UCI Black Thriving Initiative

At UCI Law, we believe in creating a campus culture in which Black people thrive – that same mission is carried through university-wide with the UCI Black Thriving Initiative.

The UCI Black Thriving Initiative strives to promote Black well-being and success. It recognizes and responds to systemic anti-Blackness as an existential threat to the mission of the university and calls on all members of the campus community to confront anti-Blackness. Students, faculty and staff are all empowered to accelerate their understanding of the Black experience through action platforms designed to produce an institutional shift at UCI for Black success.

The UCI Black Thriving Initiative consists of four university priorities:

- Improve our campus culture by intentionally confronting anti-Blackness.
- Intensify recruitment and improve success of Black undergraduate and graduate students in our academic programs.
- Leverage our research and teaching mission to advance understanding of the Black experience and propel the drivers of well-being.
- Engage with Black communities by linking UCI’s future to the success of Black people.

In addition, the initiative pushes for the promotion of Black student success, degree completion and advancement in academic programs, with a goal of making UCI a first choice for Black students.

Dr. Michael Drake, the new president of the University of California and the first Black president in the system’s nearly 150-year history, paved the way as the first Black chancellor at UCI, where he served from 2005 to 2014, and played a critical role in establishing UCI Law.

Community Programs

Two UCI Law programs encourage students from under-served communities to pursue a career in law and ultimately give back to their communities as practicing attorneys.

Saturday Academy of Law (SAL)

Through SAL, a six-week program conducted Saturday mornings at UCI Law, ninth-graders from economically challenged communities have the unique opportunity to improve their reading, writing and critical thinking skills while learning more about law and the legal profession. More than 700 Santa Ana Unified School District students have completed the program since it launched in 2009; we recently added students from Garden Grove and Anaheim high schools. SAL classes are taught by credentialed teachers, supported by undergraduate teaching assistants, and UCI Law students even teach a portion of the curriculum. The first SAL graduates started college in fall 2012. Since then, a majority of SAL alumni have enrolled in four-year colleges and universities across the nation, including UCI.

Pre-Law Outreach Program (POP)

POP runs in the summer and provides six Saturday lessons for undergraduate students from disadvantaged backgrounds who wish to attend law school. POP participants come from all over the United States; most are the first in their families to attend college. They learn from UCI Law faculty and staff, judges, law students and practicing attorneys on how to prepare a competitive law school application and on how to succeed in law school once enrolled. Since 2010, POP has helped more than 300 college students better understand the law school admissions process, and has provided each with mentorship and guidance. A number of POP graduates are currently enrolled at UCI Law, and several are attending other law schools around the country.
Given a blank slate, our accomplished, nationally-ranked faculty designed a cutting-edge approach to legal education not found at other law schools. Law students everywhere must learn subject areas like constitutional law, contracts, civil and criminal procedure and torts. But at UCI Law, the differences are how the coursework is taught and what courses our students take. As artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies rapidly change the world and the modern practice of law, UCI Law continues to innovate our curriculum to address these critical issues.

Crafted by UCI Law’s world-class faculty, our curriculum carefully balances rigorous academics, practical knowledge and learning by doing.

**First-Year Courses**

First-year students learn how to apply legal concepts and think like a practicing lawyer in the following courses:

- Common Law Analysis: Contracts
- Common Law Analysis: Torts
- Constitutional Analysis
- International Legal Analysis
- Lawyering Skills I
- Lawyering Skills II
- Legal Profession
- Legal Research Practicum
- Procedural Analysis
- Statutory Analysis: Criminal Law

**Emerging Technologies and Artificial Intelligence**

Society-changing technological developments are fundamentally challenging law, policy and ethics. UCI Law is rising to these challenges with a new vision of legal education that prepares tech-ready lawyers, promotes technology for good, and creates the practical legal and policy solutions that our world needs today. In addition to a wide array of specialized upper-division courses, the issues raised by new technologies are woven into all of our first-year courses, preparing our students for the modern practice of law.

**Focus on Methods of Analysis**

Unlike at other law schools, our first-year curriculum is structured according to the different methods of legal analysis, teaching students analytical skills that will be useful in a variety of doctrinal classes. In the Statutory Analysis class, for example, students examine statutes using criminal law to learn skills that translate well to other statute-based practice areas like tax law, labor law or intellectual property law.
Real World Client Advocacy

In addition to developing traditional research, writing and oral advocacy skills, all first-year students are required to conduct intake interviews at a local legal aid or public defender office. Thus, our students, under supervision, interact with real clients beginning in their first year of law school. First-year students are also encouraged to participate in UCI Law’s Pro Bono Program — one of the most robust among U.S. law schools — developing practical legal skills with real clients while providing much-needed assistance to underserved members of the community.

Practical Training Integrated into Traditional Study

Also different from other law schools, beginning in the first year the UCI Law curriculum integrates traditional doctrinal coursework with practical training, teaching current legal theory with skills-based practice exercises.

These differences are at the heart of UCI Law’s first-year experience. Here, students learn not just the subject matter of areas of law, but how to apply legal concepts and think like a practicing lawyer. This unique, hands-on approach prepares our students for legal practice at the highest levels of the profession.

Experiential Learning in the First Year

How do you prepare law students to apply what they learn in school to all of the challenges that will come after graduation? Start with real world experience. In every year of law school, we want our students to have the opportunity to interact with real clients facing real challenges. Under close supervision, UCI Law students interact with clients right from the start, through an interviewing component of the Lawyering Skills course. The spring semester class schedule is structured so that all first-year students have time to interview clients at a legal services office or through one of the school’s pro bono projects. Through this experience, students interact with real clients from the beginning of law school. When students are not conducting interviews, they often use the free block for pro bono work. The first-year curriculum also includes Legal Profession, a course that gives students tools to resolve the legal and ethical issues that lawyers confront in a variety of practice settings. Students learn about the profession they are joining: its ethics, economics and sociology.

“UCI Law has provided me with amazing opportunities, and has allowed me to discover my passions in the law.... One of my favorite classes has been the AI Frontier course, where my group organized a California State Senate Select Committee meeting on the growing impact of artificial intelligence. We set up the experts to speak, and had members of the public speak as well. It was amazing to have an impact on these important policy decisions.”

Jordin Wilcher
UCI Law 3L
Externships

UCI Law’s strong emphasis on experiential learning includes a robust externship program, which provides academic credit for students doing legal work in field placements locally, across the country, as well as internationally. In the field, externs learn how practicing lawyers and judges handle facts and law and integrate theory and skill in real time, facing the sometimes-tough choices and conditions that exist in legal careers. The program increases students’ understanding of the fundamental values of the legal profession, including a commitment to promoting access to justice and the ethical practice of law. Our program encourages students to create their own placements with judges, nonprofits, and government agencies, building on and applying the knowledge they have gained in their substantive coursework. With part-time opportunities offered in every semester, including summer, and full-time opportunities available in the academic year, the externship program at UCI Law can support every student’s learning and career goals.

Concurrent Degree Program

(J.D./M.A.; J.D./M.B.A.; J.D./M.S.; J.D./Ph.D.)
Through the Program in Law & Graduate Studies (PLGS), students at the University of California, Irvine can pursue a J.D. from the Law School concurrently with a master’s or Ph.D. in virtually any UCI graduate program. Designed to be one of the broadest programs of its kind, PLGS allows enormous latitude and options – giving students a chance to combine law with graduate research degrees in such areas as humanities, social sciences, life sciences, information and computer sciences, physical sciences and engineering, or with graduate professional degrees in business, urban planning, education, and public health.

UCDC Program

Unique to the University of California, this collaborative, full-semester externship program in Washington, D.C., combines a weekly seminar-style course with a full-time field placement. Law students have an unparalleled opportunity to learn how federal statutes, regulations and policies are made, changed and understood in the nation’s capital. During four months of immersion in the theory and practice of Washington lawyering, students have contact with all three branches of the federal government, independent regulatory agencies and advocacy nonprofits.

“After separating from the Air Force and finishing undergrad, I knew I wanted to be a lawyer, but I didn’t know anything about the profession or what my role in it would be. By allowing me to serve real clients in substantive ways and in a variety of contexts, this amazing place has allowed me to explore the different forms of advocacy and discover what kind of lawyer I am. Through pro bono, moot court, clinic, volunteering, summer externships, and student interest groups, I’ve seen what the field of law has to offer and I feel ready to transition into my civilian career with skill and confidence.”

Matt Arnold
UCI Law 3L
UCI Law in NYC

Launched in 2020, UCI Law in NYC is an innovative program that supports students who are interested in exploring career paths in New York. We are the first law school on the West Coast to offer a dedicated program focused on New York City that features three unique components: an on-the-ground summer program for students; coordinated career and externship opportunities in New York (including for academic credit); and year-round programs and events, many of which will feature UCI Law faculty members.
Outstanding Faculty

UCI Law faculty are some of the nation’s top scholars and teachers, who are active leaders in their respective fields. Our stellar faculty contribute to the rich fabric of UCI Law, developing new teaching strategies and enhancing our impact across every field. These key thought leaders are not only influencing policy, law, and the legal profession, they are also dedicated mentors who are committed to their students’ success at UCI Law and beyond.

Ranked 12th in the nation for scholarly impact, UCI Law faculty grapple with important issues facing our world today, from the profound moral, ethical and legal questions raised by emerging technologies to the changing nature of the legal profession and the impact of health policy, environmental law, election law and more. At the heart of faculty scholarship is a deep appreciation for interdisciplinary work, bringing together law with such disciplines as political science, criminology, sociology, public health, and business.

Individual faculty expertise is vast, representing a broad range of subject matters, including: antitrust; artificial intelligence and the law; banking law; biotechnology; business law; civil procedure; civil rights; constitutional law; consumer law; criminal law; diversity, education and law; equality and discrimination; election law; environmental law; gender and law; government regulation and policy; health law; immigration law; implicit bias; intellectual property and cyberlaw; international dispute resolution; international law; labor and employment law; law and pop culture; law and psychology; law and social sciences; legal ethics and professional responsibility; tax law; urban planning, and more.

Learn more about faculty scholarship and research interests at law.uci.edu/faculty

Highlights and Accolades

- Top public and No. 9 nationally for faculty academic impact
  (TaxProf Blog)
- No. 12 in the nation in faculty scholarly impact
  (Brian Leiter’s Law School Reports)
- No. 5 in the nation in faculty interdisciplinary scholarly impact
  (Total Scholarly Impact Report)
Thought Leaders

The Centers and Institutes at UCI Law place an in-depth focus on some of the most important and difficult legal issues confronting the world. They are all interdisciplinary, bringing together UCI Law faculty and students with professors from across campus and throughout the globe.

We're not just part of the conversation, we're leading it.

- Center for Biotechnology and Global Health Policy (CBGHP)
- Center for Empirical Research on the Legal Profession (CERLP)
- Center on Globalization, Law, and Society (GLAS)
- Center for Land, Environment, and Natural Resources (CLEANR)
- Center on Law, Equality and Race (CLEAR)
- Civil Justice Research Initiative (CJRI)
- Competition, Antitrust Law, and Innovation Forum (CALIF)
- Initiative to End Family Violence (IEFV)
- Korea Law Center (KLC)
- Long U.S.-China Institute
- Student Loan Law Initiative (SLLI)
- UCI Center for Legal Philosophy (CLP)
- UCI Center for the Study of Cannabis (CSC)
- UCI Center in Law, Society and Culture (CLSC)
- UCI Cybersecurity Policy & Research Institute (CPRI)
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 consider the clinical experience essential to ensuring that our students are practice-ready. Each student at UCI Law will complete at least one semester of clinical education. Students may choose from several core clinics in which they will act as the primary legal representative for their clients. In addition to a guaranteed placement in one of our core clinics, UCI Law also offers elective clinics and advanced sections of the core clinics for our second- and third-year students. For students whose career ambitions will be better served by completing the core clinic requirement in an alternative field placement, UCI Law provides opportunities to work under the supervision of an attorney with an outside nonprofit or governmental organization, such as a district attorney’s office or the IRS. Students in these alternative field placements, like students in our faculty-supervised core clinics, act as the primary legal representative of the organization or its clients.

Core Clinics

- **Appellate Litigation Clinic**
  Students gain experience in legal research, writing and oral advocacy through representing clients in appeals to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

- **Civil Rights Litigation Clinic**
  Students litigate cases involving a range of substantive issues under federal and California civil rights law.

- **Community & Economic Development Clinic**
  Students represent clients in transactional and litigation projects that concern affordable housing, non-profit and small business development, and policy initiatives designed to improve client communities.

- **Consumer Law Clinic**
  Students provide input to legislative and regulatory agencies on behalf of consumers, develop white papers, and represent clients in claims for violations of California’s Unfair Competition Law and other deceptive business practices.

- **Criminal Justice Clinic**
  Students represent low-income individuals charged with misdemeanors in state criminal court. Additionally, students collaborate with community organizations to work toward broader reform of the criminal justice system.

- **Domestic Violence Clinic**
  Students assist domestic violence survivors in achieving self-sufficiency and freedom from assault.

- **Environmental Law Clinic**
  Students represent clients in litigation and non-litigation matters spanning a wide range of environmental and natural resources law issues.

- **Immigrant Rights Clinic**
  Students provide direct representation to individual and group clients on matters ranging from deportation defense and post-conviction advocacy to workers’ rights and affirmative civil rights litigation.

- **Intellectual Property, Arts, and Technology Clinic**
  Students advise and represent clients on a variety of matters dealing with copyright, patent, privacy and media law, among other areas. The clinic also offers a press freedom and transparency practice, allowing students to focus on First Amendment issues.

- **International Justice Clinic**
  Students work with activists, lawyers, diplomats, scholars and NGOs at home and around the world to develop and implement strategies of accountability for human rights abuses.
Elective Clinics

- **Appellate Litigation Clinic for Veterans**
  Students represent U.S. military veterans, or next of kin, in appeals to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, which has the exclusive jurisdiction to review decisions regarding veterans’ benefits claims.

- **Appellate Tax Clinic**
  Students participate in litigation activities in docketed appellate tax cases.

- **California State Tax Clinic**
  Students represent under-represented taxpayers in appellate disputes of tax assessments from the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration.

- **Department of Fair Employment and Housing Civil Rights Clinic**
  Students handle matters for the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH), the nation’s largest state civil rights agency.

- **International Human Rights Clinic**
  Students advocate for the use of international human rights norms as a basis for relief within the U.S. legal system or to address human rights violations committed abroad by U.S. actors.

- **Reproductive Justice Clinic**
  Students draft legislation and work with legislators, policy makers and advocacy groups to promote and protect reproductive liberties, advance equality, and enact laws and regulations.

- **Startup and Small Business Clinic**
  Students work on a range of legal issues related to startups and small businesses, including business formation and ongoing operations.

“One of my favorite memories from UCI Law is working in the Immigrant Rights Clinic and getting our client released from immigration detention. We negotiated with government counsel to secure a low bond and after nearly a year of detention, our client was reunited with his family. I’ll never take for granted the trust that clients place in us, often during the most difficult times in their lives.”

Olivia Meme
UCI Law ’20
California Appellate Project of Los Angeles (Nov. 2020)
Student Organizations

Get Connected

Student organizations are a vital part of student life at UCI Law. There are a variety of student groups that organize activities and events for the campus community. The Law School encourages you to get involved by joining, or starting, a student organization.

- Admissions Ambassadors
- American Constitution Society
- Asian Pacific American Law Student Association
- Black Law Student Association
- Business Law Society
- Christian Legal Society
- Criminal Law Society
- Entertainment and Sports Law Society
- Environmental Law Society
- First Generation Professionals Program
- If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice
- In Vino Veritas
- Intellectual Property Law Society
- International Law Society
- International Refugee Assistance Project
- It Takes a Village
- Jewish Law Association
- Labor & Employment Law Society
- Latinx Law Students Association
- Law Students for Immigrant Justice

“I wanted to be part of a community that shared my commitment to increasing access to justice and empowering underserved communities, and UCI Law has been the perfect fit. During my 1L year, I had the opportunity to help survivors of domestic violence obtain restraining orders, assist low-income people with their petitions to expunge their criminal records so they could gain access to sustainable employment and housing, and help legal permanent residents obtain citizenship.

Emily Phillips
UCI Law 2L
- Mental Health in Law Society
- Middle Eastern & South Asian Law Student Association
- National Lawyers Guild
- OutLaw
- Public Interest Law Fund
- Space Law Society
- Student Animal Legal Defense Fund
- Student Bar Association (SBA)
- Students for Sensible Drug Policy

- Tax Law Society
- The Federalist Society
- Women’s Law Society
- Women in Tech Law

**Publications**

- UC Irvine Law Review
- UC Irvine Journal of International, Transnational and Comparative Law
Public Interest

Commitment to Public Service

Since we opened our doors to students in 2009, 90 percent of all UCI Law students have provided more than 100,000 hours of pro bono legal services for the poor and underserved — locally and beyond. Pro bono work is provided by UCI Law students in addition to their academic work.

Our students recognize that many people are unable to access the legal services they so desperately need. Our programs provide students the opportunity and training to better meet that need, and to use their legal education to improve society.

Pro Bono Program

UCI Law’s Pro Bono Program is a reflection of the school’s deep commitment to public service and experiential learning. The school encourages each student to participate by providing legal services to underserved communities and causes while supervised by an attorney or member of the Law School faculty.

The UCI Law Pro Bono Policy states an expectation that both students and faculty will regularly engage in public service work throughout their careers and encourages them to set yearly public service goals similar to those expected of practicing attorneys. By engaging in real-world projects, students have the opportunity to practice and expand legal skills learned in the classroom.

In response to COVID-19, the global pandemic, UCI Law students have volunteered hundreds of hours to help support and protect homeless individuals, immigrants, children in foster care, prisoners, Black Lives Matter protesters, and many more. The havoc wreaked by the health impacts, economic loss, and fight for racial equality in 2020 is just the beginning. UCI Law students stand ready to continue their tradition of serving those most in need by maintaining ongoing collaborations with law firms and legal service providers around the nation and around the globe.

UCI Law offers a myriad of pro bono projects designed to help the underserved, including:

- Low wage workers that lost jobs due to COVID-19
- Those seeking release from detention centers or incarceration due to health risks
- Tenants illegally evicted during the pandemic
- Domestic violence victims who need temporary restraining order declarations
- Homeless individuals seeking humane treatment, and safe and secure housing
- Job seekers who need a fresh start with an expungement
- Elderly and disabled residents seeking assistance with their Supplemental Security Income applications
- Veterans appealing denials of benefits for service-related injuries
- Immigrants and migrants, including children, seeking protection from persecution in their home country
- Those seeking to protect women’s reproductive rights
- Transgender individuals seeking help with name and gender marker changes as well as legal assistance with discrimination claims
”UCI Law provided me the tools and experience necessary to do race equity work as an attorney. I was fortunate to have learned from professors who dedicated their careers to racial justice. I got a lot of experience doing race equity work through the various pro bono projects coordinated by the Law School. Also, UCI Law always had insightful race equity discussions going on, whether they were formal presentations by experts or student-led conversations.”

Fernando Nuñez
UCI Law ’19
Staff Attorney, Antelope Valley Initiative at Neighborhood Legal Services

Financial Support for Public Service

UCI Law offers Public Service Scholarships to students interested in pursuing careers as public interest attorneys. Funded by private donations, these three-year awards are offered to incoming law students who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to public service and agree to dedicate their legal careers to working on behalf of underserved communities and causes. Public Service Scholars also benefit from specialized programming and mentoring.

UCI Law students may also qualify for the following public interest funding opportunities:

- The Public Interest Law Fund provides stipends for students doing summer work with public interest organizations and government agencies after their first and second years of law school.
- UCI Law has provided every qualifying student working in public interest with summer funding since 2010.
- Bridge to Practice funding supports select graduates pursuing careers in public defense or criminal prosecution by providing financial support while volunteering in qualifying unpaid post-bar programs.
- Post-Graduate Public Service Fellowships support select recent graduates pursuing year-long volunteer placements at nonprofit organizations or government agencies.
- The Loan Repayment Assistance Program is one of the most robust in the country, helping law graduates who pursue public service careers repay their student loans for up to 10 years, including undergraduate loans.
Framework for Success

The Career Development Office (CDO) at UCI Law supports our students in three critical areas:

Job Search: The legal profession comprises many areas of practice, each requiring distinct 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 basics, self-assessment, and information on accessing opportunities. Each student works individually with an attorney advisor to craft their strategic career path.

Career Education and Professional Development: The CDO educates students regarding legal employment opportunities with public interest organizations, government entities, law firms, corporate legal departments and other practice settings. 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- and off-campus interview opportunities, panels and receptions with legal employers.

88% in full-time jobs that require bar passage, prefer a J.D. or pursuing an advanced degree within 10 months of graduation (class of 2019)

No.3 in California for recent graduates in federal judicial clerkships and No. 26 in the nation

No.30 in the nation for percentage of recent graduates in the largest 100 law firms
Launch Your Legal Career

UCI Law students have secured summer and post-graduate employment all over the world, including placements at law firms of all sizes, public interest organizations, government agencies, and major corporations in such sectors as technology, entertainment and finance. Across the United States — including Alaska, California, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Washington, D.C. — federal and state judges have hired our students for post-graduate clerkships. In fact, UCI Law’s federal judicial clerkship placement rate is among the very best in the nation.

The following are just a few examples of the many employers who have worked with our students:

**LAW FIRMS**

- Cooley LLP
- Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher
- Greenberg Traurig, LLP
- Hogan Lovells US LLP
- Irell & Manella LLP
- K&L Gates LLP
- Kirkland & Ellis LLP
- Latham & Watkins LLP
- Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
- Morrison & Foerster LLP
- Munger Tolles & Olsen LLP
- Norton Rose Fulbright LLP
- O’Melveny & Myers LLP
- Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP
- Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
- White & Case LLP

**PUBLIC INTEREST AND NONPROFITS**

- American Civil Liberties Union
- American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations
- Anti-Defamation League
- California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.
- Community Legal Aid SoCal
- Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project
- Federal Public Defender’s Office
- Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
- Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
- National Lawyers’ Guild
- Public Advocates Inc.
- Public Counsel Law Center
- Public Law Center
- Wage Justice Center

**GOVERNMENT**

- California Attorney General’s Office
- California Department of Fair Employment and Housing
- District Attorney’s Offices
- Internal Revenue Service
- National Labor Relations Board
- Office of the County Counsel
- Securities and Exchange Commission
- State Water Resources Control Board
- Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
- U.S. Attorney’s Office
- U.S. Department of Education
- U.S. Department of Justice
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Judge Advocate General Corps
- U.S. Mint
Welcome to Irvine and Our Community

UCI Law is located in the heart of Orange County, California — one hour from Los Angeles, one hour from San Diego, one hour from the snow and 10 minutes from the breathtaking beaches of Orange County that stretch along the 28-mile coastline.

Money Magazine ranked UCI the No. 1 college for beach lovers for good reason, citing the “… surfing at Huntington Beach, the boardwalk and pier at Newport Beach, peace and quiet at Corona del Mar, and the glamour of Laguna Beach.”

“I am so grateful for the educational and experiential opportunities I have had at UCI Law. In just two years, I have taken several courses with renowned legal experts, worked closely with an attorney on criminal appeals cases, been involved in several student organizations, and made lifelong friends and mentors. Law school was intimidating as a first-generation law student, but at UCI Law, I feel that my identity and experiences are recognized and appreciated.”

Courtney Lem
UCI Law 3L
UCI is ranked No. 9 among public universities nationwide by U.S. News & World Report.

The New York Times ranks UCI No. 1 in the nation doing the most for the American dream.

Sierra magazine has named UCI No.1 “Coolest School” in the U.S., with ten consecutive years in the top ten for its innovative sustainable practices. The magazine is the official publication of the Sierra Club, one of the nation’s largest and most influential environmental organizations.

UCI received the prestigious STARS gold rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

1/3 of all Fortune 500 companies have offices in Irvine.

Three UCI researchers have won Nobel Prizes: F. Sherwood Rowland and Irwin Rose in chemistry, and Frederick Reines in physics.

UCI holds four Guinness world records: the largest dodgeball game, set in 2010; the largest water blaster fight, set in 2013; the largest game of capture the flag, set in 2015; and the largest game of balloon tag, set in 2018.

UCI has an annual economic impact on Orange County of $5 billion and is a significant contributor to the region’s talent-rich workforce.

“Must see” places in the OC include:

- Angel Stadium of Anaheim
- Balboa Island
- Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve
- Bowers Museum
- Corona del Mar State Beach
- Crystal Cove
- Dana Point Harbor
- Disneyland
- Fullerton Arboretum
- Hiking and bike trails galore
- Honda Center: home to the Anaheim Ducks
- Huntington Beach Pier
- Knott’s Berry Farm
- Newport Beach Back Bay
- Orange County Great Park
- Pageant of the Masters in Laguna Beach
- Segerstrom Center for the Arts
- South Coast Repertory
Admissions Information

Join Our Community

While UCI Law operates remotely and remains closed to visitors due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we invite you to visit us online and experience our community which transcends walls. Members of “Team Admissions and Aid” especially want to assist you with the admissions process. Be sure to bookmark the admissions website for virtual recruitment fairs, information sessions, log-on advising hours, and classes. We look forward to meeting you soon!

General Information

- **Application Fee:** FREE; requests for a fee waiver are unnecessary.
- **Application Opens:** September 1, 2020
- **Application Deadline:** March 15, 2021

You may submit your J.D. application prior to the receipt of your standardized test score; however, we are unable to forward your application to our Admissions Committee for review until your application is considered complete.

- **How to Apply:** Complete and submit your application electronically through the LSAC portal.

Application Requirements

- A bachelor’s degree earned prior to the beginning of the Law School academic year from an accredited institution listed in the U.S. Department of Education’s database.
- Valid test results from either the Law School Admission Test (LSAT or LSAT-flex) or the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).
  - For Fall 2021 admission, the last LSAT score accepted is the April 2021 administration, and the GRE must be taken no later than May 1, 2021.
  - Please see the UCI Law website for more information about the LSAT and GRE.
- A Law School Admission Council (LSAC) Credential Assembly Service (CAS) report is required of all applicants, regardless of the standardized test with which they apply in order for UCI Law to receive transcripts and letters of recommendation.
- The following must be submitted in order for an application to be considered complete:
  - Completed UCI Law Electronic Application form
  - Official transcripts
    - All transcripts from all post-secondary institutions should be submitted directly to LSAC.
  - Two letters of recommendation (no more than three will be accepted) must be on file with LSAC and be assigned to UC Irvine School of Law.
  - Letters of recommendation should be from either academic or professional references.
  - Required statements. Please ensure the correct statement is submitted, as updates or revisions are not accepted.
    - Personal statement (750-word limit)
    - “Why UCI Law?” statement (750-word limit)
    - Current resume or CV
  - Optional statements (3 topics: diversity, standardized tests, and/or GPA)
    - While you may answer some or all three prompts, the total word limit must not exceed 750 words.

Early Decision

- **Early Decision Information**
  - In order to be considered under UCI Law’s binding Early Decision program, you must submit all the required application materials and your signed Early Decision Certification form by November 15, 2020.
  - Applicants who apply for Early Decision but do not have all components in by the deadline will be automatically converted to the regular decision admissions pool.
  - Since UCI Law is still operating under a 3-year pilot with the GRE, only applicants with a valid LSAT or LSAT-flex will be considered for our Early Decision program.
  - UCI Law’s Early Decision program is binding. You may not be an early decision candidate at any other law school with a binding Early Decision application.

- **Early Decision Specific Decision Timeline**
  - Successful Early Decision applicants will be notified by the end of December if they are admitted.
  - In order to reserve your seat in the class, you must commit to matriculating at UCI Law and submit the nonrefundable seat deposit by the date(s) indicated within your offer of admission.
  - You must withdraw all applications to other law schools and refrain from initiating any new applications if admitted through the Early Decision program.
  - Applicants not admitted through Early Decision will be rolled-over into the regular decision pool and re-reviewed for admission.
“One of the most meaningful experiences I had as a student at UCI Law was briefing and arguing an appeal in the Ninth Circuit as part of the Appellate Litigation Clinic on behalf of a client who was denied necessary medical care while in prison. I learned how to craft a case narrative and argument from beginning to end. I was strengthened by the opportunity to work in a partnership with another student. I was humbled by the responsibility of representing our client’s interests. And I was made a better advocate by working under the supervision of a seasoned appellate litigator.”

Laura Lively
UCI Law ’17
Associate, King & Spalding LLP
Weather Forecast:
Sunny and Mediterranean climate year round!

Los Angeles
San Francisco
Orange County
UCI Law
San Diego