Let’s Go Change the World

UCI Law

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE SCHOOL OF LAW
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Dear prospective UCI Law student,

As our nation grapples with social justice issues, economic challenges, racial inequalities and health disparities laid bare during the global pandemic, you may sense that your role as an aspiring lawyer is more urgent than ever before. UCI Law is uniquely positioned to prepare you to become the kind of lawyer the world needs right now: passionate, talented and socially conscious.

As a faculty member of UCI Law since 2012, I had the honor of helping to realize a vision for a groundbreaking approach to legal education that is practical, experiential, and public service-oriented. Today, I am proud that our peer reputation ranking among law faculty around the country is No. 19.

At UCI Law, you don’t have to wait a year or more to start making a difference. You will engage with clients during your very first year, as part of our commitment to providing you with experiential learning opportunities throughout your program. Those hands-on experiences contribute to UCI Law’s stellar national rankings for clinical training, practical experience and legal writing. Moreover, UCI Law students have completed more than 123,000 hours of pro bono work since the Law School opened its doors in 2009. Equity, diversity and inclusion are paramount at UCI Law, and we’ve been ranked among the best law schools for diversity since we opened. In fact, it’s part of the fabric of the entire UCI community. A top-ranked public university, UCI is a Minority Serving Institution and has been repeatedly recognized as the best college in the country for advancing upward mobility of its students — nearly half of whom are first generation.

Our law students shine whether they are in their classrooms or a wide array of clinics, in federal clerkships or in New York City externships. The depth and breadth of our students’ experiences prepare them to hit the ground running as working lawyers. As our alumni base continues to grow, we hear time and again that a UCI Law degree holds clout anywhere in the country. UCI Law graduates obtain their dream jobs locally in Orange County and Southern California, and in other major markets across the United States.

Throughout the challenges of the last year, the UCI Law community not only persevered but thrived, a testament to the caliber and character of our students, faculty and staff. It’s been wonderful to be back on campus with everyone. I hope to meet you there too.

Sincerely,

Bryant Garth
Interim Dean and Distinguished Professor of Law Emeritus
Commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

UCI Law is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), which we view as central to our mission of training the future leaders of the legal profession and in society. We are committed to fostering an environment where students, faculty and staff — regardless of dimensions of our lived identities — are empowered to build and develop our learning community. This approach dates back to our founding. UCI Law is consistently listed as one of the best law schools for diversity in preLaw Magazine and, since our founding, 47 percent of our J.D. graduates have been people of color.

We believe that a learning community with a foundational commitment to EDI creates better lawyers, inspires innovation, benefits clients and communities, and encourages solidarity.

New Race & Indigeneity Requirement

In 2021, UCI Law became the first University of California law school — and one of just a few law schools nationally — to adopt a graduation requirement that students take a graded course with substantial content about “race and indigeneity, structural inequity and the historical bases for such inequity.” The faculty remains committed to ensuring that students are exposed to critical concepts from a range of equity categories including race and indigeneity, dis/ability, gender and sexuality, socioeconomic background, survivors of family and domestic violence, system-involvement and veteran status.

Growing Faculty Enhances Diversity

UCI Law added three new faculty members in 2021 who deepen our commitment to EDI and enrich our scholarship and teaching. Aziza Ahmed brings expertise on race, health, feminism and the law; Jamelia Morgan on race, disability and policing; and Ji Seon Song on race, criminal procedure, and juvenile justice. With these new hires, we continue to prioritize issues of equity, law and history.

Aziza Ahmed
Professor of Law

Jamelia Morgan
Assistant Professor of Law

Ji Seon Song
Assistant Professor of Law
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 campuswide 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.

The Law School is proud to be the home of one of five inaugural UCI Inclusive Excellence Term Chair Professors. Kaaryn Gustafson will receive funds for the next three years to support the course Centering California in the History of Race and Resistance. Professor Gustafson, working with students and colleagues from other UCI departments, will construct an ambitious program of public events and collection of oral histories, written analyses, and web-based materials that are focused on public education. She will undertake these activities through our Center on Law, Equality and Race.

Community Programs

UCI Law programs encourage students from underrepresented communities to pursue careers in the legal profession.

Saturday Academy of Law (SAL)

More than 1000 9th graders from economically challenged communities have completed this six-week program since 2009. Students sharpen their reading, writing and critical thinking skills while learning about law and the legal profession, in preparation for college success.

Pre-Law Outreach Program (POP)

Serving primarily first-generation college students, this summer program gives undergraduates insight into the law school admissions process while also offering mentorship and guidance from UCI Law faculty and staff, judges, law students and practicing attorneys. Since 2010, over 400 students have completed POP, with many then enrolling in law school — including at UCI.

“My UCI Law class is amazingly diverse, with strong queer and Latinx communities. Doing law school from Texas during the pandemic was hard, but the Latinx Law Student Association familia lifted me up and helped every step of the way. During my first year, I directly served 35+ clients facing various workers’ rights issues, and I helped two individuals avoid homelessness through my participation in pro bono law clinics. These hands-on experiences are providing me with the skills and knowledge needed to change peoples’ lives.”

Nathan Romo
UCI Law 2L
At UCI Law, students get hands-on legal experience from the beginning, and our curriculum emphasizes practical training to prepare you to hit the ground running in your career. Our emphasis on legal research, writing and oral advocacy is reflected in U.S. News & World Report ranking UCI Law No. 9 nationally for legal writing. As part of the first-year Lawyering Skills course, students conduct interviews in actual cases. First-year and upper-level students have numerous opportunities to do pro bono work with clients — which more than 90 percent of UCI Law students choose to do.

Our curriculum differs from other law schools because, at UCI Law’s founding, our nationally-ranked faculty were given a blank slate to develop a novel approach to legal education. UCI Law continues to innovate. For example, UCI Law became the first University of California law school to require a graded course that students take with substantial content about “race and indigeneity, structural inequity, and the historical bases for such inequity.” In addition, faculty weave into courses the legal issues raised by artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies, to ensure our students become tech-ready lawyers.

First-Year Courses

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

**Required 1L Courses**

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

**Elective 1L Courses**

- Administrative Law/Legislation
- Business Associations
- International Legal Analysis
- Property
- A course that will satisfy the race and indigeneity requirement

Lawyering Skills Program

UCI Law seeks to do the best job in the country of training students for the practice of law in any modern legal setting. Students take six credits of Lawyering Skills across two courses in the first year. In those courses, students gain a critical foundation in skills all attorneys use, including both predictive and persuasive legal writing, legal research, legal analysis, problem solving and oral advocacy. The Lawyering Skills courses also introduce students to client counseling, client interviewing, negotiation, contract drafting and fact investigation. All first-year students conduct intake interviews at a local legal aid or public defender office. Thus, UCI Law students, under supervision, work with organizations on real matters beginning in their first year of law school.

Students then have the opportunity to take a range of upper-level courses to further develop these valuable skills.
Legal Profession

The first-year curriculum at UCI Law includes Legal Profession, a course in which students learn about the variety of practice settings in which lawyers work and the professional opportunities and challenges of each. It also gives students tools to resolve the legal and ethical challenges that lawyers confront in practice and to navigate the enormous legal, cultural and economic forces that are reshaping the legal profession.

Methods

UCI Law students learn the areas of legal doctrine traditionally taught in the first year — constitutional law, contracts, torts, civil and criminal procedure — but in a unique way that focuses on methods of legal analysis and the skills that all lawyers use. 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, employment law, environmental law or intellectual property law.

Concurrent Degree Program

(J.D./M.A.; J.D./M.B.A.; J.D./M.S.; J.D./Ph.D.)

The University of California, Irvine prides itself on being interdisciplinary. Through the Program in Law & Graduate Studies (PLGS), students can pursue a J.D. concurrently with a master's or Ph.D. in practically any UCI graduate program. Designed to be one of the broadest programs of its kind, PLGS gives 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.

“It speaks to the power of the UCI community that even though I did the entire first year of law school from my campus apartment, I’ve developed deep friendships with people who push me intellectually and drive me to be the best version of myself. The Lawyering Skills class was one of the most impactful aspects of my first year. We practiced real-world skills such as presenting oral arguments in front of a judge, which throws you right into the legal profession, but in a supportive and productive manner.”

Annie Barker
UCI Law 2L
Extraordinary Faculty

UCI Law faculty are some of the nation’s top scholars and educators, who are active leaders in a vast array of fields. Our stellar faculty contribute to the rich fabric of UCI Law, developing new teaching strategies and enhancing our impact across every field. These highly-regarded 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 No. 14 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 understanding and appreciation for interdisciplinary work, bringing together law with such disciplines as political science, criminology, sociology, public health and business – UCI Law is No. 5 in the nation in faculty interdisciplinary scholarly impact. Learn more about faculty scholarship and research interests at law.uci.edu/faculty.

No. 5
in the nation in faculty interdisciplinary scholarly impact
(Total Scholarly Impact: Law Professor Citations in Non-Law Journals)

No. 9
in the nation and top public university for faculty academic impact
(Heald & Sichelman: The Top 100 Law School Faculties in Citations and Impact)

No. 14
in the nation in faculty scholarly impact
(Brian Leiter’s Law School Reports)
Thought Leaders

The centers, institutes and initiatives 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)
- Fair Elections and Free Speech Center
- The Future of Latinos in the United States: Law, Opportunity, and Mobility
- Korea Law Center (KLC)
- Long U.S.-China Institute
- The Pay Equity Project
- 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)
- UCI Initiative to End Family Violence (IEFV)

“If you want an individual experience with world-class professors, UCI is the school for you. All of my professors have made a huge impact on me, and I’m really grateful for the opportunity to study with them. At UCI Law, it’s about developing and chasing your own goals and finding professional fulfillment.”

Daniel R. Zuñiga
UCI Law 2L
Real-World Training

In-House Law Clinics

UCI Law’s highly acclaimed clinical program provides the opportunity for students to engage in litigation, transactional and advocacy work in a variety of critical areas. At UCI Law, every student completes at least one semester of clinical education, often serving as the primary legal representative for clients, while under the close supervision of faculty. In addition to this required semester of participation in a core clinic (or approved Alternative Field Placement at an outside nonprofit or governmental organization), UCI Law offers elective clinics and advanced sections of core clinics for second- and third-year students.

Core Clinics

■ Ninth Circuit 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, nonprofit and small business development and community policy initiatives.

■ 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, advocate for the release of individuals serving lengthy prison sentences and assist clients with seeking post-conviction relief. Students also collaborate with community organizations working toward broader criminal justice system reform.

■ Domestic Violence Clinic
  Students litigate domestic violence, family law and immigration cases while helping clients achieve self-sufficiency and freedom from violence. They also engage in policy advocacy and community education.

■ Environmental Law Clinic
  Students advise and represent organizational clients in litigation and on policy matters spanning a wide range of environmental justice and environmental law issues focused on the protection and conservation of human health and ecosystems.

■ Immigrant Rights Clinic
  Students provide direct representation to individuals and groups on matters affecting the immigrant community. Work can range from deportation defense and post-conviction advocacy for noncitizens to affirmative constitutional rights litigation and grassroots policy support.

■ Intellectual Property, Arts, and Technology Clinic
  Students advise and represent clients on a variety of matters including copyright, patent, privacy and media law. In addition, a press freedom and transparency practice allows 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.

■ Workers, Law, and Organizing Clinic — NEW!
  Students represent workers and organizations in litigation, cooperative development and policy advocacy projects to advance organizing for worker power in low-wage sectors.

No. 6
in the nation for Clinical Training
(U.S. News & World Report)
Elective Clinics

- Appellate Litigation Clinic for Veterans
- Appellate Tax Clinic
- California State Tax Clinic
- CA Department of Fair Employment and Housing Civil Rights Clinic
- International Human Rights Clinic
- Reproductive Justice Clinic
- Startup and Small Business Clinic
Semester Program in Washington, D.C. (UCDC)

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.

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 City. We are the first law school on the West Coast to offer a dedicated program focused on networking and career opportunities in New York City.

- An on-the-ground summer program for students.
- Coordinated career and externship opportunities in New York, including for academic credit.
- Year-round programs and events, many of which feature UCI Law faculty members.

“I love the collegiality of UCI Law. I sensed from day one that every UCI Law class passes down a tradition of creating a supportive culture where we all study and work together. That continues after graduation too. One of our biggest strengths is our tight knit alumni base. We’re at an interesting time in the school’s history, where many of our alumni are now achieving higher levels of professional success yet they remain very close to the Law School, and they are always trying to pay it forward.”

Jon Widjaja
UCI Law 3L
Externships

UCI Law’s robust externship program provides academic credit for students doing legal work in field placements locally, nationally, and even internationally. In the field, externs learn how practicing lawyers and judges 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 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.
Student Organizations

Find Your People

Whatever your interests, UCI Law has a student group for you — or you can start your own. It’s easy to get involved and build life-long connections at UCI Law.

- Admissions Ambassadors
- American Constitution Society
- Asian Pacific American Law Student Association
- Black Law Student Association
- Business Law Society
- Chinese Law Student 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
- It Takes a Village
- Jewish Law Association
- Labor & Employment Law Society
- Land Use and Real Estate Society
- Latinx Law Students Association
- Law Students for Educational Equity
- Law Students for Immigrant Justice

“I chose UCI Law because it’s a fantastic public interest institution, and every single conversation I had with students, alumni, faculty and administrators was above and beyond any interaction I had at any other school. Once I got here, I was looking for a strong sense of community and I found that in student organizations. Law school can be isolating for anybody, but especially if you’re a first-generation law student. Finding peers who share my identity provided a sense of comfort.”

Elizabeth Schatz Cordero
UCI Law 2L
Middle Eastern & South Asian Law Student Association
Muslim Law Students Association
National Disabled Law Student Association
National Lawyers Guild
OutLaw
Public Interest Law Fund
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
Social Justice

Changing the World

UCI Law has a deeply embedded culture of public service, instilling in students the importance of using their legal skills to help underrepresented communities and to champion social justice for all. Since 2009, our students have provided more than 123,000 hours of legal services for the underserved through our pro bono program. UCI Law students have provided tens of thousands of additional hours through our clinic and externship programs. Our graduates, too, remain committed to making the world a better place, either through pro bono service in their private practice, or as public interest attorneys.

Pro Bono Program

More than 90 percent of UCI Law J.D. students participate in the pro bono program, ensuring that legal services are provided to the most vulnerable among us, both locally and around the world. Students are strongly encouraged to participate as early as their first year of law school, developing legal skills while working with clients and advancing social justice.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, UCI Law students volunteered to help support and protect people experiencing homelessness, immigrants, children in foster care, incarcerated people, Black Lives Matter activists, and many more individuals. Today, UCI Law students continue their tradition of serving those most in need, maintaining ongoing collaborations with law firms and legal service providers across the nation and around the world.

UCI Law offers myriad pro bono projects, including:

- Researching the 1994 Crime Bill and the resulting negative impacts in Black communities.
- Assisting service members at Camp Pendleton with civil issues including immigration, family law and consumer law.
- Joining UCI Law alumni in independent pro bono work to protect California’s coast.
- Working with the Innocence Project Collaboration to help those who have been wrongfully convicted.
- Defending a fair election process in which every voice is heard and every vote counts.
- Researching issues impacting economic security, gender discrimination, violence against women and sexual harassment.
- Assisting the Gifford’s Law Center to better understand constitutional tests to the 2nd Amendment.
- Helping transgender clients match their legal name with their identity.
- Working with courtroom and appellate attorneys across the country on public defense issues.
- Preparing reports on new civil rights cases for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

93% Student participation since 2009

15,000+ Pro bono hours (2020-2021)

123,787 Total pro bono hours since 2009
Financial Support for Public Service

UCI Law provides a variety of financial support for students who aspire to serve the public good. These include federal loan repayment programs, scholarships that cover tuition, summer stipends, and year-long fellowships.

UCI Law Public Interest Funding Opportunities

- **Public Service Scholarships** are available to select students who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to public service and plan to dedicate their legal career to working in the public interest sector.

- The **Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP)** 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.

- 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.

- **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.

“One of the most rewarding experiences of my life has been working with clients, especially working on a compassionate release motion for a person who had been incarcerated for over 30 years. The federal judge granted that motion and the client was released earlier this year. That was a concrete, real, clinical experience, and one of the ways that UCI Law is providing me with a foundation to be a successful attorney in the real world, not just in the classroom.”

Amanda Le
UCI Law 3L
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.

No. 6 in California for recent graduates in federal judicial clerkships and No. 4 for state judicial clerkships (Law.com’s 2021 Law Grad hiring report)

83% in jobs that require bar passage, prefer a J.D. or pursuing an advanced degree within 10 months of graduation (Class of 2020)

No. 24 in the nation for percentage of 2020 graduates in the largest 100 law firms (Law.com’s 2021 Go-To Law School hiring report)

UCI Law Class of 2020 Employment

- Law Firms 59%
- Public Interest 19%
- Government 9%
- Clerkships 7%
- Business & Industry 5%
- Education 1%

*Employment statistics are based off of 117 out of 143 graduates employed 10 months after graduation.*
# Career Development

While the educational program at UCI Law provides real-world legal experience from year one, the Career Development Office (CDO) supports you every step of the way in finding your dream job.

**Through the CDO, UCI Law students:**
- Learn the basics of the legal job search
- Work individually with an attorney advisor to craft their personalized career path, and
- Participate in on- and off-campus interviews, panels and networking receptions with employers.

The following are just a few examples of the many employers who have hired UCI Law students:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAW FIRMS</th>
<th>PUBLIC INTEREST AND NONPROFITS</th>
<th>GOVERNMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cooley LLP</td>
<td>American Civil Liberties Union</td>
<td>California Attorney General's Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibson, Dunn &amp; Crutcher</td>
<td>American Federation of Labor and Anti-Defamation League</td>
<td>California Department of Fair Employment and Housing</td>
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<td>Greenberg Traurig, LLP</td>
<td>California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.</td>
<td>District Attorney's Offices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hogan Lovells US LLP</td>
<td>Community Legal Aid SoCal</td>
<td>Internal Revenue Service</td>
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<td>Irell &amp; Manella LLP K&amp;L Gates LLP</td>
<td>Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project</td>
<td>National Labor Relations Board</td>
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<td>Kirkland &amp; Ellis LLP</td>
<td>Federal Public Defender's Office</td>
<td>Office of the County Counsel</td>
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<td>Latham &amp; Watkins LLP</td>
<td>Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law</td>
<td>Securities and Exchange Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morgan, Lewis &amp; Bockius LLP</td>
<td>Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund</td>
<td>State Water Resources Control Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morrison &amp; Foerster LLP</td>
<td>National Lawyers’ Guild</td>
<td>Office of Governor Gavin Newsom</td>
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<td>Munger Tolles &amp; Olsen LLP</td>
<td>Public Advocates Inc.</td>
<td>U.S. Attorney’s Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norton Rose Fulbright LLP</td>
<td>Public Counsel Law Center</td>
<td>U.S. Department of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>O’Melveny &amp; Myers LLP</td>
<td>Public Law Center</td>
<td>U.S. Department of Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton &amp; Garrison LLP</td>
<td>Wage Justice Center</td>
<td>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher &amp; Flom LLP</td>
<td></td>
<td>U.S. Judge Advocate General Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White &amp; Case LLP</td>
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<td>U.S. Mint</td>
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Growing up Muslim American in the post-9/11 era, Nafisa Ahmed, UCI Law ’20, witnessed the extent to which her Los Angeles community relied on lawyers to protect their civil rights. “I saw lawyers as people who understood how to use the law to protect our community, and I wanted to feel that same sort of safety through knowledge,” Ahmed says.

By the time she finished high school, Ahmed knew she wanted to be a lawyer — even though no one in her extended Bengali family had ever gone to law school, and none of her female relatives had ever pursued a professional degree. After earning a bachelor's in political science from Cal Poly Pomona, Ahmed chose UCI Law based on the recommendation of a friend who was an alumna, and her understanding that UCI was the best public interest law school in the region.

As early as her first year at UCI Law, Ahmed started focusing on serving immigrants who were survivors of domestic abuse. She received the Fran Kandel Public Interest Fellowship from the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles (WLALA) which funded a summer project in which she held “know-your-rights” seminars for survivors of domestic violence, and distributed information in three languages at locations throughout Los Angeles.

The following year, Ahmed joined UCI’s Domestic Violence Clinic, working with immigrant clients to secure restraining orders and other legal remedies to protect families from abuse.

By the time she was in her final year of law school, Ahmed was focused on securing a coveted public interest fellowship. For help, she leaned on Assistant Dean for Career Development, Jasminder Deol, and Clinical Professor of Law, Jane Stoever, who helped her finalize applications, and law faculty Amy Wegener, who arranged a panel from her law firm for Ahmed to practice interviewing.

“UCI Law is filled with professors who are willing to go above and beyond to help you out in things you’re interested in,” Ahmed says. “They also let you find ways to explore different areas, and find what you’re actually passionate about in the law.”

Ultimately, Ahmed received a 2020 Equal Justice Works Public Interest Fellowship funded by Cooley LLP and Uber Technologies, Inc. As a fellow, she serves as legal counsel at the nonprofit agency Peace Over Violence, helping domestic violence survivors from Middle Eastern and South Asian communities with family law issues such as divorce, restraining orders and child custody.

“In the Domestic Violence Clinic, I did almost exactly the same things I’m doing now. It was the best preparation,” she says.

Her advice to others interested in pursuing public interest law through a fellowship is to get as much real-world experience as possible.

“You want to show prospective fellowship funders that you have the capacity and experience to really understand the community you’re trying to help,” she says. Which, with her experiential training at UCI Law, Ahmed has proven she does.

“UCI Law is filled with professors who are willing to go above and beyond to help you out in things you’re interested in.”
Serving in U.S. Government:

Micah Morris, UCI Law ’16
Honors Attorney, IRS Office of Chief Counsel

Micah Morris, UCI Law ’16, was putting his Stanford University master’s in education to good use as an English teacher in the San Francisco Bay area. But when he was asked to teach his school’s AP government course, Morris became fascinated with the part of the curriculum that covered significant Supreme Court case law. After nearly a decade of teaching, suddenly he was considering a new career.

“At UCI Law, I saw many of the characteristics I valued in the charter schools where I had taught, such as supporting first-generation students of color,” says Morris. “And the kind of connections between teachers and students that I saw can only happen in that small school environment that nurtures students.”

Morris earned a Public Interest Fellowship to UCI Law, and reveled in the wide range of opportunities available to him. He served as editor for the UC Irvine Law Review and volunteered in several clinics where he helped clients navigate workers’ rights and immigration issues. He also helped transgender clients update their name and gender markers.

Morris’s legal interests were broad — and he liked it that way.

“My strategy was to take courses from the very best professors teaching what they were most passionate about,” Morris says. “I often took the hardest classes, but they opened up whole new areas of law to me that I had never conceived I’d be interested in.”

This served Morris well in his job search. Early on, Morris knew he wanted a career in government. He took his first summer internship at the Department of Justice, and the following year participated in the Summer Honors Program at the Internal Revenue Service Office of Chief Counsel. At the end of that summer, Morris was offered a full-time job at the IRS, which enabled him to move back to Washington, D.C., where he had grown up and his family still lives.

Although he works for the IRS, Morris is not a tax attorney. He’s among a small group of lawyers who write opinions for the agency, providing guidance on everything from ethics to delegations of authority. It’s a broad practice that fits his interests perfectly.

“I was a public school teacher before, so I was used to being a public servant,” says Morris. “And I saw government as a midway point between public interest law and big law.”

As he celebrates his five-year anniversary with the IRS, Morris still loves the stability of his job, its predictable 40-hour workweek, and the agency’s relative insulation from politics.

Morris says UCI Law prepared him for his career in two significant ways. First, his clinical experience working directly with clients trained him for his role offering legal advice to IRS staff. But equally important were the broad range of courses he took that prepared him to excel at doing extensive research.

“Most helpful in getting prepared for my career was the level of academic rigor at UCI. I became good at delving into new topics,” he says. “I’m not an expert in most of the areas I provide guidance on, so I have to be able to do quick legal research.”

Since graduating, Morris has remained connected with UCI Law. He regularly meets with UCDC participants, helping them network and explore the myriad job opportunities in the nation’s capital.

“There are so many different ways to get involved, learn and grow at UCI Law. I always encourage students to take full advantage of all of the opportunities available to them.”
Flying from the Air Force to Big Law:
Thea Alli, UCI Law ’18
Associate, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

As a little girl, Thea Alli, UCI Law ’18, dreamed of becoming an attorney. But when she enrolled in the U.S. Air Force Academy in 2001, the country was on the brink of war in the Middle East. After graduating from the academy, Alli served nine years as a personnel officer overseeing Force Support, which includes human resources for civilians and service members. She traveled the world and grew as a leader, but she never forgot her childhood dream.

By 2015, Alli had nearly finalized her decision to attend another California law school when she came to UCI’s Admitted Students Weekend. There, she discovered the admissions dean knew her by name, the current students were engaging, the faculty welcoming and every lecture fascinating.

“I fell in love with UCI Law that weekend,” Alli says.

Although Alli commuted to Irvine from L.A. every day, she became deeply involved with the UCI Law community. She served as president of the Veterans’ Advocacy Society, chaired the Black Law Students Association, joined the Public Interest Law Fund as well as the Center on Law, Equality and Race. Today, she says, her closest friends are her law school classmates.

“I emphasize this to anybody looking to go to law school: be all in. Go to every lecture that sounds interesting, go to every event, take a class you never thought you’d like,” Alli says. “I got the most out of my UCI Law experience because I put a lot into it.”

When Alli gave birth to her son during her third year, faculty and other students reached out with support and encouragement. Juggling family and law school wasn’t easy, but Alli says, “I felt like people were invested in me, and they cared about whether I made it.”

Building on her human resources experience, Alli decided to pursue labor and employment law and help make other workplaces better for employees. She identified Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP as a strong player in the field and went after a summer associate position that resulted in a full-time offer. Today, as an associate at the firm, Alli often conducts HR investigations for large companies, which can lead her to advise a company on ways to improve their personnel practices, or alert a board of directors that their CEO’s conduct is a liability.

She says her training through UCI Law’s Domestic Violence Clinic prepared her for the real work of being a lawyer.

“The first time I stood in a courtroom as counsel or submitted a pleading to a court, I was a student. You’re fighting for a real client, and the stakes are real,” says Alli. “So by the time I had to do that for my firm, I was prepared.”

UCI Law also prepared Alli for an unexpected judicial clerkship. After speaking to the UCI Board of Visitors, a member of the audience was so impressed with Alli’s remarks on diversity that he offered her a clerkship on the spot. It wasn’t until Alli asked for his business card that she realized he was Judge Harris Hartz of the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. But Alli says UCI Law’s connections can make even the unusual happen.

After all, that’s one of the reasons she chose UCI Law. Alli says, “My experience showed me that anybody who is willing to put in the work and leverage the opportunities at UCI can achieve their goals, whatever they may be.”

Anybody who is willing to put in the work and leverage the opportunities at UCI can achieve their goals.”
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.”

The Graduate Housing Guarantee

UCI guarantees an offer of on-campus housing to newly-admitted, full-time fall 2022 J.D. students who meet application, Statement of Intent to Register and fee payment deadlines.

UCI offers convenient and comfortable housing options in an environment that supports academic success. Housing offers will be made for one of six graduate and family housing communities: Palo Verde, Verano Place, Campus Village, Vista del Campo, Vista del Campo Norte or Puerta del Sol. All apartments include internet and cable TV access, carpeting and major appliances. All on-campus housing communities are smoke-free.

Apartment offers are made throughout the summer and must be confirmed prior to the first day of classes. All communities offer fixed-term leases. Guaranteed students may renew their leases up to the term limits stated in their housing guarantee. Leases for nonguaranteed students may be renewable annually depending on student status and space availability. Graduate students who are not eligible for the guarantee may apply to be placed on the housing waitlist. Housing offers will be made as space becomes available.

ADA Accommodations

Students with housing-related needs based on a disability should register with the UCI Disability Service Center (dsc.uci.edu).

Military

Students who are eligible service members, reservists and veterans are guaranteed an offer of on-campus housing. Contact the UCI Veteran Services Center for information: veteran.uci.edu.
UCI is ranked No. 8 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 11 consecutive years in the top 10 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 $7 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

We invite you to visit us, either online or in person, 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 (law.uci.edu/admission) for 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, 2021
- **Application Closes:** March 15, 2022

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:** You should complete and submit your application using our secure LSAC Electronic Application.

**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 the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).
- For fall 2022 admission, the last LSAT score accepted is the March 2022 administration, and the GRE must be taken no later than March 31, 2022.
- Please see the ‘Apply’ page on the UCI Law website for more information about the LSAT and GRE.
- A valid Law School Admission Council Credential Assembly Service (CAS) report. All applicants, regardless of which standardized test they apply with, are required to subscribe to and utilize the CAS report for the submission of transcripts and letters of recommendation.
- The following must be submitted by the published deadline dates:
  - Completed LSAC Electronic Application form
  - Official transcripts
    - All transcripts from 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 UCI 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 (three topics: diversity, standardized tests, and/or GPA)
      - You may answer all three prompts, but the total length 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, including LSAT scores and LSAT Writing, AND your signed Early Decision Certification form by November 15th.
  - Applicants who apply for Early Decision but do not have all the materials in by the deadline will be rolled over to the regular decision admissions pool after the Early Decision deadline automatically.
  - Since UCI Law is still operating under a three-year pilot with the GRE test, only applicants with a valid LSAT 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 with your offer of admission.
  - You must withdraw all of your applications to other law schools and refrain from initiating any new applications if and when you are notified of your acceptance through the Early Decision program.
  - Unsuccessful Early Decision applicants will be rolled over into the regular decision pool.
Notifications
- Applicants will receive a confirmation email containing credentials to the Application Status Check system soon after submitting their application. It is the applicant’s responsibility to assure the file is complete, but please contact the Admissions Office should you have questions about missing items.
- Be sure to update our office with any changes to your email, phone number, and/or mailing address.
- If you are registered for a future standardized test administration when you submit your application, your application will be held only if you are a first-time test taker.

Decisions
- Decisions will be available via LSAC’s Applicant Status Online system and sent via email to your primary email address on file.
- Applicants who have a complete file by February 15 will receive a decision by April 1.
- The majority of applicants will receive notification by the end of April.

Seat Deposit
- In order to secure their spot in the fall 2022 entering class, all admitted applicants will be required to submit both an affirmative Statement of Intent to Register (SIR·Y) and pay a nonrefundable seat deposit no later than the date(s) indicated with their offer of admission.

Foreign-Educated Applicants
- A separate test of English proficiency is not required for admission into the J.D. program.
- You must submit your transcripts through LSAC’s Credential Assembly Service. Applicants educated outside of the United States and Canada must use the LSAC’s Authentication and Evaluation services with their CAS Report.

Required Disclosure
Please note that federal regulations require higher education programs that are intended to meet professional licensure and certification requirements to disclose to students whether the program meets licensure and certification requirements in other states. The regulations, which were enacted on November 1, 2019, can be found at 34 CFR §668.43(a)(5)(v) (https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2019-23129.pdf).

The License and Certification Disclosures for the University of California can be found here: https://www.ucop.edu/institutional-research-academic-planning/content-analysis/academic-planning/licensure-and-certification-disclosures.html.

If you have questions about UCI Law’s admissions process, please visit our Frequently Asked Questions page at law.uci.edu/admission/faqs.html.

If you still have questions after reviewing our FAQS or application instructions, email them to admissions@law.uci.edu.

Social media:
- @UCILaw
- @UCILaw
Weather Forecast:
Sunny and Mediterranean climate year round!

UCI Law