

## Legal Professional Pathways Program

The UCI Law Legal Professional Pathways (LPP) program recognizes students for their academic excellence, professional achievements, exceptional life experiences, and their leadership potential in the legal profession.

The Legal Professional Pathways program pairs talented newly admitted UCI Law students with opportunities available at the Public Law Center that provide summer employment at the end of the first year of law school. Participating students benefit from mentorship and outreach throughout their 1L year and are introduced to leaders in the legal community.

### About the Program

In addition to summer employment, participants will receive:

- Networking opportunities with members of the legal community
- One-on-one consultation with a member of our Academic Skills Program (ASP)
- Interviewing and employment counseling
- Faculty Mentoring

### Application & Selection Process

The LPP program is open to all admitted students who apply. Prior to applying, admitted students must attend a session with Career Development Office (CDO) staff to receive guidance on preparing application materials and interviewing.

- **Wednesday, May 14, 12pm:**  
<https://ucizoom.us/j/97188763618?pwd=LXQKWREtYZmCRzxgttReYj4Extbs9.1>
- **Tuesday, May 20, 10am:**  
<https://ucizoom.us/j/93714189371?pwd=jl66ZkvZunp0JCw4UXUbCiy1ObaolY.1>

To apply submit (1) a LPP application, (2) a resume, and (3) a cover letter by 5pm on May 30, 2025. After review of their application materials, including career interests expressed in the LPP application, selected students are interviewed by PLC. All offers are made before the fall semester begins. Not all students who interview for positions will be offered summer employment.

### Program Participation

Students spend approximately eight to ten weeks in the summer following their first year of law school, working at PLC in a legal area matching their interests and expertise. Students in the LPP Program will earn \$6,000 for the summer. Participants may request academic (externship) credit instead of funding. Participants cannot apply for a PILF stipend to supplement the LLP Program funding.

After accepting an offer from PLC, participating students will be paired with a faculty member to receive mentorship. Additionally, trainings will be offered through our Career Development Office and Academic Skills Program to ensure that participants receive the support they need before the start of their employment. Participants will also be invited to attend one or more events in the legal community.

## Timeline

### Spring/Summer Admitted

- Review program information, PLC materials, and attend an information session.
- Prepare a cover letter, update your resume, and submit a LPP Program application.
- If selected, interview with the employer and receive a job offer, if successful.



### First Year of Law School

- Attend scheduled events with the Dean, your faculty mentor(s), and the Public Law Center.



### Summer of 1L Year

- Begin employment
- Attend mid-summer lunch event with the Dean

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Do I need to apply to be considered for the program?

Yes, students must formally apply to the UCI Law Legal Professional Pathways program and admission into the program is by invitation. This program is only available to newly admitted students.

### How do I apply for the Legal Professional Pathways program?

Newly admitted students will receive an email instructing them how to apply.

### How will I know if I have been invited to join?

Admitted students selected to participate will receive an email invitation with additional information after their selection into the Legal Professional Pathways program.

### Can I get assistance and tips on my interviewing skills?

Students must attend one of the two information sessions with the Law School's Career Development Office to learn best practices for interviewing in the legal market before interviewing with interested employers.

### When are employment offers made?

Offers are made before the start of the fall semester.

### How am I assigned a mentor? How often will we meet?

Students will be paired with a faculty mentor during their first year of law school.

### I have questions, how can I learn more about the Legal Professional Pathways program?

Please contact Jasminde Deol, Assistant Dean for Career Development, with questions about the Legal Professional Pathways program, [jdeol@law.uci.edu](mailto:jdeol@law.uci.edu).

## Legal Professional Pathways Program

### Participating Organization: **Public Law Center**

The Public Law Center (PLC), Orange County's pro bono law firm, is committed to providing access to justice for low-income residents. Through volunteers and staff, PLC provides free civil legal services, including legal counseling, client representation, community education, and strategic litigation and advocacy to challenge societal injustices. Now in its 42nd year of service, PLC works with more than 1,600 volunteer lawyers, paralegals and law students from throughout the county who graciously donate their time and expertise.

This document outlines our areas of practice and examples of what we might assist clients with.

#### **Family Law**

- Domestic Violence Restraining Orders
- Divorce Cases
- Parentage / Paternity Cases
- Child Custody and Visitation Requests for Order
- Child and Spousal Support Motions
- Guardianship Cases

#### **Consumer Law**

- Bankruptcy
  1. Chapter 7 Cases
  2. Motions
  3. Adversary Proceedings (affirmative and defensive)
- Debt Collection Defense
  1. Pre-litigation (collection letters, cease and desist, dispute letters)
  2. Litigation (answers, cross-complaints, case management statements, discovery, motions, trial)
  3. Post-Judgment (claims of exemption, motions to vacate/set aside)
  4. Affirmative cases under the FDCPA, FCRA, etc.
- Student Loans
  1. Payment plans (income determined plans)
  2. Administrative forgiveness
  3. Litigation in state, federal and bankruptcy court, both affirmative and defensive
- Homeownership Disputes
  1. Homeowners Association disputes
  2. Home Improvement Financing/Scams
  3. Property-Assessed Clean Energy financing and Solar Panels
  4. Contractor disputes
  5. Foreclosure prevention

# Legal Professional Pathways Program

## Participating Organization: **Public Law Center**

- Elder Justice for Clients who have been exploited financially/abused
  1. Conservatorships
  2. Probate Litigation
  3. Estate planning
  4. Elder Abuse
- Fraud and Identity Theft
- Payday/Predatory Installment Loans
- Advocacy Work
  1. Impact cases in all of the above areas
  2. Amicus Briefs
  3. State Legislative/Regulatory Advocacy
  4. Federal Legislative/Regulatory Advocacy
- Clinics
  1. Chapter 7 Bankruptcy
  2. Reaffirmation (specific procedure in bankruptcy)
  3. Federal District Court Self-Help

### **Housing and Homelessness Prevention**

- Affordable housing impact litigation and policy advocacy
- Homelessness Prevention
- Subsidized Housing Termination (Section 8)
- Unlawful Detainer/Eviction Defense
- Security Deposit Refunds
- Housing Conditions
- Mobile Home litigation and advocacy
- Training Advocates and Presenting to Community Organizations

### **Veterans Project**

- Veterans benefits
  1. VA service-connected disability compensation
  2. VA pension for low-income veterans
  3. Character of Discharge determinations
- Discharge Upgrades, and other changes to veterans' discharge paperwork
  1. Character of Discharge changes
  2. Narrative Reason for Separation Changes
  3. Re-Enlistment Code Changes
  4. Addition of Awards/Medals/Honors
- General benefits
  1. Social Security Disability
  2. Supplemental Security Income
- Landlord-Tenant Disputes

# Legal Professional Pathways Program

Participating Organization: **Public Law Center**

## **Immigration Law**

- Relief under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
- U visa (victims of serious crimes)
- T visa (victims of trafficking)
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (for undocumented minors who have been abused, neglected or abandoned by one or both parents)
- Asylum (victims who flee persecution in their home countries)
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (for undocumented young people who entered the United States as children)
- Naturalization Assistance (for qualified legal permanent residents who wish to become U.S. citizens)
- Removal (Deportation) Defense

## **Health Law**

- Navigation of the best health care coverage options
- Insurance disputes to safeguard access to health care
- Advance Health Care Directives to provide peace of mind
- Conservatorships to ensure proper care of loved ones
- Medical-Legal Partnerships with clinics throughout the county

## **Federal Tax Clinic**

- Tax issues before the Internal Revenue Service and in the United States Tax Court, including:
  - Examinations
  - Administrative Appeals
  - Collection Matters
  - Tax-Related Identity Theft
  - Employee Misclassification
  - Innocent Spouse

## **COLAP (Community Organizations Legal Assistance Program)**

- Nonprofit Formation and Governance
- Contract Review
- Mergers & Other Collaborations
- Intellectual Property
- Employment Law
- Choice of Business Entity and Minimizing Liability
- Government Licensing and Permits
- Tax Compliance
- Training and Legal Assessments for Community Organizations

**YouTube links:** <https://youtu.be/P82XUty2Wbk> ; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOA7aCLzvFY&t=1s>

2024/2025

This information is provided by the organization and generally outlines all summer programs they offer. As a result, the program descriptions may include information that is not applicable to Legal Professional Pathways students.