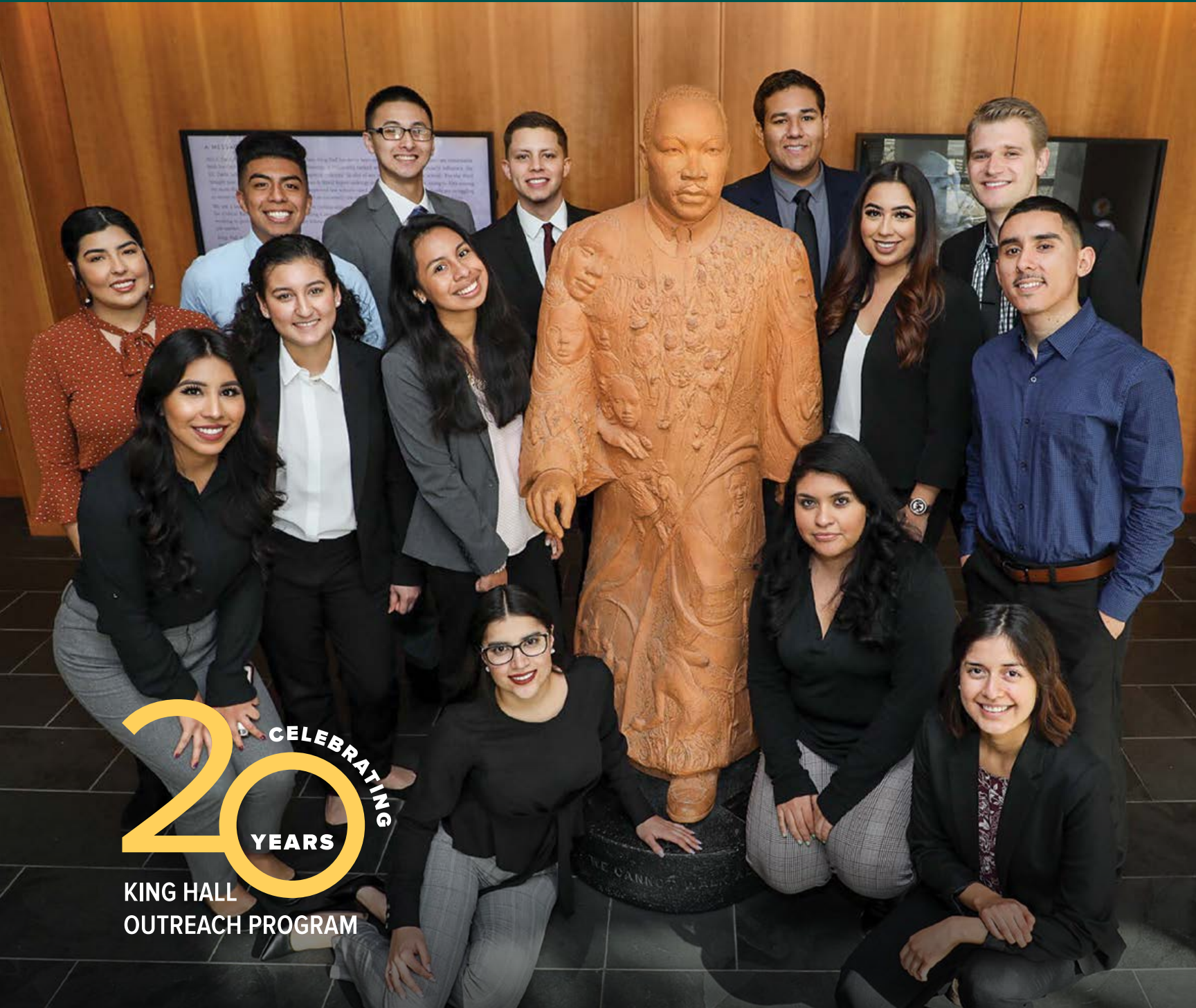


KINGHALL

2021

# COUNSELOR



CELEBRATING  
**20**  
YEARS

KING HALL  
OUTREACH PROGRAM

# MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Tough times challenge us. But they also remind us of what is important. For UC Davis Law, the past year reinforced the remarkable sense of community and unshakable commitment to justice that define King Hall.

Our collaborative spirit has been on full display as faculty, students, and staff worked together to sustain instruction and operations during the pandemic. Although we started the fall semester remotely, King Hall life remains vibrant. Virtual law school events draw hundreds of people, student organizations continue to thrive, and students still have access to the building to study.

Our dedicated alumni have been with us the whole way. When the pandemic disrupted life as we knew it, you reached out to see how you could help. You worked with Career Services to help ensure student job placements could continue. You gave generously to the student emergency fund. Largely because of our alumni, we drew a record \$6.3 million in fundraising in 2019/20 — several million dollars more than in any previous year.

When protests of systemic racism swept the nation, UC Davis Law continued to meet the moment. Our outstanding, “majority-minority” faculty includes leading scholars in constitutional law, criminal justice, policing, immigration law, and race and law. They helped put the events of 2020 in context, through books, articles in leading law reviews and journals, and op-eds in the *New York Times* and other top outlets.

Our faculty members are an integral part of our ongoing and popular Racial Justice Speaker Series. The series has drawn leading scholars, attorneys, and policy makers from around the country to address some of the most urgent issues facing our nation today. In November, *National Jurist preLaw Magazine* named us one of the top three law schools for racial justice.

As UC Davis Law reaffirms its commitment to racial justice, we also note the progress achieved through our historical emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion. The King Hall Outreach Program, celebrating its 20th year in 2020, has helped diversify UC Davis Law and the larger legal community.

This year, we also celebrate the accomplishments of our excellent — and resilient — class of 2020, and this fall’s first-year class, who entered UC Davis Law with off-the-charts credentials. Students of color compose 56 percent of the class of 2023, women make up an amazing 71 percent, and 19 percent of the class identifies as LGBTQ.

We will remember 2020 as the year our community came together, values intact, to help UC Davis Law continue to offer an excellent legal education to students from all backgrounds. As you read about fellow community members in these pages, I hope you join me in taking pride in what we have accomplished.

Sincerely,



Kevin R. Johnson

*Law school dean, Mabie-Apallas Professor of Public Interest Law,  
and professor of Chicana/o Studies at the University of California, Davis*



**We will remember 2020 as the year our community came together, values intact, to help UC Davis Law continue to offer an excellent legal education to students from all backgrounds.**

**KINGHALL**  
**COUNSELOR**  
JANUARY 2021

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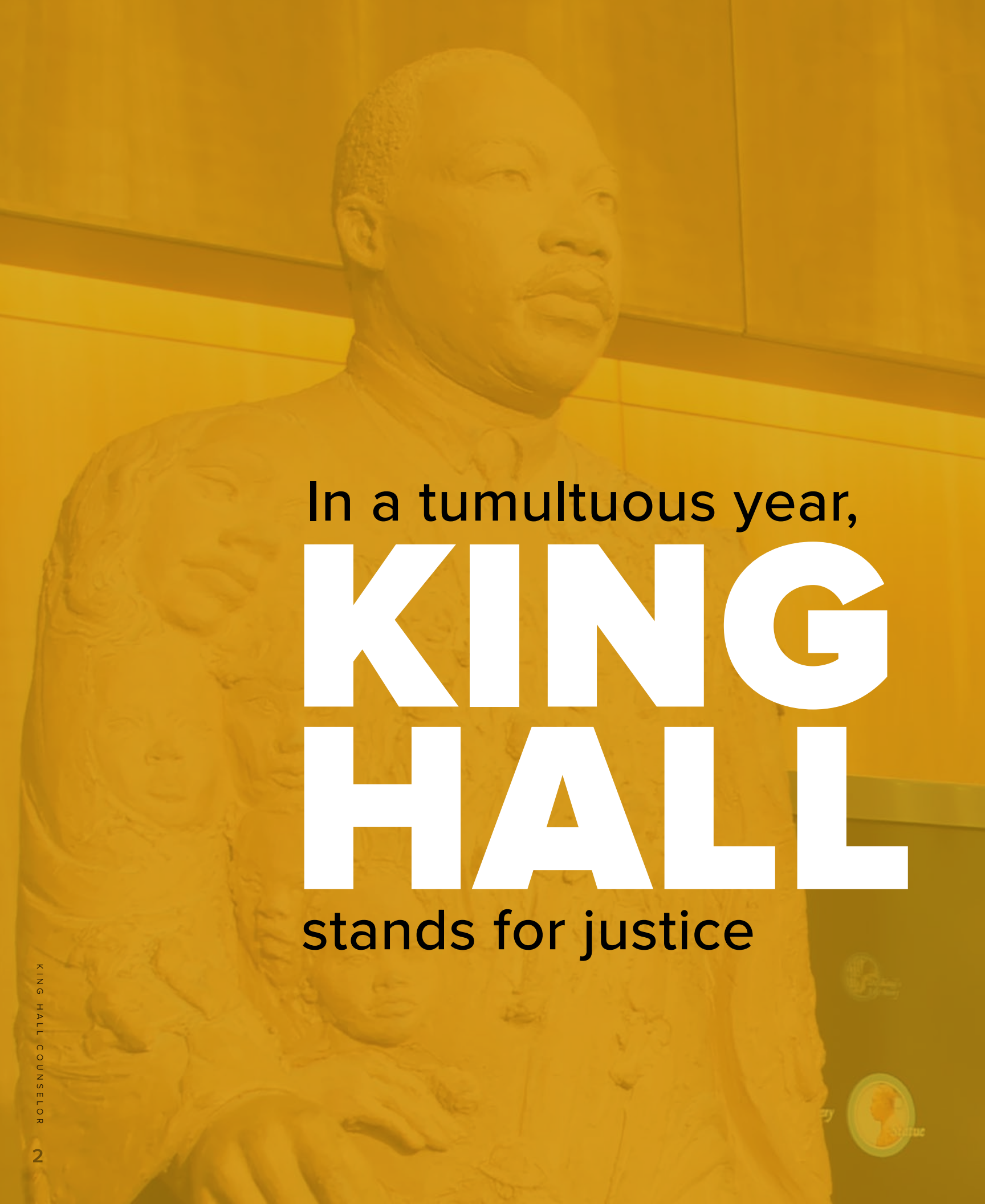
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In a tumultuous year,

# KING HALL

stands for justice



By Carla Meyer

The COVID-19 pandemic and a national reckoning on race established 2020 as one of the most extraordinary years in modern history. Throughout the year's many challenges and revelations, UC Davis Law remained a steadfast voice for progress.

UC Davis Law scholars have provided vital legal and historical perspective and helped dispel misinformation. The law school, housed in Martin Luther King Jr. Hall, has reaffirmed its longtime commitment to racial justice with virtual events aimed at initiating meaningful dialogue within the King Hall community and beyond.

"As our communities struggled to make sense of the complex set of emotions that arose this year, I wanted to find ways that we could address concerns and advance the conversation," UC Davis Law Dean **Kevin R. Johnson** said.

The law school has held a series of events on topics related to the pandemic, police brutality, and systemic racism. They include April's virtual workshop on xenophobia that provided a forum and resources for students; August's community read of Michelle Alexander's book on mass incarceration, *The New Jim Crow*; and an ambitious Racial Justice Speaker Series (see page 5) that spans the 2020-21 academic year. In addition, Johnson was named co-chair in June of a new UC Davis campus policing task force.

In late May, Americans already reeling from the COVID-19 crisis watched a heartbreaking viral video showing George Floyd's death while in Minneapolis police custody. Widespread protests spearheaded by the Black Lives Matter movement followed, with millions marching against systemic racism.



Gabriel "Jack" Chin

**"As much as any other time perhaps since Reconstruction, but at least since the 1960s, we are asking questions about what kind of country we are."**

— Gabriel "Jack" Chin

Confederate statues fell, by protesters' force and municipal order. Companies reconsidered racially insensitive branding, and Washington's NFL franchise finally dropped its offensive "Redskins" nickname. By August, 13 U.S. cities had heeded BLM calls to "defund the police" by reallocating funds from law enforcement to other government resources.

"This feels different from any other point in my adult life," said Professor **Gabriel "Jack" Chin**, whose specialties include race and law and criminal procedure. "As much as any other time perhaps since Reconstruction, but at least since the 1960s, we are asking questions about what kind of country we are. I think the outcome is going to be opposition to racism as opposed to an embrace of racism."

Chin has played a key role in UC Davis Law's efforts to lend context to 2020. In April, he spoke as part of a national webinar on anti-Asian racism during the pandemic. In June, Chin joined Sen. Bill Dodd (D-Napa) for a discussion of race and policing. In March 2021, Chin will speak as part of the law school's Racial Justice Speaker Series.

Since the pandemic's start, President Donald Trump has used "the Chinese virus" and other xenophobic terms to describe COVID-19. Physical and verbal attacks on Americans perceived to be Chinese have followed, including a rant,

captured in a viral video, against a Thai American woman on a Los Angeles subway.

"A lot of these incidents happened in places where there are a lot of Asian Americans, like New York and California," said Chin, whose scholarship on discrimination toward Asian Americans includes the renowned 2018 *Duke Law Journal* article "The War Against Chinese Restaurants." "But this should not have surprised me, because my work is about how racism is embedded in American law and culture, and so far, I have not found any places where race was not used as part of the structure of society."

Scapegoating Asian Americans during a public health crisis is not new, although current laws prevent the level of discrimination evident in the early 20th century, when San Francisco shut down (only) its Chinatown neighborhood in battling the bubonic plague.

"That took place in the Jim Crow era, when there were racial classifications for immigrants and lots of other people," Chin said. "Discrimination within a particular context, like medical treatment, was part of a larger structure. We don't really have that structure today."

Yet racial disparities in health care, while no longer mandated by law, persist

and have been brought into sharp focus by COVID-19's disproportionate impact on communities of color.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, Black people are infected with COVID-19 at a greater rate than white, non-Hispanic people, and are nearly three times more likely to die from the virus. Latinx and Indigenous COVID-19 patients face similar death rates. In California, Latinx people account for a shocking 58 percent of all COVID-19 cases and 48 percent of deaths, compared with 39 percent of the population.

“What COVID-19 has made undeniable is that disparities in health care that have been going on forever in the United States have their roots in structural racism,” UC Davis Law Professor **Lisa Ikemoto** said. “This is not something new. But now we have the data because we are paying such close attention to” the pandemic.

A health care law expert, Ikemoto was at the forefront of scholarship about race and health outcomes when she published her influential *St. Louis University Law Journal* article “Racial Disparities in Health Care and Cultural Competency” in 2003. In May 2020, Ikemoto gave an informative virtual talk on this topic for UC Davis’ College of Biological Sciences.

During the pandemic, people of color have been more likely to be exposed to the virus at work, Ikemoto points out.

“Labor markets are segregated, not just by class but race. A high percentage of those categories labeled ‘essential,’ like service work, tend to be low-wage jobs where people are working in close proximity to each other.”

Marginalized communities historically have had less access to high-quality health care, grocery stores, and safe outdoor spaces for exercise. Patients from these communities often also face implicit bias within health systems, Ikemoto said.



Lisa Ikemoto

**“What COVID-19 has made undeniable is that disparities in health care that have been going on forever in the United States have their roots in structural racism.”**

— Lisa Ikemoto

These factors can contribute to pre-existing conditions often cited as risk factors for serious COVID-19 complications. And racism itself creates pre-existing conditions, Ikemoto said.

“Studies have shown that having to live in a state of defensiveness, and self-protection” negatively affects health, she said.

Widespread awareness of who was affected most by COVID-19 early in the pandemic might have contributed to the racial justice protests that followed, Ikemoto said.

“COVID-19 (illustrates) how injustice permeates every aspect of our lives and health.”

Other pandemic-related factors likely also contributed to the protests, Chin said. Shelter-at-home directives gave people more time to watch news reports — about Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and other Black Americans killed by police in 2020.

COVID-19’s arrival also laid bare the “race baiting of the president” and his allies that some people could overlook when the economy was better, Chin said.

“The economic problems created by the pandemic made people more willing, in large numbers, to say, ‘We are not going to give these people the benefit of the doubt.’”

Chin also cited the #metoo movement as an important precursor to this year’s marches.

“#Metoo forced some men to think about the world from the perspective of someone else,” Chin said. Similarly, 2020’s notably multicultural protests illustrate millions of Americans saying, “Listen, this is not my experience, but I am listening to the people who are telling me it is their experience.”

A Pew Research Center survey conducted at the height of the protests in June supports this point: It found that 67 percent of adults across demographic lines expressed some support for the BLM movement. That percentage dropped to 55 percent in a new Pew survey in September, but still represented a majority.

Chin also sees more law reform on the horizon. He expects a close review of “qualified immunity,” which can shield government officials, including police officers, from liability. The amount of discretion given to police and prosecutors in deciding who gets pulled over, and who gets charged, also must be re-examined, Chin said.

“The police and prosecutors have so much discretion now, and consciously or subconsciously, it has led to a criminal justice system where a lot of people feel, with good reason, that they are being discriminated against.” 🗨️

REMEMBER

IN THE END, WE WILL REMEMBER NOT THE WORDS OF OUR ENEMIES, BUT THE SILENCE OF OUR FRIENDS.

SILENCE OF OUR FRIENDS

I HAVE A DREAM

I HAVE A DREAM THAT MY FOUR LITTLE CHILDREN WILL ONE DAY LIVE IN A NATION WHERE THEY WILL NOT BE JUDGED BY THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN, BUT BY THE CONTENT OF THEIR CHARACTER.

CONTENT OF CHARACTER

MEASURE OF A MAN

THE ULTIMATE MEASURE OF A MAN IS NOT WHERE HE STANDS IN MOMENTS OF COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE BUT WHERE HE STANDS AT TIMES OF CHALLENGE AND CONTROVERSY.

CHALLENGE AND CONTROVERSY

# RACIAL JUSTICE SPEAKER SERIES

## addresses urgent issues, draws big audience

By Carla Meyer

Amid widespread protest over systemic racism, UC Davis Law gathered leading scholars, practitioners, and policy makers for a Racial Justice Speaker Series. Running throughout the 2020-21 academic year, the virtual series examines racial justice from multiple angles.

“Systemic racism has unfortunately corrupted our nation’s history,” UC Davis Law Dean **Kevin R. Johnson** said. “This series acknowledges that tragic history while also furthering the conversation and seeking solutions.”

The lectures have attracted virtual audiences of more than 200 people, on average, since starting in September with a talk by Alameda County Public Defender **Brendon Woods**.

Woods drew a direct line from the horrors of slavery to the police killings of Black men and women over the past several years. He noted that today’s police forces have roots in the “slave patrols” of armed white men who monitored and enforced discipline of enslaved people in the 1800s.

“Lynching and racial terror profoundly comprise what came to be the criminal justice system,” Woods said.

The series’ next speaker, Sacramento Mayor and UC Davis Law alum **Darrell Steinberg ’84**, said that in his long political career, “nothing has been as personally challenging ... to who I aspire to be as a leader than the deaths of Stephon Clark, George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor.”

Clark was shot and killed by police in 2018 in his grandmother’s Sacramento backyard. District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert declined to press charges against the officers involved, citing their belief that a cell phone Clark held was a weapon.

The Clark case sparked sustained protests in 2018-19 in Sacramento and beyond. Along with the 2020 police killings of Floyd in Minneapolis, Taylor in Louisville, Ky., and others, Clark’s death helped fuel the cumulative outrage that erupted into this summer’s massive protests.

The series also included October’s Bodenheimer Lecture in Family Law, delivered by Georgetown Law Professor **Robin Lenhardt**, who argued for *Moore v. City of East Cleveland* as a landmark case for racial equality as well as family rights. **Angela Onwuachi-Willig**,

dean of Boston University Law and a former UC Davis professor, spoke a week later about “The Trauma of Injustice.” Onwuachi-Willig highlighted racism’s effects on mental and physical health by offering personal accounts from Black attorneys and law students.

UC Davis Law Professor **Irene Joe**, a former New Orleans public defender, spoke in November about resources for system-impacted people. Her faculty colleague **Gabriel “Jack” Chin**, an expert in immigration law, criminal procedure, and race and law, will speak March 31. Fellow UC Davis Law Professor **Raquel Aldana** will address the intersection of criminal law and immigration law on April 7.

George Washington University Law Professor **Lisa Fairfax** will speak on Jan. 12, Yolo County Public Defender **Tracie Olson** on Jan. 25, and UC Irvine Law Dean **Song Richardson** on March 9. This year’s Barrett Lecture on Constitutional Law, to be delivered March 3 by Georgetown Law Professor **Paul Butler**, also falls under the Racial Justice Speaker Series umbrella. 🗳️

# UC DAVIS LAW

## adds to its outstanding faculty in 2020-21

UC Davis School of Law has enhanced its acclaimed faculty for 2020-21.

After three years of excellent service as the campus's Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Diversity, Professor **Raquel Aldana** has transitioned to a full-time faculty appointment at UC Davis Law.



*Raquel Aldana*

Aldana is a leading voice on transitional justice, criminal justice reforms and sustainable development in Latin America, and immigrant rights in the United States. In 2020-21, she is teaching Criminal Law, Immigration Law, and Asylum and Refugee Law.

UC Davis Law also is pleased to welcome two outstanding teacher/scholars, **Eric Fish** and **Alix Rogers**, to the law faculty. They will begin teaching in spring 2021.



*Eric Fish*

Fish's primary research is in criminal law, with particular focus on the ethical duties of participants in the criminal process, the structure of immigration crimes, and the system's emphasis on administrative efficiency.

For the past four years, Fish has served as a public defender, first with the San Francisco Public Defender's Office, later as a Federal Defender in San Diego. He received a J.D. and a Ph.D.



*Alix Rogers*

from Yale Law School, where he served as an articles editor for the *Yale Law Journal*. After law school, he clerked for Judges Pierre Leval and Guido Calabresi of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. He will teach Professional Ethics and Immigration Crimes in the spring.

Rogers' scholarship centers on legal and bioethical issues related to property, torts, and legal history. Rogers spent the past three years as a co-fellow between Stanford Law's Center for Law and the Biosciences and the Stanford Program in Neuroscience and Society. She holds a J.D. from Yale Law School. Awarded a Gates Scholarship to attend Cambridge University, Rogers holds an M.Phil. and is a candidate for a Ph.D. in the History and Philosophy of Science from Cambridge.



*Jennifer Elowsky*

Bolstering its Legal Research and Writing program, the law school added a new instructor, **Jennifer Elowsky**. She taught Legal Research and Writing and Legal Methods at Golden Gate University School of Law. She is a partner at Wolkin Curran, LLP in San Francisco.

**Robert Mullaney '84** is UC Davis Law's new Aoki Water Justice Clinic director. He previously served as Associate Regional Counsel of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and as Senior Counsel, Environmental Enforcement Section of the U.S. Department of Justice. Last year, he was a staff attorney and associate professor for Golden Gate University School of Law's Environmental Law and Justice Clinic. After law school, Mullaney clerked for then-California Supreme Court Justice (later UC Davis Law Professor) Cruz Reynoso.



*Robert Mullaney*

**Chad Smith** joined King Hall as the director of the Tribal Justice Project. Smith holds a J.D. from the University of Tulsa. He is the former Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. Smith also served as attorney general for the Tohono O'odham Nation. 🏞️



*Chad Smith*



# PROFESSORS ALDANA AND JOSLIN ELECTED TO THE AMERICAN LAW INSTITUTE



THE AMERICAN LAW INSTITUTE

Professors **Raquel E. Aldana** and **Courtney G. Joslin** have been elected to the American Law Institute. Widely considered the nation’s most prestigious non-governmental legal-reform organization, the institute oversees projects that often form the basis of laws and become standards cited in judges’ opinions, lawyers’ briefs, and scholarly articles.

Aldana joined UC Davis in 2017 to serve as the inaugural Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Diversity with a law faculty appointment. She returned to full time law teaching in 2020. Aldana’s research has focused on transitional justice, criminal justice reforms and sustainable development in Latin America, as well as immigrant rights.

**UC Davis Law now counts 20 faculty members and emeriti in the ALI, which caps total membership at 3,000.**

Since starting at UC Davis, Aldana has received numerous awards, including the American Bar Association Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award, the UC Davis Chancellor’s Achievement Award for Diversity and Community, and the UC Davis Office of Research and Policy for Equity Ubuntu Award for Inspiring Social Change. In 2019, Aldana was selected as an inaugural fellow of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities’ Academia de Liderazgo.

A King Hall faculty member since 2007, Joslin is an expert in the areas of family and relationship recognition, with a particular focus on same-sex and unmarried couples. Joslin served as the Reporter for the Uniform Parentage Act (2017). First promulgated in 1973, the Parentage Act sets forth a legal framework for determining parent-child relationships. The UPA (2017) includes a number of important updates, including changes to ensure that the act protects all children, regardless of the parent’s sex, sexual orientation, or marital status.

In 2019, Joslin won her second Dukeminier Award from UCLA School of Law’s Williams Institute, for her article “Discrimination In and Out of Marriage” (*Boston University Law Review*, 2018). She received her first for the 2010 article “Protecting Children (?): Marriage, Gender, and Assisted Reproduction Technology” (*Southern California Law Review*). The Dukeminier Awards recognize the year’s best law review articles on sexual-orientation and gender-identity issues.

UC Davis Law now counts 20 faculty members and emeriti in the ALI, which caps total membership at 3,000. The others are Dean Kevin R. Johnson, Senior Associate Dean Afra Afsharipour, Professors Ashutosh Bhagwat, Gabriel “Jack” Chin, William Dodge, Elizabeth Joh, Thomas Joo, Lisa Pruitt, and Leticia Saucedo, and Professors Emeriti Alan Brownstein, Carol Bruch, Joel Dobris, Daniel Fessler, Angela Harris, Robert Hillman, John Oakley, Edward Rabin and Daniel Simmons. 🏆



*Raquel Aldana*



*Courtney Joslin*



Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye

## CHIEF JUSTICE CANTIL-SAKAUYE HONORED AS ONE OF 55 REMARKABLE WOMEN FROM UC DAVIS

The Chief Justice of California, **Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye '84**, has been honored as one of 55 "Remarkable UC Davis Women." The honor is part of a celebration of the 150th anniversary of women first being admitted to the University of California.

Cantil-Sakauye, the state's 28th chief justice, is the first Filipina American and the second woman to serve in the role. A double Aggie, she received her undergraduate degree from UC Davis in 1980.

Spearheaded by UC Berkeley, the "150W" project celebrates women of distinction across the UC system. Among other Davis honorees are San Francisco Mayor London Breed and astronaut Tracy Caldwell Dyson, both UC Davis alumnae, and the campus's first Vice Chancellor of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Renetta Garrison Tull.



Austin Quinn-Davidson

## AUSTIN QUINN-DAVIDSON '07 BECOMES ACTING MAYOR OF ANCHORAGE

**Austin Quinn-Davidson '07** was sworn in as acting mayor of Anchorage, Alaska, in October. She is the first woman and openly gay person to serve as the city's mayor.

Quinn-Davidson has said that her experiences at UC Davis Law helped inspire her to run for public office for the first time, in 2018, when she was elected to the Anchorage Assembly. She was part of the Civil Rights Clinic while at King Hall.

## KARA UEDA '00 APPOINTED AS SACRAMENTO SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

Gov. Gavin Newsom has appointed **Kara K. Ueda '00** to serve as a judge in the Sacramento Superior Court.

Ueda has been a partner at Best Best & Krieger LLP since 2010. She also was an adjunct professor at UC Davis School of Law from 2012-19. Ueda held several positions at McDonough Holland & Allen PC from 2002-2010, including associate and partner. She was a fellow and deputy general counsel at the League of California Cities from 2000-01.



Kara K. Ueda

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE OUTSTANDING CLASS OF 2020!

Faced with a final semester more challenging than perhaps any King Hall class before it had encountered, the class of 2020 reacted with patience, grace, and perseverance. UC Davis Law expected no less from this class, which distinguished itself through its leadership qualities, commitment to public service, and innovative spirit.

We look forward to when we can celebrate the class of 2020's graduation in person. In the meantime, we were happy to welcome several members of the class back to King Hall in October to take the online bar exam in a safe, quiet environment.

Congratulations on all you accomplished, class of 2020!

Read about the achievements of King Hall's most recent alumni class on page 12.

# 2020 ALUMNI OF THE MONTH



## Rodrigo Guevara '09

Rodrigo Guevara '09 received the 2020 King Hall Rising Star Alumnus Award at the Celebrating King Hall event. Rodrigo founded Abogado LLP, a law firm that specializes in representing low-wage workers in underserved communities.



## Elihu Harris '72

Elihu M. Harris '72 has served as mayor of Oakland, as a California State Assembly member, and as chancellor of Peralta Community College District. He has also served as a California Uniform Law Commissioner and on the California Unemployment Appeals Board.



## Margaret Z. Johns '76

Margaret Z. Johns '76 taught at King Hall from 1980 to 2018, directing the Legal Writing program from 1984 to 2001. In 1993, Margaret founded the King Hall Civil Rights Clinic. She received the 2020 King Hall Distinguished Alumna Award.



## Melissa Jones '99

Melissa Jones '99 became Firm Managing Partner for Stoel Rives LLP on Jan. 1, 2020, just as the world entered the pandemic. She is one of only 24 women currently serving as the managing partner of an Am Law 200 firm. As a trial lawyer, Melissa specialized in complex business disputes, appellate matters, and internal investigations.



## Dennis M. Cota '86

Judge Dennis M. Cota '86 was appointed as a magistrate judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California in September 2018. Previously, he was a founding partner in Cota Cole & Huber LLP, specializing in public law.



## Sandra Talbott '88

Sandra Talbott '88 is Assistant City Attorney for Sacramento. She first joined the City Attorney's Office as a Deputy City Attorney in 1994. She currently serves on the UC Davis School of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors.



## Judge David Rosenberg '74

Judge David Rosenberg '74 has served at the Superior Court of California, County of Yolo, since 2003. He runs a felony trial calendar and also presides over the Yolo County Mental Health Court.



## Angela Brown Bonifacie '87

Angela Brown Bonifacie '87 is currently Vice President, International Counsel for ADP, a global human capital management outsourcing company. She is the lead negotiator in Europe, Middle East and Africa for high value multinational contracts.

# CELEBRATING KING HALL:

## Professor Lisa Pruitt, Professor Emerita Margaret Johns '76, Rodrigo Guevara '09 receive honors

By Carla Meyer

Professor **Lisa R. Pruitt** is the recipient of UC Davis Law's **2020 Distinguished Teaching Award**. This award was made possible through the generosity of Bill and Sally Rutter.

Pruitt was honored Nov. 17 along with the **Distinguished Alumna Award** recipient, Senior Lecturer Emerita **Margaret Johns '76**, and **King Hall Rising Star Alumnus Award** winner **Rodrigo Guevara '09**, as part of "Celebrating King Hall." The virtual event, rescheduled from an in-person March celebration canceled due to the pandemic, drew more than 100 members of the King Hall community.

A Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law and member of the American Law Institute, Pruitt is a scholar whose recent work explores the legal relevance

of rural socio-spatiality, including how it inflects dimensions of gender, race, and ethnicity. At King Hall, she has taught on the subjects of torts, law and rural livelihoods, feminist jurisprudence, critical race theory, and sociology of the legal profession.

Pruitt holds a J.D. from the University of Arkansas School of Law, where she was editor-in-chief of the law review, and a Ph.D. in Laws from the University of London, where she studied as a British Marshall Scholar. Pruitt clerked for the Honorable Morris Sheppard Arnold of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

Before joining the King Hall faculty in 1999, Pruitt worked abroad for almost a decade in settings ranging from international organizations to private practice. She worked with lawyers in more than 30 countries, negotiating cultural conflicts in several arenas. Her key role in the first successful prosecution of rape as a war crime — while working as a gender consultant for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda — is chronicled in the 2016 documentary film "The Uncondemned."

Once Pruitt was granted tenure in 2004, she took the step of seeking to establish a new sub-discipline in legal scholarship — one that explored rural-urban difference in relation to how people engage law and the state.

Pruitt's work reveals, for example, how the economic, spatial, and social features of rural locales profoundly shape the lives of residents, including the

**Pruitt's work reveals, for example, how the economic, spatial, and social features of rural locales profoundly shape the lives of residents, including the junctures at which they encounter the law.**



Lisa Pruitt



Margaret Johns

junctures at which they encounter the law. The most recent thread of Pruitt’s scholarship explores critical whiteness studies as a strand of critical race theory. Among other projects, Pruitt challenges the conflation of rurality with whiteness, while also seeking a more nuanced understanding of rural and working-class whites, especially in the era of President Trump.

Leading media outlets including the *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal* and NPR have quoted Pruitt in recent years on a range of rural issues.

In 2018, Pruitt collaborated with five other scholars on the *Harvard Law & Policy Review* article “Legal Deserts: a Multi-State Perspective on Rural Access to Justice.” The article addresses the rural lawyer shortage and what its authors call “an increasingly dire access-to-justice crisis, which serves to exacerbate the already disproportionate share of social problems afflicting rural areas.”

Pruitt contributed to *Appalachian Reckoning: A Region Responds to Hillbilly Elegy* (West Virginia University Press),

a 2019 anthology compiled in response to J.D. Vance’s best-selling 2016 memoir *Hillbilly Elegy*.

Distinguished Alumna Award recipient Johns taught at her alma mater from 1980 to 2018, directing the Legal Research and Writing program from 1984 to 2001. While at King Hall, she co-authored four books and published several law review articles. In 1993, Johns founded UC Davis Law’s Civil Rights Clinic.

Johns received UC Davis Law’s Distinguished Teaching Award in 1991. She later was awarded UC Davis’ Distinguished Public Service Award and the James H. Meyer Distinguished Achievement Award, the latter honoring the breadth of her accomplishments at the university.

Johns has received public service awards from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit; the U.S. District Court, Eastern District; and the YWCA.

In 1992, Johns, Professor Ed Imwinkelried, and then-Eastern District Judge David Levi, established

the Schwartz/Levi Inn of Court, a gathering of lawyers, judges, law professors, and students dedicated to addressing ethics, skills, and professionalism in the legal field.

Guevara is the inaugural recipient of the Rising Star Alumnus Award, which honors exceptional alumni who have graduated from UC Davis Law within the past 15 years.

In 2015, Guevara founded Abogato, an organization that educated clients about their employment rights. That organization became Abogato LLP, a law firm that specializes in representing low-wage workers in underserved communities. He is a former president of the San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association. Super Lawyers has honored Guevara as a “Rising Star” for the past three years.

**Joana Peraza Lizarraga ’21**, recipient of the Satre Family and Martin Luther King Jr. Public Service scholarships, was the student speaker for “Celebrating King Hall.” Peraza emphasized the importance of scholarships. **Hoang Pham ’21** and **Megan Knize ’08** also spoke at the event, helping to introduce Pruitt, their one-time teacher. 📖



Rodrigo Guevara

# CLASS OF 2020

## EVAN REID '20 FIGHTS INJUSTICE IN THE SOUTH

By Carla Meyer

This fall, **Evan Reid '20** is doing what he set out to do when he enrolled at UC Davis Law — fighting injustice in the South.

Reid, recipient of the 2020 Martin Luther King Jr. Service Award, works on appellate arguments on death-penalty and other cases as a legal fellow for the Equal Justice Initiative. The EJI is an Alabama human rights organization headed by Bryan Stevenson, the law professor and lawyer spotlighted in the 2019 film “Just Mercy.”

A Georgia native, Reid entered King Hall with an eye toward capital habeas work. While at Davis, he crafted death penalty appellate arguments for the Federal Defender of the Eastern District of California and served as student director of the Restorative Justice Practicum. An EJI internship in summer 2019 led to the fellowship and a return to the South, where he always planned to practice.

“The death penalty has strong roots going back to slavery, and is still very prevalent” in the South, where it serves as an emblem of “disparity in race, and economic injustice,” Reid said.

“Through this whole mechanism, you are forced to confront a lot of ills in the criminal justice system.”

Those same ills prompted the widespread protests that followed George Floyd’s killing while in Minneapolis police custody in May.

“George Floyd’s murder was horrific, and underscores the extrajudicial violence that my community has suffered for over 400 years,” Reid said. He traces his interest in appellate work to the 2004 wrongful conviction case of Marcus Dixon, a teenager from Reid’s hometown of Rome, Ga. The Georgia Supreme Court overturned Dixon’s conviction on a child molestation charge that many had decried as racially motivated. Dixon went on to play in the NFL.

Reid was a child at the time, but the case made a big impression. So did advice from his schoolteacher mother and his father, who works in the auto industry.



Evan Reid

“My parents had to start a lot of really tough conversations” about the discrimination their children would face, Reid said. “What’s important is that during these conversations, they affirmed our intelligence, and they affirmed that no matter what, we must give back to the community.” Reid’s parents now count two lawyers in the family: Reid’s twin brother, Daniel, is a 2019 Charleston College of Law alum and public defender.

Reid attended Atlanta’s Morehouse College, Martin Luther King Jr.’s alma mater, and joined the Georgia Innocence Project. After Morehouse, he worked for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, where he met UC Davis Law alums. They spoke highly of the school’s public interest tradition, helping inspire Reid to add a J.D. from

King Hall to his bachelor’s degree from King’s alma mater.

UC Davis Law “surrounded me with like-minded folks who sharpened my understanding of social justice issues,” Reid said. He cites Professor Mary Louise Frampton, who teaches the Restorative Justice Practicum, as especially instrumental, along with Professors Jack Chin, Irene Joe and Elizabeth Joh.

Joe, a former New Orleans public defender who started her own legal career as an EJI legal fellow, encouraged Reid to apply for an internship there. She connected him with an EJI senior staff attorney who had been her colleague.

Reid’s “skills as a lawyer, and his commitment to ensuring the criminal justice system performs with integrity by respecting the basic humanity of marginalized people, will go a long way,” Joe said.

One of the most significant recent developments regarding the death penalty occurred about 15 miles from where Reid attended law school, in Sacramento. In March 2019, Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered a moratorium on the death penalty in California.

Reid said he views this as a “first step” in ending the death penalty in California and the 27 other states that still have it.

“I want to dismantle that system. ... The goal is to work until I don’t have a job, and it forces me on to a totally different career track.” 📖



# PUBLIC SERVICE CLASS *Graduation* of 2020

## PUBLIC SERVICE GRADUATION CELEBRATES 2020 GRADUATES WHO UPHELD KING HALL TRADITION

More than 200 people came online for the virtual 2020 Public Service Graduation, held Thursday, April 23.

Associate Career Services Directors **Alec Nocco** and **Sofia Parino** organized the event, and Nocco served as emcee. Dean **Kevin R. Johnson** offered remarks, thanking the class of 2020 for devoting more than 20,000 hours to public service.

“In these challenging times, it is especially important to celebrate your commitment to social justice,” Johnson told the Public Service Graduates. “This celebration honors students who have devoted themselves to the social justice ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.”

The class of 2020 helped immigrants and seniors, Johnson noted. The students assisted workers and domestic abuse survivors, and helped trans and gender-nonconforming people.

“I look forward to seeing how you change the world,” Johnson continued. “And we need you. The pandemic is hurting the most vulnerable populations. Illness, death, and xenophobia hurt all of us. You will be the ones to help.”

**Evan Reid '20** received the Martin Luther King Jr. Service Award, bestowed upon a graduating student who exemplifies Dr. King’s vision and commitment to public service. As a King Hall student, Reid crafted death penalty appellate arguments at the Office of the Federal Defender for the Eastern

District of California, Capital Habeas Unit; assisted the Law Office of Charles Bonneau in handling complex, criminal appeals; assisted individuals with sealing juvenile records for UC Davis Law’s Humanitarian Aid Legal Organization; addressed racial disparities in death penalty cases and prison condition cases as an Equal Justice Initiative intern; and served as the student director of UC Davis Law’s Restorative Justice Practicum. Reid currently works as an EJI legal fellow (see story, page 12).

**Mina Arasteh, Tatiana Bush, and Muhammad Kenyatta**, class of 2021, and **Kalan Andrews, Julie Joseph, Alexis Logan, and Grecia Orozco**, class of 2022, served on the Public Service Graduation Committee.

Aoki Center for Critical Race and Nation Studies Director **Mary Louise Frampton** served as the Public Service Graduation’s faculty speaker. Professor **Gabriel “Jack” Chin** presented the Angela Harris Prize for Critical Race Scholarship to **Lauren Carbajal '20** and **Nick W. Lee '20** and the Clinical Recognition Award to **Lyla Bugara '20** and **Camila Mojica '20**.

UC Davis School of Law has commissioned a plaque in honor of the class of 2020’s public service, past and future. There will be a dedication ceremony when graduates, students, faculty, and staff can get together in person again at King Hall. 🏛️

# CLASS OF 2020 continued

## PAIGE TUCKER '20 RECEIVES KING HALL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARD

The UC Davis School of Law Alumni Association has honored **Paige Tucker '20** with its annual award for outstanding service to King Hall.

Tucker was the 2019-20 Law Students Association president and served as president of the Black Law Students Association in 2018-19. She is the recipient of the Deborah J. Frick Memorial Scholarship and the Dean's Merit Scholarship.

"The Alumni Association is thrilled to bestow this award on Paige," Alumni Association Board President Kim Chase '07 said. "Through her personal hard work, leadership, and commitment to serving others, she has given back to her fellow students in innumerable ways and is an outstanding representative of King Hall."

"Paige Tucker's exemplary commitment to the greater community and keen sense of social justice have shaped her leadership of the King Hall student body," UC Davis Law Dean Kevin R. Johnson said. "Paige has made a difference."

In her role as LSA president, Tucker was instrumental in starting an emergency funds program for students affected by the COVID-19 crisis. She also helped organize an annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service and Celebration. Held for the first time this year, the day included students, faculty, staff, and alumni helping at a Woodland shelter for the unhoused population and a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals clinic at King Hall.

Under Tucker's leadership, BLSA donated a mural of Dr. King, co-created by Reza Harris '19, to the law school last year.

Tucker holds a master's degree in religion from Yale Divinity School and a B.A. in political science from UCLA. At Yale, she served as social justice and civic engagement coordinator at the Afro-American Cultural Center. 🌟



Paige Tucker

## UC DAVIS LAW REVIEW ADDS DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION EDITOR

As part of its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, the *UC Davis Law Review* has added a DEI Editor.

**Ishika Desai '21** succeeds **Alice Park '20**, the law review's inaugural DEIE when the position was introduced last year.

The law review "acknowledges systemic inequalities that exist within the legal profession and recognizes the role law reviews play in dismantling these barriers," Desai said. "The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Editor works to address this directly within the law review's structure by proposing and implementing initiatives that promote an inclusive, accessible environment for all students."

Desai and the law review's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee this year instituted a speaker series aimed at first-year King Hall students to "provide a better understanding of the law review from several different angles, promote candid conversations, and demystify the application process," Desai said.



## ALISON CORN '20 CREATES APP TO HELP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

**Alison Corn '20** took second place in the Iron Tech Lawyer Invitational, an international competition for student-created tech solutions aimed at bridging the justice gap. The event was held remotely on April 17 by Georgetown Law. UC Davis Law Adjunct Professor Diana Glick '07 served as Corn's academic mentor for the competition.

Corn's project, the "Domestic Violence Next Steps Advisor" app, already is in use at the Yolo Superior Court Self-Help Center. The app helps self-represented litigants figure out next steps after filing domestic violence court documents, when the process can become daunting. Corn based the app on her experiences working with domestic violence survivors as part of Professor Kelly Behre's Family Protection and Legal Assistance Clinic.

"I wanted to create the app in order to accomplish three things," Corn said. "To lessen the re-traumatization domestic violence survivors experience proceeding through their court cases; improve the efficiency of the Yolo Superior Court Self-Help Center; and increase accessibility so a broader range of court users can access justice." 🏠

**Corn's app helps self-represented litigants figure out next steps after filing court documents.**



*Alison Corn*



*Ishika Desai*

"Through conversations with the King Hall community, the law review learned that many 1Ls don't have an understanding of the law review's role, how legal scholarship can benefit their communities, the importance of diversity on law review, and the skills needed to succeed in the 'write on' application process," Desai said, referring to the writing and skills test that serves as an application for joining the law review.

The DEI Committee develops, reviews, and implements the law review's diversity-related initiatives. The committee spends some weeks "focused on benchmarking against peer law reviews around the nation, while other weeks are dedicated to taking a closer look at our admissions practices and developing proposals to create a more equitable application that continues to emphasize valuable skills," Desai said. "The committee is integral to the furtherance of diversity in our membership and scholarship." 🏠

# SCHOOL OF LAW MARTIN LUTHER KING JR HALL



CELEBRATING  
**20**  
YEARS  
KING HALL  
OUTREACH PROGRAM

# KING HALL OUTREACH PROGRAM celebrates 20 years of success

By Carla Meyer

**Sammar Miqbel** went to college with a full-ride academic scholarship but no road map.

The daughter of Palestinian immigrants, Miqbel was the first in her family to attend college when she enrolled in the University of the Pacific.

“When I first applied to colleges, I didn’t even know what a major was,” Miqbel said. “I just said ‘I want to be a lawyer,’ so they put me in with the poli sci people” — a move she did not think to question. “I didn’t want to be that lost when I was applying to law schools.”

So she applied and was accepted into UC Davis Law’s King Hall Outreach Program, after a visit to UOP by the program’s then-coordinator, Moira Delgado. Now in its 20th year, KHOP has helped more than 550 California college students from underrepresented communities prepare for the law school admissions process.

Miqbel, a 2007 UC Davis Law graduate and Sacramento employment law attorney, is one of the program’s many success stories. On a practical level, KHOP offered Miqbel LSAT preparation instruction and other resources she could not afford on her own. On a bigger level, it instilled confidence.

“I probably would have thought UC Davis was out of my reach” before KHOP, she said. “I attribute a lot of my success to the fact I participated in the

program.” In 2019, Miqbel returned to King Hall to share her experiences with a new group of KHOP students.

Established in 2001, KHOP has changed its model over time while maintaining a focus on increasing diversity in law schools and the legal profession. KHOP is part of UC Davis Law’s overall commitment to diversity, which has been recognized often by leading arbiters, including *U.S. News & World Report* and *The Princeton Review*. In 2019, *National Jurist* named UC Davis Law the second most diverse law school in the U.S.

The long-running and influential program currently draws cohorts of 20-25 students (usually juniors) twice a year for four Saturday sessions. The sessions include workshops on pre-law preparation and law school admissions, along with writing assignments in areas emphasized by the LSAT.

Each cohort visits a Sacramento courtroom and law firm, and hears from professors, students, and alumni. Speakers have included the Chief Justice of California, Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye ’84, and other members of the judiciary. Each participant also receives pre-law advising throughout the school year and, if needed, beyond that.

More than 44 percent of participants have gone to law school, just one measure of KHOP’s success as a

**The King Hall Outreach Program provides workshops on pre-law preparation and law school admissions, along with writing assignments in areas emphasized by the LSAT.**

## Cover story

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diversity pipeline program. Ninety-five percent have graduated from college, and 10 percent have pursued postgraduate degrees in fields other than law.

KHOP has received several prestigious honors, including the American Bar Association's Raymond Pace and Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Award for Excellence in Pipeline Diversity.

"Not a lot of programs have been around as long or produced as consistently as KHOP," said UC Davis Law Assistant Dean of Admission and Financial Aid **Kristen Mercado**. "Students do not just go on to King Hall, but law schools up and down the range of schools in California." They include the four other UC law schools, USC, McGeorge, and Golden Gate University.

KHOP's longevity is unusual among law school initiatives, which often rely on funding that eventually runs out. KHOP has received substantial support from the University of California Office of the President, the Law School Admissions Council, and other sources, but has been funded primarily by the law school for several years.

Dean **Kevin R. Johnson** "always has been such a strong cheerleader for the program," Mercado said. He participates in every KHOP session, including this past summer's, held over Zoom due to the pandemic.

Johnson was associate dean, supervising Admissions, when then-Assistant Dean of Admissions Sharon Pinkney came up with the idea for KHOP. At the time, California law schools were still reeling from the passage of Prop. 209, the 1996 initiative that ended affirmative action.

UC Davis Law's diversity numbers had been edging back up, but percentages of Black and especially Latinx students trailed California population percentages. The legal profession was



*Cherita Laney*

further behind: In 2001, 83 percent of attorneys in California were white.

"As a public institution, and a law school housed in Martin Luther King Jr. Hall, it was vital for us to better reflect our state's diverse population, and do our part to diversify the legal profession," Johnson said. "If race could not be a factor in admissions, we could still try to make people from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds more competitive in the admissions process."

Pinkney, who retired in 2013, says she modeled KHOP on the federally funded Upward Bound program for high school students. She participated in that program as a student and worked for

**"It was so cool to be able to talk to students at the law school, and to professors, and the law librarians. I did not know any lawyers before that, or have mentors in the field, and it filled that void."**

– Cherita Laney

it while attending and after graduating from Occidental College.

At UC Davis Law, she read applications from students who, like Upward Bound’s participants, showed “high potential but were from disadvantaged backgrounds,” Pinkney said. “It became apparent that students of color did not have the same exposure and background and information about the admissions process.”

Through KHOP, she aimed to raise these students’ preparedness to where they could compete with applicants “who had grown up with lawyers in the family.”

KHOP started as a two-year program in which students spent parts of their summers living in UC Davis dorms. They received college-level tutoring and had access to tutor-counselors and law student mentors around the clock, Pinkney said.

The program had so few applicants in its 2001 pilot session that its viability was in doubt. “It looked like we weren’t going to be able to start,” Pinkney said. “But Dean Johnson was very supportive, and said, ‘No, let’s just get going.’”

**Cherita Laney ’05** was among the handful of students in that first session. Now a director and associate in-house counsel for E\*TRADE in Atlanta, Laney was a first-generation UC Davis undergraduate at the time.

“I had never heard of anything like it,” said Laney, who would go on to become the first KHOP alum to graduate from UC Davis Law. “It was so cool to be able to talk to students at the law school, and to professors, and the law librarians. I did not know any lawyers before that, or have mentors in the field, and it filled that void.”

Meeting law students was especially invaluable, said KHOP alum **Karen Pedraza ’20**. Pedraza recalls seeking

*Karen Pedraza ’20 was part of KHOP in 2014.*

insights from mentors like **Irene Williams ’14**, a KHOP mock trial tutor.

“I would ask so many questions in confidence, like ‘How hard is law school really?’ and ‘What kind of mentality do you need to have?’” Pedraza recalled.

In 2014, after an LSAC grant ran out, the law school ended the residential model and moved to the multiple Saturdays. But KHOP advisors, including Director of Admission and Outreach Joe Schneider, remain just as committed to helping participants through the admissions process, Mercado said.

“We are there for them, whether five, six or seven years go by before they apply to law school,” she said.

Pedraza, a first-generation college student whose parents were migrant farm workers for much of her youth,

did not go directly to law school after graduating from Saint Mary’s College in 2015.

“I didn’t have the financial standing,” she said. She spent two years working full time, saving money, and studying for the LSAT. She kept in touch with KHOP counselors, who gave advice on everything from application fees to her résumé.

Such personalized attention made the decision easier about which law school to attend.

“I applied to several schools, but UC Davis always felt like home,” said Pedraza, who just took the bar exam and works for the nonprofit Opening Doors.

UC Davis Law has made strides in diversifying its student body since 2001, when KHOP started. Students of color



## Cover story

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compose 56 percent of the law school's fall 2020 incoming class, and women make up 71 percent. Latinx students compose 15 percent of the class — more than double the percentage in 2001, but behind the state's 35 percent population numbers. Black students make up 4 percent of the class, compared with 6 percent of the state.

"We have had some success with our student body, but there still is a need to increase the number of Latinos and African Americans in law schools across the country," Johnson said. "Every year we have our work cut out for us in needing to recruit and land the students we admit from all different backgrounds."

About 30 percent of KHOP alums attend UC Davis Law, which gets as many as nine per year in its 1L classes. KHOP's longer reach has been to other law schools and the legal profession.

"We have had students go to Harvard and other amazing schools, and that's great, because they take their KHOP experiences with them to a place that is not particularly diverse," Mercado said.

Diversity is still sorely needed in the profession. In 2019, Latinx attorneys made up 7 percent of the state bar, and Black attorneys 4 percent. Things grow tougher as people of color try to climb the professional ladder. According to a 2019 Vault/MCCA Law Firm Diversity Survey, racial minorities make up less than 10 percent of law firm partners, and women less than 22 percent.

"Until you see diversity all the way through the progression of the legal field, none of our jobs are done," Mercado said.

The earlier the pipeline starts, the better. UC Davis belongs to the six-year-old California Community College Pathway to Law School program, which identifies community college students interested in law. King Hall's first student from the Pathway-KHOP pipeline, Austin Turner, will graduate in 2021.

KHOP has played a part in diversifying the profession over the past two decades, Johnson said.

"You change one life at a time. And there have been a number of people whose lives were changed in a positive way through this program." 🌟



# BODENHEIMER LECTURE

## addresses the role of family and racial inequality

On Oct. 21, 2020, Georgetown Law Professor **Robin Lenhardt** delivered UC Davis Law’s annual Bodenheimer Lecture on Family Law to a virtual audience of more than 100 people. The event was also part of the law school’s ongoing Racial Justice Speaker Series. In a talk titled “The family in inequality debates,” Professor Lenhardt discussed her argument that families, especially those of color, should be at the center of efforts to understand and address structural racial inequality.



### UC DAVIS LAW FACULTY EXAMINE THE LAW AND ELECTIONS

On Oct. 15, a group of UC Davis law professors previewed Election Day 2020 with an online event that drew more than 100 faculty, staff, students, alumni, and members of the public. The speakers covered areas ranging from criminal, immigration, and health law to the possibility of voter suppression in the Nov. 3 election.

Watch a video of the event, which features **Raquel Aldana**’s discussion of “The 2020 Elections and the Promise for Immigration and Criminal Justice Reforms”; **Christopher Elmendorf**’s coverage of “Voting Rights and the U.S. Senate”; **Lisa Ikemoto**’s exploration of “Health Care Law and Reproductive Rights and Justice”; and **Lisa Pruitt**’s look at “Rural and Working-Class White Voters in the Era of Trump.”



## RACIAL JUSTICE Speaker Series

UC DAVIS SCHOOL OF LAW

<p><b>Sept. 16, 2020</b> <b>Brendon Woods</b> Alameda County Public Defender</p>	<p><b>Nov. 19, 2020</b> <b>Irene Joe</b> Professor, UC Davis School of Law</p>	<p><b>March 9, 2021</b> <b>Song Richardson</b> Dean, UC Irvine Law</p>
<p><b>Sept. 23, 2020</b> <b>Darrell Steinberg</b> UC Davis Law '84, Mayor of Sacramento</p>	<p><b>Jan. 12, 2021</b> <b>Lisa Fairfax</b> Professor, George Washington University Law</p>	<p><b>March 31, 2021</b> <b>Jack Chin</b> Professor, UC Davis School of Law</p>
<p><b>Oct. 21, 2020</b> <b>Robin Lenhardt</b> Professor, Georgetown Law</p>	<p><b>Jan. 25, 2021</b> <b>Tracie Olson</b> Yolo County Public Defender</p>	<p><b>April 7, 2021</b> <b>Raquel Aldana</b> Professor, UC Davis School of Law</p>
<p><b>Oct. 27, 2020</b> <b>Angela Onwuachi-Willig</b> Dean, Boston University School of Law</p>	<p><b>March 3, 2021</b> <b>Paul Butler</b> Professor, Georgetown Law</p>	

(more information on page 5)

# UC Davis Law starts emergency fund for students

To help support students in a time of extraordinary need, UC Davis School of Law has established the King Hall Emergency Fund.

Working together, the law school's Dean's Office and Law Students Association have created a fund that will provide modest grants to meet the immediate needs of students who have encountered financial emergencies due to the COVID-19 crisis and stay-at-home directives. Grants will be available to help with costs for food, shelter, and technology associated with remote

learning, among other unforeseen expenses.

As emphasized by **Dean Kevin R. Johnson**, "We have a responsibility to help all students during this time of uncertainty, anxiety, and challenges. The law school is proud to work with our Law Students Association to create the emergency fund."

Students facing economic hardship related to essential living, academic, and health- and family-related expenses may apply for emergency grants with the Office of Financial Aid.

Students must be enrolled in the current semester and in good academic standing to qualify for grants. Upon approval of the application, disbursement of funds will occur within a maximum of five days.

In spring 2020, the LSA donated money to the fund that was earmarked for student events that had to be canceled due to the public health crisis, 2019-20 LSA President **Paige Tucker '20** said.

"I thought it was important to donate the remaining unused funds to the King Hall Emergency Fund," Tucker said. "This is the least LSA can do to support our students in need during this unprecedented time, especially since LSA's budget is 100 percent funded by student fees."

For questions about the King Hall Emergency Fund, please contact Director of Financial Aid **Montré Everett** ([mdeverett@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mdeverett@ucdavis.edu)) or Senior Assistant Dean for Student Affairs **Emily Scivoletto** ([escivoletto@ucdavis.edu](mailto:escivoletto@ucdavis.edu)).

Members of the King Hall community interested in helping out students can contribute through the UC Davis Law Dean's Discretionary Fund. 🏠



## King Hall sets ambitious fundraising goal

UC Davis has launched a \$2 billion campaign, "Expect Greater: From UC Davis, for the World." The School of Law seeks to raise \$25 million as part of this campaign. With the support of alumni and friends, as of today, we have raised \$14 million toward our goal. This is an exciting moment for UC Davis and the School of Law. King Hall is committed to supporting our students through scholarships, internships, and hands-on experiences in our clinics, as well as advancing the extraordinary scholarship of our faculty. This campaign and your support only furthers this commitment.

We are proud to report that during the 2019-20 academic year the law school raised a record-breaking \$6.3 million in gifts. With your help, we look forward to achieving our goal as part of the larger campaign in the coming years.

**Expect Greater**  
From UC Davis. For the World.



## ALEXIS ELSTON NAMED STUDENT AFFAIRS' FIRST DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION FELLOW

**Alexis Elston** has joined UC Davis Law's Office for Student Affairs as its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Fellow for 2020-21. In this newly created position, Elston works with student organizations and the First Generation Advocates program, and engages with law school stakeholders to support mutual respect and appreciation within the King Hall community.

Elston has served as UC Davis Law's assistant director of admissions for the past four years. During that time, she has assisted in a variety of recruitment efforts to draw a diverse group of J.D. students to King Hall and support pipeline programs focused on ensuring underrepresented students have access to and opportunities



Alexis Elston

for a legal education. Elston holds a J.D. from UC Hastings College of the Law and a B.A. from UC Riverside.

"I think as a person of color who has been a law school applicant, student, and graduate, I have a well-informed perspective on the unique challenges our diverse student body encounter," Elston said. "My experience as an admissions officer has afforded me a look 'behind the scenes' of the efforts that have worked to attract diversity to our school, and those that haven't. I hope to contribute to our efforts to both attract, and enroll, more students of color. I respect King Hall for creating this new position, and I feel confident I will be able to improve the law school experience for our students." 🌟

## KING HALL MOURNS LOSS OF PROFESSOR LESLIE KURTZ

Professor Emerita **Leslie A. Kurtz**, a King Hall faculty member for more than 30 years and a pioneer in UC Davis Law's outstanding intellectual property program, died in September after a long battle with cancer. She was 75.

One of UC Davis Law's first tenured female professors, Professor Kurtz specialized in copyright, trademarks, and unfair competition. She taught in those areas, and torts, before retiring in 2015. She returned to King Hall as an emerita, teaching Trademark and Unfair Competition Law in spring 2018 and spring 2019.

"Professor Kurtz was a trailblazer in many ways, and such an important part of the King Hall community for decades," UC Davis Law Dean Kevin R. Johnson said. "We all will miss her greatly."

In a 2015 *Counselor* article, Professor Kurtz recalled arriving at the law school in 1981 to essentially begin its IP law program.

"Professor (Richard) Wydick had been teaching intellectual property, but it wasn't his primary field," she said. "I was the first person who came here specifically to teach intellectual property as a regular faculty member."

Before receiving her J.D. from Columbia University, Professor Kurtz had earned an M.A. in theater from New York University, and she subsequently worked as an actress

in off-Broadway and summer stock productions. She eventually decided law was a more viable career, but always kept her love for theater and the arts in mind.

After a stint at the U.S. Attorney's Office, she worked for a New York entertainment law firm, where her practice included copyright, trademark, and unfair competition. Three years into her career as a litigator, she was recruited by UC Davis, where the entertainment world — specifically, the legal ownership of characters — would inform her scholarship.

Her highly regarded 1986 *Wisconsin Law Review* article "The Independent Legal Lives of Fictional Characters" analyzed the legal protection available for characters removed from their original context to lead new and independent lives.

When fictional characters moved from analog to digital, so did Professor Kurtz's scholarship. Her 2005 article "Digital Actors and Copyright: From 'The Polar Express' to 'Simone,'" explored copyright issues associated with computer-created



Leslie Kurtz

Continued on page 24

# BOOKS



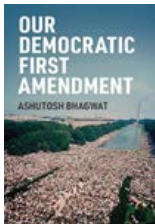
## **Raquel Aldana**

*Professor of Law*

***Understanding Immigration Law*** (with Kevin Johnson, Bill Ong Hing, Enid Trucios-Haynes and Leticia Saucedo), Carolina Academic Press, 3rd ed. (2019)

## **Ashutosh Bhagwat**

*Boochever and Bird Endowed Chair for the Study and Teaching of Freedom and Equality and Martin Luther*



*King Jr. Professor of Law*

***Our Democratic First Amendment***, Cambridge University Press (2020)

## **William S. Dodge**

*John D. Ayer Chair in Business Law and Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law*

***Transnational Business Problems*** (with Detlev F. Vagts, Hannah L. Buxbaum & Harold Hongju Koh), Foundation Press, 6th ed. (2019)

## **Stacy-Ann Elvy**

*Professor of Law*

***A Commercial Law of Privacy and Security for the Internet of Things***, Cambridge University Press (forthcoming 2021)

## **Robert W. Hillman**

*Professor Emeritus*

***Securities Regulation: Cases and Materials*** (with Cox,

Langevoort, Lipton and Sjoström), Aspen Casebook Series Wolters Kluwer, 9th ed. (2019)

## **Kevin R. Johnson**

*Dean and Mabie-Apallas Professor of Public Interest Law and Chicana/o Studies*

***Immigration Law and Social Justice*** (with Bill Ong Hing & Jennifer Chacón), Wolters Kluwer, Aspen Casebook Series, 2d ed. (forthcoming 2021)

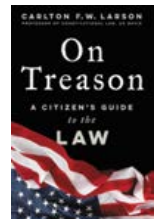
***Understanding Immigration Law*** (with Raquel Aldana, Bill Ong Hing, Enid Trucios-Haynes and Leticia Saucedo), Carolina Academic Press, 3rd ed. (2019)

## **Carlton F.W. Larson**

*Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law*

***The Trials of Allegiance: Treason, Juries, and the American Revolution***, Oxford University Press (2019)

***On Treason: A Citizen's Guide to the Law***, Ecco/HarperCollins (2020)



## **Leticia Saucedo**

*Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law*

***Learning Employment Law*** (casebook with Francis J. Mootz III & Michael P. Maslanka, eds.), West Academic Publishing (2019)

## **PROFESSOR KURTZ** *from page 23*

characters modeled on real people, including Tom Hanks' motion-caption conductor in the popular 2004 children's movie "The Polar Express."

In the *Counselor* interview, Professor Kurtz acknowledged the explosion of interest in her field of expertise in the latter half of her UC Davis career:

"Many forms of intellectual property have expanded as a result of digitization and the Internet. Compared to when I started, there is a lot more student interest, and more job opportunities."

Professor Kurtz was a dedicated teacher and colleague, said her close friend, Professor Emerita Evelyn Lewis.

"She was always a passionate and consistent voice for the notion that school policies and practices should benefit, or at least not harm, the learning and social environment and experience for our students," Professor Lewis said.

Professor Kurtz was a "a marvelous faculty colleague," Professor Lewis said. A great "problem-solver and team player," she often was tapped to serve on important law school and campus committees. "She never shirked such responsibilities, and performed them with uncommon acumen," Professor Lewis said.

Professor Kurtz also was an international traveler, animal lover, accomplished home cook, and fan of cooking shows. An art connoisseur and collector, Professor Kurtz also avidly practiced crafts such as knitting and glass-bead work.

"In short, whether at work or not, Leslie's mind didn't know the meaning of 'idle,'" Professor Lewis said.

Professor Kurtz is survived by her sister, Judy Kurtz, of Davis; a niece, Lily Kurtz; a nephew, Mark Rosales; and her longtime partner, Professor Emeritus Daniel Fessler. 🌟



## Professor Soucek cited in key LGBTQ case

In June, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh cited a brief written by Professor **Brian Soucek** and Vanderbilt Professor Jessica Clarke in the high court’s landmark 6-3 decision that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects LGBTQ employees from workplace discrimination. “I like to joke that if the dissent thinks you’re wrong, I guess by definition that must mean you’re right,” Soucek said.

Soucek also was named, in April, as a 2020-21 fellow at the UC National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement. Soucek’s project, “Institutional Values, Academic Freedom, and the First Amendment,” was one of 10 chosen. 🏳️



Leticia Saucedo



Andrea Cann Chandrasekher



Elizabeth Joh



Peter Lee



Gabriel “Jack” Chin

## More faculty honors

Professor **Leticia M. Saucedo** has been elected to the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers, a nonprofit professional association honoring the leading lawyers nationwide in the practice of labor and employment law. ... Professor **Andrea Cann Chandrasekher** has been selected as a director of the American Law and Economics Association, which is dedicated to the advancement of economic understanding of law and related areas of public policy and regulation. ... Professor **Elizabeth Joh** joined University of California President **Michael V. Drake**’s newly formed Presidential Working Group on Artificial Intelligence. Joh also was selected

as part of the *Washington Post*’s prestigious Technology 202 Network, and continues to co-host the long-running podcast “What Trump Can Teach Us About Con Law.” ... Professor **Peter Lee**’s article “Reconceptualizing the Role of Intellectual Property Rights in Shaping Industry Structure,” (*Vanderbilt Law Review*, 2019) was included in the *Intellectual Property Law Review*, an annual best-of anthology. It was Lee’s third appearance in the anthology. ... The American Bar Foundation, a 70-year-old nonprofit dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of law, has selected Professor **Gabriel “Jack” Chin** as a fellow. 🏳️

# CORINA YETTER '22 embraces law school, sharing campus with her daughter

By Carla Meyer

**Corina Yetter '22** overcame considerable obstacles before starting UC Davis School of Law at age 48 — and one smaller, yet vital one.

Yetter, who re-entered college in 2014 after a long hiatus, was finishing her bachelor's degree at Chico State when she first considered applying to King Hall. Attending law school would fulfill a wish she had carried since working as a legal secretary in her 20s.

But she first had to run it by her daughter, **Brianna Yetter**, who already attended Davis as a first-year biology major.

"I didn't want her to think I was following her," Yetter said. "Kids want separation from their parents."

But Brianna encouraged her mother to come to Davis. "I already knew UCD is a fantastic school, and she would love it, too," Brianna said. Now both are on track to graduate in 2022.

The embarrassed child/gung-ho parent dynamic perpetuated by matriculation comedies like Rodney Dangerfield's "Back to School" and Melissa McCarthy's "Life of the Party" would not be present here. The Yetters have gone through too much together for that.

On Mother's Day in 2019, Yetter's husband, Mike, suffered a massive heart attack. He survived, after a five-way bypass, and spent the summer recovering.

Corina cared for him and assumed his household duties in the Yetters' home in the small Sutter County town of Sutter, where Brianna and her 17-year-old brother, Logan, both also are still at home. Mike returned to work just as Corina began her 1L year.

"It was kind of a traumatic way to start law school," Corina said.

The family already had weathered a lot. During the Great Recession, Mike lost his well-paying construction job, and the Yetters eventually lost a home to foreclosure. After a second construction job also failed to pan out, Mike announced he wanted to go to nursing school.

"I burst out crying," Corina recalled. Worried about finances, she also was "jealous, because I wanted to go back to school."

When she had worked in small law offices, she essentially functioned as a paralegal, Yetter said. "I did everything

except go to court ... and I started realizing, 'I am doing all this work, and he is getting a lot of money. I think I could do his job.'"

It was still "a very sexist time," Yetter said. She did not know any female attorneys in her rural town, and viewed a law degree as a far-off dream. Plus, she had wanted to stay at home when her kids were young.

But Mike's educational dreams revived her own, and the couple made a deal. Corina would support the family while Mike went to school, and he would return the favor. With supplies from a dollar store, Corina started a janitorial business, cleaning other people's foreclosed homes for real estate agents.

Once Mike became a nurse, Corina returned to school, embracing re-entry with an enthusiasm verging on the Dangerfield-esque. Except her passion is learning, not keg stands.

"I want to explore everything," Yetter said. She co-chairs the King Hall Legal Foundation, belongs to the Christian Legal Society, and is a fixture at law school events.

She has been "super impressed" by her UC Davis Law professors' knowledge and commitment to their students, she said.

"They are so willing to talk to students about their goals ... and use their own resources to connect students to someone who can help them."

Professor Clay Tanaka helped Yetter get a job with the Yuba County District Attorney's office last summer through his connection there. Yetter credits Professor Irene Joe, a former public defender, with furthering Yetter's interest in someday becoming an assistant D.A.

"Through her stories about her experience as a public defender, she was the first one to introduce me to the idea of a progressive prosecutor," Yetter said.

Under the stay-at-home orders of the pandemic, Corina and Brianna have spent more time together than when they attended UC Davis in person, when they "had different schedules and were on different parts of the campus," Corina said. But last year, they did make it a point to meet on Fridays, at Mishka's Café or Ike's sandwich shop in downtown Davis.

She's glad to have her mom as a schoolmate, Brianna said.

"I knew going back to school, and becoming a lawyer, were long-standing dreams of hers. I'm happy she could finally pursue them." ■



*Brianna Yetter (left) with her mother, Corina Yetter '22*

# 2020 King Hall REMOTE REUNIONS

UC Davis School of Law held its first King Hall Reunions online this year due to COVID-19. Nine classes celebrated milestones: the classes of 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, and 2015. More than 220 alumni logged on for the virtual gathering with 1975, 1980, and 1990 leading in attendance. We had some first-time reunion attendees, and many out-of-state alumni were able to join this year. Classmates toasted to simpler times with the “Mediation” signature drink from their custom King Hall gift glasses, enjoyed reunion slideshows, talked in small groups, and played a trivia game based on their graduation year. All embraced the virtual gathering with flexibility, humor, and gratitude.



THANK YOU  
FOR SUCCESSFUL  
VIRTUAL REUNIONS!



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the world

IT SHOULD EXPECT  
A greater future

  
**Expect Greater**  
From UC Davis. For the World.



SCHOOL *of* LAW

## 2021 UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS

**Tuesday, Jan. 12**

*Racial Justice Series with George Washington University Law Professor Lisa Fairfax*

**Monday, Jan. 25**

*Racial Justice Series with Yolo County Public Defender Tracie Olson*

**Saturday, Jan. 30**

*Water Law Symposium*

**Wednesday, Feb. 17**

*Professor Ashutosh Bhagwat presents "Facebook, Hypocrisy and Hippocrates"*

**Wednesday, March 3**

*Barrett Lecture as part of Racial Justice Series with Georgetown Law Professor Paul Butler*

**Friday, March 5**

*Environmental Law Symposium*

**Tuesday, March 9**

*Racial Justice Series with UC Irvine Law Dean Song Richardson*

**Friday, March 12**

*Business Law Journal Symposium for Professor Emeritus Robert Hillman*

**Monday, March 15**

*Celebrating King Hall*

**Thursday, March 17**

*Central Valley Foundation Lecture*

**Wednesday, March 31**

*Racial Justice Series with UC Davis Law Professor Jack Chin*

**Wednesday, April 7**

*Racial Justice Series with UC Davis Law Professor Raquel Aldana*

**Fri-Sat, April 9-10**

*Admitted Students Weekend*

**Friday, April 16**

*CEQA at 50: Assessing the History & Charting the Future of the California Environmental Quality Act*

**Thursday, April 22**

*Public Service Graduation*

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Please visit [law.ucdavis.edu](http://law.ucdavis.edu) for details and additional event listings. Events will be virtual unless public health guidelines change to allow for in-person events.