

KINGHALL *briefs*



UC DAVIS SCHOOL OF LAW TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES TO UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS AT SEVEN UC CAMPUSES



Marcus Tang '14, AB 540 Post Graduate Legal Fellow, and Andrea Gaytan, Director of the AB 540 and Undocumented Student Center

In a pioneering program that is the first of its kind for the University of California, UC Davis School of Law will provide legal assistance, support, and advocacy for undocumented immigrant students at UC Davis and six other UC campuses.

The School of Law has reached an agreement with the University of California Office of the President to operate a pilot legal services center that will serve the immigration-related legal needs of students on



Maria Blanco, Executive Director of the Undocumented Student Legal Services Center

UC campuses without law schools: UC Merced, UC San Francisco, UC Santa Cruz, UC Santa Barbara, UC San Diego, and UC Riverside. The program will operate out of the UC Davis School

of Law Immigration Law Clinic under Executive Director Maria Blanco.

“This groundbreaking program is a way for the University of California and UC Davis School of Law to assist undocumented UC students and help them to continue their educational journey,” said Dean Kevin R. Johnson. “These are the state’s future entrepreneurs, engineers, and community leaders, and we all benefit by ensuring that they can pursue the American dream.”

In addition, King Hall’s Immigration Law Clinic, in partnership with the UC Davis Division of Student Affairs, will provide legal support, advocacy, and resources for undocumented immigrant students at UC Davis through the University’s new AB 540 and Undocumented Student Center. Marcus Tang '14 will be the first AB 540 Post Graduate Legal Fellow and will work with the Center, consulting with staff, offering presentations, training, legal services, and information.

KING HALL APPLICATIONS SURGE: LAW SCHOOL EXPERIENCES 25 PERCENT INCREASE

At a time when law school applications were down nationally, UC Davis School of Law achieved a 25 percent increase and enrolled another outstanding class of excellent and diverse students during the fall of 2014.

After receiving more than 3,000 applications, UC Davis enrolled 165 J.D. students, an increase of more than 20 from the previous year. The Class of 2017 includes students from 14 different states as well as from China, Taiwan, and Singapore. The class has a median GPA of 3.60 and LSAT score of 162. Women comprise 56 percent of this class; students of color make up 47 percent.

The surge in applications drew attention from media including *The Recorder*, which reported that of the 10 ABA-accredited California schools that responded to the journal’s requests for 2014 application figures, King Hall was the only law school “defying the trend” and reporting an increase.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Professor **Afra Afsharipour** served as Widener University School of Law's 2014 annual visiting scholar in residence in business and corporate law, delivering lectures to faculty, students, and legal professionals in November 2014.



Professor **Karima Bennoune** has been named as the 2014 winner of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize for nonfiction. Professor Bennoune was honored for her book *Your Fatwa Does Not Apply Here: Untold Stories from the Fight against*

Muslim Fundamentalism. Published by W.W. Norton & Company in 2013, the book has received widespread acclaim, and a TED Talk in which Professor Bennoune discusses her work garnered more than one million views on TED.com.



Professor **David Horton** was selected as the winner of the 29th annual Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Scholarly Paper Competition. He presented the winning article, "In Partial Defense of Probate: Evidence from Alameda County, California" (forthcoming in the *Georgetown Law Journal*) at the 2015 AALS

Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. in January. In February, Professor Horton was named as the winner of King Hall's 2015 Distinguished Teaching Award.



Professor **Lisa Ikemoto** has been named by the Center for Genetics and Society as one of three new fellows who will work with the organization researching social justice and human rights issues surrounding commercial surrogacy and egg retrieval.



Dean **Kevin R. Johnson** has been honored with the Centro Legal de la Raza Outstanding Achievements in the Law Award, the legal aid organization has announced. The honor recognizes Dean Johnson's continuing leadership and

contributions to the Latino community.



Amagda Pérez, executive director of the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation and supervising attorney for the UC Davis Immigration Law Clinic, was presented with the Pilar Andrade Award at the Concilio of Yolo County's 30th Annual Recognition

Dinner and Scholarship Fundraiser.

UC DAVIS SCHOOL OF LAW RECEIVES NINTH CIRCUIT'S ADR EDUCATION AWARD

UC Davis School of Law has been awarded the prestigious ADR Education Award from the Judicial Council of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The award honors high achievement in the field of alternative dispute resolution. Professor Donna Shestowsky represented the School to accept the award at the Eastern District of California's annual conference in Yosemite on October 4, 2014.

Judge Ricardo S. Martinez, Chair of the Ninth Circuit ADR Committee, presented the award. He praised the School of Law's innovations in terms of ADR course offerings and Professor Donna Shestowsky's scholarship in the area of court-annexed ADR procedures. He also praised the contributions of King Hall students to ADR education through their work with the King Hall Negotiations Team, Negotiations Board, and intramural competitions.

KING HALL FINANCIAL AID RANKED AMONG MOST GENEROUS

UC Davis School of Law ranked second in the latest *U.S. News & World Report* assessment of generosity of financial aid at public law schools. King Hall students receive more financial aid and graduate with less debt than peers at other top-tier California law schools, according to the rankings.

UC Davis School of Law also was recently listed among the nation's "Best Value" law schools by *National Jurist*. The magazine's rating system takes into account a law school's tuition, cost of living expenses, students' average indebtedness upon graduation, the percentage of alumni who got a job after graduation, and bar passage rates. "Best Value" schools are not ranked numerically. King Hall was one of 53 law schools listed.

"A legal education is an investment that goes beyond student fees and tuition," said Kristen L. Mercado, Assistant Dean of Admission and Financial Aid. "UC Davis School of Law, which offers financial aid packages that are significantly more generous than most other top-ranked law schools, is a smart investment in many ways."



percent passage rate on the California State Bar Examination and to participate in a Swearing-In Ceremony marking their acceptance to the bar. The event featured remarks from Dean Kevin R. Johnson, Sacramento Superior Court Judge Stacy Boulware Eurie '95, U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of California Troy L. Nunley, and King Hall Alumni Board President Gage Dungy '03.

Of the 146 UC Davis School of Law 2014 graduates who took the California exam, 125

passed—a particularly impressive achievement given that the average pass rate of all first-time test takers who graduated from American Bar Association (ABA)-approved law schools throughout California dropped to 69 percent, the lowest rate in several years.

All eight members of the 2014 class who took bar exams in states other than California also passed, resulting in an overall passage rate of 86.36 percent for the Class of 2014 as a whole. King Hall's California pass rate of 85.62 percent was behind only UC Berkeley (88.3 percent), Stanford (87.6 percent), and USC (86.6 percent).



KING HALL CLASS OF 2014 BAR PASSAGE RATE RANKS AMONG BEST IN STATE

Members of the UC Davis School of Law J.D. Class of 2014 returned to King Hall with family and friends on December 5 to celebrate their outstanding 86

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Luis Alejo '01 and **Jamie Gallagher '07** won seats in the California State Assembly in the November 2014 election. Gallagher, a Sutter County supervisor, farmer, and agricultural law attorney won the District 3 seat as a Republican. Alejo, a former city councilman and mayor of Watsonville and legal aid attorney, won re-election to represent District 30 as a Democrat.

Roberta Hayashi '82 has been appointed by California Governor Jerry Brown to a seat on the Santa Clara County Superior Court bench.

David Kesselman '99 has co-founded Kesselman Brantly Stockinger LLP, a Los Angeles-based antitrust and business litigation firm. Also with the new firm is Kesselman's wife, **Aimee Dudovitz '99**, who is Of Counsel.

Kraig C. Kilger '92 is part of a group of attorneys launching a new firm, Smiley Wang-Ekval, LLP, specializing in insolvency, real estate transactions, and business litigation.

Janelle Krattiger '14 has been appointed the 2014-15 Environmental Law Fellow at King Hall's California Environmental Law and Policy Center.

Melinda Guzman Moore '88, CEO of Melinda Guzman Professional Corporation and a partner of Goldsberry Freeman & Guzman, was honored by the Consul General of Mexico with the Ohtli Award, the Mexican government's highest recognition for individuals who have contributed to enhance the future of younger generations of Mexicans abroad.

Frank Ochoa '75, a Santa Barbara Superior Court Judge, has been honored by the Santa Barbara County Bar Association with the John T.

Rickard Judicial Service Award for his contributions to the judiciary, the court system, and the community.

Darrell Steinberg '84 has joined the Sacramento office of Greenberg Traurig LLP as Chair of its California Government Law & Policy Practice. Steinberg represented the Sacramento region in the state legislature for 14 of the past 16 years, including the last six years as California State Senate President pro Tempore.

Eric Toscano '09 has been honored with the Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF) 2014 Barrister of the Year Award. Toscano recently launched Toscano, Kellogg & Van Aken LLP with **Mikayla Gow Kellogg '09**, and **Kelly Van Aken '10**.

Rubén A. Villalobos '98 has been appointed by California Governor Jerry Brown to a judgeship in the Stanislaus County Superior Court.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Naveen Dixit '15 and **John Hollis '15** have accepted prestigious clerkships with King Hall alumni judges who are serving on their states' highest courts. Hollis will clerk for Justice Craig Stowers '85 of the Alaska Supreme Court during the 2015-2016 term. Dixit has accepted a clerkship with Justice Kristina Pickering '77 of the Nevada Supreme Court for the term starting in 2015.

Brad Masters '15 has been awarded first place in the California Supreme Court Historical Society 2014 Student Writing Competition. The article, "The (F)law of Karma: In Light of *Sedlock v. Baird*, Would Meditation Classes in Public Schools Survive a First Amendment Establishment Clause Challenge?", will be published in the prestigious journal *California Legal History*. Masters will receive a prize of \$2,500.

Katherine McGrath '16 received the California Continuing Education of the Bar (CEB) Award for the best brief from a first-year UC Davis School of Law student at an awards ceremony hosted by CEB on October 20 at King Hall. The award comes with a \$2,500 scholarship provided by CEB, which offers educational programs for practicing lawyers and practice books that are used by lawyers throughout the state.



KING HALL STUDENTS MEET JUSTICE GINSBURG

King Hall students in the UCDC Law Program met with

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg for a special question-and-answer session on October 27, 2014. Justice Ginsburg spoke on a variety of topics, ranging from the difficulties she faced as a female in entering the legal job market to her belief in a "living Constitution." Justice Ginsburg is the fourth Supreme Court justice to meet UCDC students. UC Davis School of Law students previously have met with Justices Antonin Scalia, Anthony Kennedy, and Stephen Breyer.

The UCDC Law Program is a uniquely collaborative semester-long externship in Washington, D.C., combining a weekly seminar with a full-time field placement to offer law students an unparalleled opportunity to learn how federal statutes, regulations, and policies are made, changed, and understood in the nation's capital.

CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT JUSTICE CUÉLLAR TO SPEAK AT KING HALL COMMENCEMENT

UC Davis School of Law is proud to announce that Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar, the recently appointed Justice of the California Supreme Court, has agreed to deliver the Commencement Address for the King Hall graduating Class of 2015 on May 15, 2015 at the UC Davis Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts.

Cuéllar, widely known as "Tino," was most recently the Stanley Morrison



Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar

Professor of Law and director of the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University. He was nominated for a seat on California's highest court by Governor Jerry Brown in July and approved by voters on November 4. He took the seat of retiring Justice Marvin R. Baxter in January 2015.

Cuéllar earned a bachelor's degree from Harvard College, a law degree from Yale Law School, and a doctorate in political science from Stanford, and went on to work as a law clerk to the Honorable Mary M. Schroeder at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He has enjoyed a distinguished

career as a legal scholar with a research and teaching focus in administrative law, criminal law, and public policy. He has led Stanford's Center for International Security and Cooperation and co-chairs the university's Global Development and Poverty Initiative. His public service career includes service in two presidential administrations, at the White House, and the U.S. Department of the Treasury.