

CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS, CIVIL RIGHTS ICON, HIGHLIGHTS 2016 COMMENCEMENT



Congressman John Lewis, an iconic leader of the 1960s Civil Rights movement, delivered a rousing address at the UC Davis School of Law 2016 Commencement Ceremony held May 14 at the Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts.

“Today is your day,” Congressman Lewis told the King Hall Class of 2016. “Enjoy it. Tomorrow you must be prepared to roll up your sleeves because the world is waiting for smart, talented men and women to lead each one of us to a better place. You can do it, and you must do it!”

A total of 140 J.D. and 62 LL.M. students participated in the ceremony, which nearly filled to capacity the 1,800-seat Mondavi Center. Also delivering remarks were UC Davis Acting Chancellor **Ralph J. Hexter**, Dean **Kevin R. Johnson**, Professor **David Horton**, and **Greg Agron** '16. The ceremony included the presentation of the Law School Medal for outstanding academic achievement to **Amanda Whitney** '16.

Congressman Lewis, one of the “Big Six” leaders of the Civil Rights movement and an outspoken advocate for social justice throughout his long career, shared memories of marching and speaking alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and talked about the important role attorneys play in working for social change.

“As young lawyers you have a moral obligation, a mission and a mandate to get in trouble,” said Lewis. “When you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you must stand up, speak up, and speak out. Use the law!”

KALMANOVITZ FOUNDATION GIFT CAPS OUTSTANDING FUNDRAISING YEAR

A gift of \$500,000 from the **Kalmanovitz Charitable Foundation** capped another highly successful fundraising year for UC Davis School of Law, which received more than \$1.7 million in private support during fiscal 2015-16.

The new gift of \$500,000, which will endow scholarships, is the latest contribution from the Kalmanovitz Charitable Foundation, which also supported the King Hall Expansion and Renovation Project with naming gifts to the Kalmanovitz Appellate Courtroom and Kalmanovitz Seminar Room. The Foundation’s support came about largely through the efforts of **Yeoryios C. Apallas** '72, who facilitated the gifts.

In addition, longtime supporters **Mark Perry** '80 and **Melanie Peña** gave more than \$160,000 to support the **Family Protection and Legal Assistance Clinic** and other priorities. The School of Law also received new scholarship support from **Beth Inadomi** '85 and **James T. Lim** '98. More than 1,100 total donors contributed during fiscal 2015-16, including 100 percent of King Hall faculty and Alumni Board members.

KING HALL MOURNS PROFESSOR RICHARD WYDICK



Professor Emeritus Richard Wydick, an outstanding teacher and a nationally renowned expert on the subject of legal writing, died on May 11, 2016 following a prolonged illness. He will

be remembered by generations of King Hall faculty, students, and alumni as a formidable scholar, exceptional educator, respected colleague, mentor, and friend. He was 78 years old.

Born in Pueblo, Colorado, Wydick attended Williams College and Stanford Law School. He taught in the U.S. Army's school for military lawyers at the University of Virginia and practiced law in San Francisco before joining the King Hall faculty in 1971. His book *Plain English for Lawyers* was widely used as a textbook and frequently credited as a positive influence on writing in the legal profession. Prior to his retirement in 2003, he taught Evidence, Antitrust Law, Professional Responsibility, Advanced Legal Writing, and other courses. He served as Acting Dean from 1978-1980 and received the School of Law's Distinguished Teaching Award in 1983.

AOKI CENTER, IMMIGRATION CLINIC WIN MAJOR VICTORY IN LONG-RUNNING CITIZENSHIP DISPUTE

In an effort spearheaded by Professors **Rose Cuison Villazor** and **Leticia Saucedo**, the **Aoki Center for Critical Race and Nation Studies** and **Immigration Law Clinic** won a derivative citizenship case on behalf of Marianne Wilson Kuroda. Their success brought to conclusion a complicated legal dispute with roots in the World War II era's racial exclusion laws.

Born in 1949 to an American government employee father and Swedish-Japanese mother, Wilson Kuroda's claim to U.S. citizenship had been in question because federal and military regulations against interracial marriage prevented her parents from marrying. After her father, James Vaughn, was forced to return to the United States, his efforts to bring the child and her mother into the country were thwarted by laws that deemed them racially inadmissible.

Vaughn persuaded a U.S. senator to sponsor special legislation allowing them to immigrate, but Wilson Kuroda's mother died in 1950 on the day it was passed. Wilson Kuroda was kidnapped by a nanny, and in 1956 she was at the center of *Sweden v. Yamaguchi*, a well-known international family law case that awarded her custody to the Swedish Ambassador to Japan.

In 2012, Wilson Kuroda became aware of Villazor's immigration scholarship and realized that, based upon Villazor's research, she could have a claim to U.S. citizenship. Villazor and Saucedo, working with **David Canela** '16, **J.J. Mulligan** '15, **Emily Wilson** '13, and **Andrea Wu** '15, put together evidence that Vaughn had taken sufficient steps to legitimize Wilson Kuroda during her childhood and on her behalf, they filed an application for a U.S. passport at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. On June 6, the U.S. Embassy approved the request, essentially recognizing her as a U.S. citizen.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Sacramento Superior Court Judge **Stacy Boulware Eurie** '95 has been appointed by Chief Justice of California **Tani Cantil-Sakauye** '84 to the California Judicial Council, the policymaking body of the California court system.

Monika Kalra Varma '00, executive director of the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center, has been honored with the South Asian Bar Association's 2016 Public Interest Achievement Award.

Christine Shen '97 and **Alexandra Sepulveda** '04 were named by the *San Francisco Business Times* as being among the "Most Influential Women in Bay Area Business 2016." Shen is Senior Vice President and Regional General Counsel at Boston Properties. Sepulveda is Deputy General Counsel at Udemy Inc.

John Paul "J.P." Wallis '15 has been selected for a Presidential Management Fellowship and will work as a Health System Specialist for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs with VA Sierra Pacific Network (VISN 21) at Mare Island.

California Governor Jerry Brown has appointed **Layne Melzer** '87 to a judgeship in the Orange County Superior Court. Melzer has been a partner at Rutan and Tucker LLP since 1994, where he has been an attorney since 1987.

UC DAVIS SCHOOL OF LAW LAUNCHES CAPITAL LAW SCHOLARS EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM

UC Davis School of Law has introduced a new program that expands externship opportunities for King Hall students and aims to increase the number of graduates employed in government and policy work in California's capital. The UC Davis Capital Law Scholars Program offers students increased opportunities for externships in Sacramento with government offices, the Legislature, and nonprofit agencies engaged in policy work.



“As a King Hall graduate, I can attest that the law school’s proximity to Sacramento means unparalleled networking and learning opportunities in the public policy arena,” said Assembly Member **Luis Alejo** '01. “I think it’s outstanding that more students will gain direct experience in state government through the UC Davis Capital Law Scholars Externship Program.”

Under the program, King Hall students will have opportunities for placement with various California offices or state agencies, including the California Attorney General’s Office of Legislative Affairs, the California Office of Legislative Counsel, the California State Senate or Assembly, California State Senate or Assembly Committees, the ACLU of California Center for Advocacy and Policy, and the California Fair Political Practices Commission.

FACULTY NEWS



Professor **Gabriel “Jack” Chin** has been appointed as the Edward L. Barrett Endowed Chair of Law at UC Davis School of Law. Chin recently was cited in Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor’s dissent in *Utah v. Strieff*, and was listed as among the “Twenty Most-cited Criminal Law & Procedure Faculty in the United States, 2010-2014” in a study by University of Chicago Law School Professor Brian Leiter.



Dean **Kevin R. Johnson** published an essay in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* on how UC Davis School of Law built a “majority-minority” faculty. The article describes the ways in which King Hall succeeded in diversifying what was a nearly all-white group of legal scholars in 1989 to achieve a faculty that is 56 percent minorities today.



Professor **Karima Bennoune**, acting in her capacity as United Nations Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, travelled to Cyprus May 24-June 2 to assess the country’s efforts to improve the ability of citizens to participate in cultural life and to access cultural heritage. Following the visit, she delivered a report criticizing the efforts of Turkish Cypriot authorities to restrict religious activities in ethnically split Cyprus, drawing coverage from the Associated Press and other media.



Professor **Thomas Joo** appears in *Replacing the Past: Sacramento’s Redevelopment History*, a documentary film that was broadcast in April as part of Sacramento PBS station KVIE’s “Viewfinder” series. The film may be viewed on the KVIE website and on YouTube.



Holly Cooper, Associate Director of the UC Davis School of Law Immigration Law Clinic, was part of a group of international lawyers who travelled to the Greek island of Samos to provide legal aid to Syrian refugees. At that time, about 65,000 refugees were trapped in Greece, with about 1,200 living in a camp outside Samos City.



Professor **Afra Afsharipour** published *The Handbook on Corporate Governance in India*. The book was authored at the request of the Conference Board, a global, independent business membership and research association, which called it, “a major resource for directors, general counsels, and company secretaries working to adapt to rapid developments in regulatory and corporate practice in the wake of India’s adoption of The Companies Act 2013.”



Initiative is designed to help students find a proper balance that enables them to succeed academically, personally, and professionally. During 2015-16, the initiative included events ranging from presentations on how to manage stress and balance multiple responsibilities to discussions of mental health and substance abuse, as well as popular “Going to the Dogs” sessions that brought therapy dogs to the King Hall courtyard for stress-relieving interactions with students.

“We’re trying to provide a broad range of programming because the topic is quite broad,”

said Kulwin. “Some students are most interested in serious mental health issues, while others are more interested in practical advice about ameliorating stress. We’ve done anti-sexual violence education, alcohol education, mental health screenings, mindfulness seminars, and many other things, and they have all attracted interest.”

In a separate but related initiative, a group of students has formed the King Hall Wellness Committee. Launched during Fall 2015, the committee is seeking to improve access to mental health resources, improve the King Hall Wellness Room, and destigmatize mental health issues. Additionally, a full-time, on-site psychologist will be made available to meet with students beginning in the Fall 2016 semester.

KING HALL WELLNESS INITIATIVE SUPPORTS STUDENT HEALTH

Law school can be stressful, and it’s not unusual for students to find that caring for their own well-being has taken a backseat to concerns over final exams and job interviews. That’s why UC Davis School of Law has established the **Student Wellness Initiative** to help ensure that students maintain wellness as they work to reach their potential as individuals and legal professionals.

“Our goal is for students to be as successful as they can possibly be,” said **Hollis L. Kulwin**, Senior Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. “We want to provide them with the tools they need to do that, and one of those tools is wellness.”

Launched during the 2014-15 academic year, the Wellness

UC PRESIDENT PROVIDES NEW PUBLIC SERVICE LAW FELLOWSHIPS FOR KING HALL STUDENTS

More than 40 King Hall students participated in the President’s Public Service Law Fellowships program, a new program launched this year by UC President Janet Napolitano to support students at UC Davis School of Law and other UC law schools as they pursue careers in public interest law.

Announced in April, the first-of-its-kind, system wide program will award \$4.5 million annually to promising law students at King Hall, UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, and UCLA, making post-graduate work and summer positions

more accessible for students who want to pursue public interest legal careers but might otherwise—out of financial need—seek private-sector jobs. In its first year, the program provided more than 400 summer fellowships and more than 50 post-graduate fellowships for students at the four top-tier law schools.

King Hall students participating in the summer program include **Andrea Bari** ’17, **Andreanne Breton** ’18, **Adam Brownrout** ’18, **Erika Budrovich** ’18, **Damian Caravez** ’18, **Nick Chase** ’18, **Fabian Sanchez Coronado** ’18, **Gavin Deeb** ’18, **David Doria** ’17, **Sara Ehsani-Nia** ’18, **Laura Ferret** ’17, **Lily Fulgieri**

’17, **Estefania Gallegos** ’18, **Lizzette Gomez** ’17, **Cameron Goodman** ’18, **Katherine Guilford** ’18, **Jinyu Guo** ’17, **Catherine Habash** ’17, **Aaron Hanford** ’18, **Kara Hetrick** ’18, **David Kim** ’18, **Juli King** ’18, **Fernando Lamas** ’18, **Remy Lamons** ’18, **Karl Lindemann** ’18, **Ruth Lindemann** ’18, **Moji Majekodunmi** ’18, **Braeden Mansouri** ’18, **Charlyn Pelter** ’18, **Katie Rogers** ’17, **Amanda Saunders** ’18, **Gabrielle Slominski** ’17, **Anton Swain-Gil** ’18, **Nick Sweeney** ’17, **Molly Thai** ’17, **Elizabeth Topolosky** ’17, **Erika Watts** ’18, **Alexis Wu** ’18, **Megan Yanez** ’18, and **Briana Zweifler** ’18.