MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

No one could have anticipated the obstacles UC Davis Law, and the world around us, would face during the past two years. But the King Hall community’s response to each new hurdle was predictable: Our students, faculty and staff greeted every challenge with grace, patience and a collective sense of purpose.

UC Davis Law resumed in-person instruction this past fall with characteristic resilience and enthusiasm. Students met classmates for the first time in person. Professors held office hours. Lively intellectual discourse once again filled King Hall—whether during class, our ongoing Racial Justice Speaker Series or the UC Davis Law Review’s engaging fall symposium on gun rights. When slight adjustments had to be made to ensure health and safety, the community adapted smoothly. Then we continued, as always, to move forward, and excel.

Our acclaimed “majority-minority” faculty once again made the national top 25 for scholarly impact. Our teacher-scholars wrote books and law review articles on innovative topics and provided commentary for the New York Times, Washington Post and NPR.

This issue’s cover story (page 16) details the vibrant present and rich history of diversity, equity and inclusion at UC Davis Law. Our DEI success consistently draws national recognition: The Princeton Review just ranked us No. 5 for faculty diversity and No. 2 in resources for women. Our current first-year class, at 265 students, is our largest ever and among our most diverse: Students of color compose 56% of the class; women make up 53%, and 23% of students identify as LGBTQ+. One-fifth are first-generation college graduates.

Our alumni inspire us, whether they have just joined the judiciary, written a critically acclaimed memoir, created a new UC Davis Law scholarship, or helped one of our students find a job. Your unwavering commitment to your alma mater has been a consistent comfort in uncertain times.

In May 2021, the King Hall community lost one of its most esteemed members when Justice and Professor Emeritus Cruz Reynoso died at age 90. Read about his extraordinary life and the tributes the law school has hosted to honor his legacy on pages 9-11. Expect further tributes to Justice Reynoso, the civil rights icon who held UC Davis Law close to his heart, from the community who loved him back.

Amid its triumphs and losses, the past year reinforced the strength of our community and reminded us of what we can achieve together. 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
1) Students gather in the courtyard during the first week of school in fall 2021.
2) Matthew Santos ’22 plays violin during the Law Cappella Open Mic event in November.
3) From left, Tyler Saito ’22 and Vannalee Cayabyab ’22 of the UC Davis Law Review with Lisa Tu and Hannah Shearer of Giffords Law Center during the law review’s October symposium on gun rights. California Attorney General Rob Bonta was the event’s keynote speaker.
4) Students meet during Intro Week.
5) First-year students discuss Ian Manuel’s memoir My Time Will Come as part of the fall King Hall Community Read.
6) Professor Karrigan Börk and a group of environmental law students take a break during their trip down the American River in October.
7) Professor David Horton holds class outside in the arboretum on an unseasonably warm February day.
8) Professor William Dodge speaks to new students at the 1L Barbecue during Intro Week.

In-person instruction resumed at UC Davis Law in 2021-22, ushering in an enthusiastic return to student life and activities.
PROFESSOR ELVY explores the wonders – and dangers – of the Internet of Things

By Carla Meyer

Most of us know by now that our cell phones are spying on us. But not that our household appliances might be doing the same.

“Smart” refrigerators and washing machines, like most Internet-connected devices, take measure of consumer habits, collecting data to sell or otherwise exploit. “Our online behaviors and online tracking are no longer limited to when we access the Internet through smartphones or tablets,” UC Davis Law Professor Stacy-Ann Elvy said. “What historically has been offline activity is potentially being transformed into online activity.”

Smart appliances — together with connected cameras, smart speakers and countless other Internet-linked devices — form the Internet of Things, or IoT, a focus of Elvy’s scholarship. Many of these devices depend on software and services to function. In her 2021 book A Commercial Law of Privacy and Security for the Internet of Things (Cambridge University Press), Elvy explores the consumer implications of the IoT in relation to commercial law and privacy.

A specialist in commercial law, Elvy said she happened upon the IoT while investigating the ongoing question of how best to determine when Article 2 applies to transactions involving non-goods, which governs the sale of goods — the main mechanism to protect our privacy, Elvy said. “There are only so many privacy policies that we each can review individually.”

A comprehensive federal U.S. law could shed guidance on permissible data practices and impermissible data practices,” Elvy said. “We can look at the existing landscape of state laws and federal sectoral legislation and attempt to incorporate some of the best provisions from our existing legislation into whatever federal statute we end up adopting.”

In the book, Elvy discusses limiting companies’ abilities to use “dark patterns” — tricks used by apps and websites to obtain consent — or to discriminate against individuals based on the data they generate. “We already have existing state and federal laws dealing with discrimination, but I think incorporating certain anti-discrimination provisions into a federal (privacy) statute will be helpful as well,” Elvy said.

Elvy also argues that in today’s connected era, privacy law and commercial law no longer “are intricately connected to the commercial law framework that allows companies to collect our data — to monetize it and to transfer it in different ways.”

“Historically, privacy law is about, ‘Who has access to information about us? Who gets to know more about us?’ and commercial law has historically focused on issues related to transactional commerce.”

“But now I think questions about privacy concerns — questions who should know information about us, and how they should know us, are intricately connected to the commercial law framework that allows companies to collect our data — to monetize it and to transfer it in different ways.”

Her book’s ultimate focus, Elvy said, is “commercial law’s role in the modern era.”

The American Law Institute and Uniform Law Commission are weighing how the UCC can be revised to address technological challenges, Elvy noted. She is an observer to this project and has served as an adviser to the ALI’s Principles for a Data Economy project.

Elvy considered the IoT’s commercial law implications, the “privacy aspects, essentially, flowed from that.”

In the United States, “notice and choice” — privacy policies and terms-of-service agreements consumers must acknowledge — have served as primary privacy protections. But the number of devices now connected to the Internet brings the potential to “over-rely on notice and choice as the main mechanism to protect our privacy,” Elvy said.

“In many cases, consumers have the time to read and the ability to fully understand these documents. It’s often historically been offered to you on a ‘take it or leave it’ basis,” Elvy said. California adopted a Consumer Privacy Act in 2018. But the U.S. lacks a single comprehensive privacy statute on the level of the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation, Elvy points out.

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2021 ALUMNI OF THE MONTH

Michael Sarris ’75
Michael Sarris ’75 founded The Prison Law Office that advocated for prisoners across California and into other states. He started his own private criminal law practice in 1984, Michael passed away in July 2020.

Yeoryios C. Apallas ’72
Yeoryios C. Apallas ’72 was a deputy attorney general with the California Department of Justice. In that role, he defended Inez Mabie’s $17 million bequest to create the Mabie Foundation, which funded King Hall’s Mabie Law Library and Mabie-Apallas Public Interest Chair. In 2021, the Mabie Foundation pledged $5 million for a new UC Davis School of Law scholarship. Yeoryios now heads the Apallas Law Group in Napa, California.

Stephen Green ‘02
Stephen Green ’02 is the Executive Director of Employee & Labor Relations for UC Davis and UC Davis Health. He graduated from the joint JD/MBA program at King Hall and the Graduate School of Management.

Monika Kalra Varma ’00
Monika Kalra Varma ’00 served as executive director of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area from 2017-2021. Previously, she served as executive director of the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center and she directed the Center for Human Rights at the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights. Monika received King Hall’s 2021 Distinguished Alumna Award.

Mark Easter ’89
Mark Easter ’89 is a partner in the Riverside office of Best Best & Krieger, where he specializes in public agency acquisitions throughout California. He is treasurer of the Riverside County Bar Association and cohosts mock trial for Valley View High School in Moreno Valley.

Yeoryios C. Apallas ’72

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The Honorable Frank J. Ochoa Jr. ’75
The Honorable Frank J. Ochoa Jr. ’75 is currently of counsel to Sanger Swynen & Dunkle, specializing in mediation and arbitration services. He previously served as Presiding Judge of the Santa Barbara Municipal Court and the Santa Barbara Superior Court, and temporarily served on the California Court of Appeal.

Christine Lovely ’96
UC Davis Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Human Resources Officer Christine Lovely ’96 oversees the central HR teams on both the Davis and Health campuses. Previously, she was University Counsel and Vice President for Human Resources at California State University, Sacramento.

Monika Kalra Varma ’00
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Kimberly Chase ’07
Kimberly Chase ’07 served as president of the UC Davis School of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors from 2019 to 2021. She is a senior appellate court attorney at the California Court of Appeal, Fourth District, Division Three, writing for Justice Thomas M. Goethals.
Five UC Davis alumni became superior court judges in 2021, carrying on the long tradition of King Hall graduates on the bench.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom appointed Ryan I. Wells ’08 and Charles J. Lee ’02 to the Fresno Superior Court. A senior deputy district attorney for Fresno County since 2012, Wells previously served as a Contra Costa County deputy district attorney. Lee was a senior litigator in the Office of the Federal Public Defender, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California, where he had served in several positions since 2008, including Fresno branch chief and assistant federal public defender.

Newsom appointed Kelli M. Evans ’94 to the Alameda Superior Court. Evans had served as chief deputy legal affairs secretary in the Office of the Governor since 2020 and worked for Newsom as deputy legal affairs secretary for criminal justice from 2019-20. Evans was a special assistant to California Attorney General Xavier Becerra from 2017-19.

Renee Reyna ’06 has been appointed as a San Mateo Superior Court judge. Reyna had served as a commissioner at the court since 2019. Before that, she was a senior attorney at the California Supreme Court. Judge Reyna delivered the state oath at UC Davis Law’s Swearing-In Ceremony in December.

Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy appointed Jack R. McKenna ’07 as an Alaska (Anchorage) Superior Court judge. McKenna previously served as Criminal Division director of the Department of Law in Anchorage. McKenna moved to Alaska in 2007 to serve as a clerk for Judge Michael Spain.

Five More From King Hall Appointed as Superior Court Judges

UC Davis Law now counts 22 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 Raquel Aldana, Ashutosh Bhagwat, Gabriel “Jack” Chin, William Dodge, Elizabeth Joh, Thomas Jost, Courtney Joslin, Lisa Pruitt, and Leticia Saucedo, and Professors Emeriti Alan Brownstein, Carol Bruch, Joel Dobris, Daniel Essner, Angela Harris, Robert Hillman, John Oakley, Edward Rabin and Daniel Simmons.

Christopher Elmendorf

Lisa Ikemoto

Kelli M. Evans ’94

Renee Reyna ’06

Jack R. McKenna ’07

Ryan I. Wells ’08

Charles J. Lee ’02
CRUZ REYNOSO,

UC Davis and California icon, dies at 90

By Carla Meyer and Karen Nikos-Rose

Cruz Reynoso, the trailblazing lawyer, jurist and law professor and the first Latino California Supreme Court justice, died in May 2021 at age 90.

A UC Davis School of Law professor from 2001-06, he remained devoted to the law school, and the University of California, as an emeritus professor, teaching students, speaking at events and leading special projects until recently. To the King Hall community, he was the civil rights icon who always had a moment to talk in the halls, about the law, public service or just how things were going in your life.

“The passing of Cruz Reynoso is a deeply felt loss for the UC Davis community,” Chancellor Gary S. May said. “He was not only a towering figure in civil rights law, but a humble and dedicated professor who connected strongly with our students and faculty. His dedication to our campus will be remembered and his impact will endure.”

“Cruz Reynoso was a national treasure and civil rights icon, not just for Latina/os but for everyone,” Dean Kevin R. Johnson said. “He dedicated his life to equality and justice for all. UC Davis School of Law is proud that he ended his professional career as part of our community and was an inspiration to all.”

Born into a farmworker family, Justice Reynoso spent a lifetime fighting the prejudices he first encountered during his childhood in Southern California. He spent five decades working in public service, advocating for workers, immigrants and the indigent before becoming the first Latino member of the state Supreme Court in 1982, and the recipient, in 2000, of the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Bill Clinton.

Among his many accolades, Justice Reynoso also received the highest honors bestowed by UC Davis (the UC Davis Medal) and the Hispanic National Bar Association (the Lincoln-Juarez Award).

Dedicated to Fighting Injustice

“I became a lawyer because I saw so many injustices,” Reynoso said simply, in a 2019 profile published in the Counselor.

Soft-spoken, with a gentle demeanor, Justice Reynoso would become more forceful when what he called his “justice bone” was tweaked.

It developed early, when he recognized that the grade school he attended in then-rural Orange County was a segregated school for children of Mexican descent.

“They told us we had to attend that school to learn English,” he recalled in the Counselor. “But my brothers and I already spoke English. That didn’t make sense.”

Reynoso later would protest a segregated dance at a local club, and the post office’s failure to deliver mail to the Latino barrio where his family lived. He wrote out a petition, gathered signatures, and successfully lobbied the U.S. Postmaster General in Washington, D.C., for rural mail delivery.

This boyhood success helped motivate him to “keep doing things that needed to be done,” he told the California Bar Journal in 2009.

He attended community college, then Pomona College, graduating in 1953. After serving two years in the U.S. Army’s Counterintelligence Corps, he enrolled at UC Berkeley School of Law, where he was the only Latino in his 1958 graduating class.

Justice Reynoso and his wife, Jeannene, moved to El Centro, in California’s Imperial Valley, where he started his own practice. He soon joined the local chapter of the Community Service Organization, the Latino civil rights organization where a young César Chávez was staff director.

Early Leadership

Early in his career, he also worked as staff secretary in Gov. Pat Brown’s office, and associate general counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

In 1968, at the height of the farm labor movement led by Chávez and Dolores Huerta, Justice Reynoso became the first Latino director of the California Rural Legal Assistance nonprofit. He oversaw eventually successful efforts to ban the short-handled hoe, which required farmworkers to stoop and led to debilitating back problems, and DDT, the deadly agricultural chemical.

He entered legal academia in 1972, as one of the first Latino professors of law at the University of New Mexico. But a second governor named Brown — Pat’s son, Jerry — would bring him back to California in 1976 with an appointment to the Court of Appeals, Third Appellate District.
He had considered one day becoming a judge back when he was at CRLA, Reynoso told the Counselor, but was convinced he was too much of a “trouble-making lawyer for that.” But “Jerry Brown had other ideas.” Reynoso, Jeanene and their four children moved to a 30-acre ranch in Sacramento County where they had horses, chickens and other animals.

California Supreme Court

In 1981, Brown appointed Reynoso to the California Supreme Court. There, Justice Reynoso said, he was able to “make decisions based on what is right and lawful, and not worry about what people think.”

But in 1986, a conservative movement, stoked by Attorney General turned Gov. George Deukmejian, helped convince voters to oust the so-called “Bird Court,” led by Chief Justice Rose Bird. Bird, Reynoso and Joseph Grodin, the court’s three liberal justices, were forced out.

The well-funded recall effort had accused the three of being liberal justices, were forced out.

The UC Davis Years

In 1981, Justice Reynoso re-entered academia as a professor at UCLA School of Law. While at UCLA, he also began what would become an 11-year stint on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, where he served as vice chairman.

During his service, the commission looked at a range of issues from civil unrest following a Ventura County jury’s acquittal of four Los Angeles police officers accused of beating motorist Rodney King to voting irregularities in Florida in the 2000 presidential race between Al Gore and George W. Bush. Reynoso criticized that election, saying the “greatest sin” was that people were not allowed to vote.

The UC Davis Law

In 2001, Kevin R. Johnson, then associate dean of UC Davis Law, worked with Dean Rex Perschbacher to bring Reynoso to UC Davis. The inaugural holder of the Boochever and Bird Chair for Constitutional Law, Reynoso quickly became an integral part of the King Hall community.

Justice Reynoso taught in the areas of civil rights, professional responsibility, appellate advocacy, constitutional law and remedies. He retired in 2006 but remained an active emeritus for many years, availing his wisdom to any student who sought advice.

In 2011, then-University of California President Mark Yudof tapped Justice Reynoso to lead a task force to investigate the pepper spraying of students by UC Davis police after a days-long “Occupy” movement on the UC Davis Quad.

The panel, which became known as the Reynoso Task Force, concluded in April 2012 that officers’ use of pepper spray was unjustified. The university responded to this report and other studies with various reforms in place today.

A Celebrated Legacy

Justice Reynoso was the subject of an award-winning 2010 documentary “Cruz Reynoso: Sowing the Seeds of Justice.” A premiere at Sacramento’s Crest Theatre drew state legislators and UC Davis law alumni including Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye ’84, who would follow Justice Reynoso to the state Supreme Court, where she became the first Filipina American and second woman Chief Justice.

Justice Reynoso’s legacy has been celebrated widely by UC Davis and the larger Northern California legal community. In 2007, he received the UC Davis Medal. In 2016, the Sacramento area Latino bar association renamed itself the Cruz Reynoso Bar Association. Each year, the group gives out a Defensor de Justicia award. Past winners include Johnson and then state Attorney General, now U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra.

In 2018, UC Davis Law’s La Raza Law Students Association (later renamed the Latinx Law Students Association) presented Reynoso with the inaugural Cruz Reynoso Award for faculty members, given in subsequent years to other professors.

Reynoso’s legacy also lives on through the Cruz and Jeannene Reynoso Scholarship for Legal Access at UC Davis Law.

Preceded in death by Jeanene, in 2007, and by his second wife, Elaine Rowen, in 2017, Justice Reynoso is survived by four brothers, four sisters, four children and their spouses (Trina and Duane Heter, Ramone and Bob Boyer, Len and Ken Reid-Reynoso, Rondall and Pamela Reynoso), two stepchildren and their spouses (Dean and Laudon Rowen, Hali Rowen and Andy Bale), 17 grandchildren, three step-grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.
Bob Dunning

Celebrates 50-Plus Years at the Davis Enterprise

By Carla Meyer

The town might be named for somebody else, but it doesn’t get more “Davis” than Bob Dunning ’73.

A city resident since age 5, Dunning, ’75, attended elementary and high school in town and earned a B.A. in political science at UC Davis before enrolling in law school.

But Dunning is best known for his remarkable 52-year (and counting) stint as a columnist and sports writer for the Davis Enterprise — a gig that made him a local legend.

In April 2021, longtime friends and readers gathered to honor Dunning for his five decades at the newspaper.

The celebration included a vehicle parade with two other Davis staples — bikes and a double-decker Unitrans bus — along with classic cars carrying — bikes and a double-decker Unitrans bus — along with classic cars carrying.

The pandemic precluded a celebration. “I really felt loved.”

Dunning said of the anniversary celebration. “It was absolutely overwhelming,”

Dunning said. “I didn’t want to spend the rest of my life saying, ‘Yeah, I went to law school for a year and a half and I quit.’

Plus, law school has “helped me enormously” as a journalist,

Dunning said. “I feel confident when I am writing about something (legal).

I can look up a case or understand the nuance of the issues in a way that I probably wouldn’t but for law school.”

Had he not graduated, Dunning would have missed a celebration merely on the level of last year’s anniversary fete.

His graduation at Freeborn Hall marked “the rare time a lot of my classmates had seen me,” Dunning deadpanned. When it was his turn to receive his diploma, he looked out from the wings to his classmates “smirking and elbowing each other,” he said.

“And when they called my name, I got a standing ovation.”

“I had no idea the newspaper job would turn into something” career-wise, he said. But then he started writing a column. “Once that column got some attention, and I could put my opinion in it and not just the score of the game, I thought, ‘This is really kind of fun.’”

He had attempted to quit law school, he said, but was intercepted on his way to the dean’s office by King Hall registrar Thelma Kido.

“She said, ‘If you stick it out, you probably will be happy you did,’” Dunning recalled. She was right, he said. “I didn’t want to spend the rest of my life saying, ‘Yeah, I went to law school for a year and a half and I quit.’

Support for UC Davis Law Surpasses $2.1 MILLION IN 2020-21

UC Davis School of Law received more than $2.1 million in 2020-21, with most gifts supporting scholarships.

The past fiscal year’s fundraising achievements follow a record-breaking $6.3 million tally for 2019-20 and highlight the unwavering commitment of King Hall alumni and other benefactors to helping ensure student success amid the challenges of the pandemic.

In March 2021, the William and Inez Mabie Family Foundation gave $1 million to the law school for a new scholarship in memory of Ronald Hayes Malone, the foundation’s longtime president.

UC Davis Law alumnus Yeoryios Apallas ’72 helped shepherd the gift honoring Malone, who was Apallas’ best friend. Through his extraordinary volunteer work with the Mabie Family Foundation, Apallas has assisted with nearly $6 million in gifts to UC Davis Law over the years.

Previous gifts endowed the Mabie-Apallas Chair in Public Interest Law (currently held by Dean Kevin R. Johnson), and established the William and Inez Mabie Family Foundation Scholarship. The law school’s Mabie Law Library was named as such in recognition of the foundation’s generous gift toward King Hall’s recent renovation and expansion project.

The new scholarship aims to support qualified students with demonstrated financial need — especially those who could not attend law school without significant private support.

UC Davis Law already has drawn extraordinary donor support for 2021-22. Bill Mantle ’74 made an additional gift of $900,000, further funding an endowed scholarship and bringing his total planned gift to more than $3.8 million.

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The law school has raised more than $16 million toward its $35 million goal in UC Davis’ $1 billion fundraising campaign, Expect Greater: From UC Davis, For the World, the largest philanthropic endeavor in university history. Together, donors and UC Davis are advancing work to prepare future leaders, sustain healthier communities, and bring innovative solutions to today’s most urgent challenges. UC Davis as a whole had its greatest fundraising year ever in 2020-21.

The Mabie Family Foundation aims to honor Malone, who died in March 2020, as an extraordinary friend, husband, father and trial lawyer.

Malone grew up in Mountain View, Calif., in modest circumstances, relying on scholarships for his own college education. He spent summers at his grandfather’s Missouri ranch, where he developed a lifelong love for horses.

Also in 2021, John Michaelis ’79 gave $100,000 to create the Michaelis Family Scholarship, and Carolyn Langenkamp ’79 pledged $100,000 for scholarships as part of her estate plan.

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Bob Dunning ’73

Similarly self-deprecating about his time in law school, Dunning said he is convinced he was admitted to UC Davis Law erroneously or because the school needed local students. His classmates were Stanford and UC Berkeley graduates with 4.0 GPAs; he had not cracked 3.0 as an undergrad.

“Everyone thought I was related to Hap Dunning, and that’s how I got in,” Dunning joked about Professor Emeritus Harrison Dunning, who is no relation.

His class attendance was spotty, partly due to his late-night hours at the Enterprise. Also, about midway between being accepted to and graduating from law school, he fell irretrievably in love with journalism.

“I had no idea the newspaper job would turn into something” career-wise, he said. But then he started writing a column. “Once that column got some attention, and I could put my opinion in it and not just the score of the game, I thought, ‘This is really kind of fun.’”

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His class attendance was spotty, partly due to his late-night hours at the Enterprise. Also, about midway between being accepted to and graduating from law school, he fell irretrievably in love with journalism.
CELEBRATING KING HALL

Professor Katherine Florey, Monika Kalra Varma ’00 and Errol C. Dauis ’11 Receive Honors

By Carla Meyer

Professor Katherine Florey received UC Davis Law’s 2021 Distinguished Teaching Award during the virtual Celebrating King Hall ceremony in March 2021. The award was made possible through the generosity of Bill March 2021. The award was made possible through the generosity of Bill and Sally Rutter.

“Yet behind all the rules and exceptions to the rules ... are the fundamental issues of who gets heard in our legal system and why — issues that could not be more interesting or important.”

— Katherine Florey

Monika Kalra Varma ’00, Distinguished Alumna Award winner, and Errol C. Dauis ’11, recipient of the Rising Star Alumnus Award, also were honored.

Dean Kevin R. Johnson served as emcee. As he recounted the accomplishments of the evening’s honorees, Johnson said he was “incredibly proud” of what the entire King Hall community has been able to achieve during the pandemic.

“This just reiterates what we have always known: Our sense of community is unshakable,” Johnson said.

A Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law, Florey teaches and researches in the areas of private international law, federal Indian law, civil procedure and public health law and policy. Within these fields, she is particularly interested in the extraterritorial application of law, theories of jurisdiction, and tribes’ regulatory and adjudicative powers.

Florey’s scholarship has appeared in the Virginia Law Review, California Law Review, UCLA Law Review and Notre Dame Law Review. Before joining the UC Davis faculty in 2007, Florey served as a law clerk to the Honorable William Fletcher of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and as an associate at the San Francisco law firm Keker & Van Natter LLP.

She received her J.D. from UC Berkeley, where she was articles editor of the law review and graduated first in her class. Florey holds a bachelor’s degree from Harvard College, where she graduated summa cum laude, and an M.F.A. in creative writing from Warren Wilson College. Before law school, she worked for several years as an editor, travel writer and theater critic.

In accepting her award, Florey acknowledged her learning curve as a teacher — she joined the Davis faculty with “virtually zero teaching experience,” she said.

After a rocky start, “I realized I needed to listen to students, not overwhelm them with information,” she said. “Instead of telling them what I thought they needed to know, I helped them try to figure it out for themselves.”

She teaches “doctrinally complicated subjects with a reputation — sometimes well-deserved — of failing to make sense,” Florey continued. “Yet behind all the rules and exceptions to the rules ... are the fundamental issues of who gets heard in our legal system and why — issues that could not be more interesting or important.”

Florey said she is “delighted when my students end up feeling the same way” as she about these subjects. When reading course evaluations, “even comments like ‘I thought CivPro would be my worst class, but it was actually surprisingly tolerable’ usually make my day.”

Varma, the 2021 Distinguished Alumna, has dedicated her career to human rights and social justice work. From 2017 until July 2021, Varma led the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area — one of the oldest civil rights institutions on the West Coast — in its mission to dismantle systems of oppression and racism and build an equitable and just society.

Before assuming the LCCRFS executive director role, Varma spent five years as executive director of the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center. Before that, she directed the Center for Human Rights at the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights.

At the BFK Center, Varma advanced movements to ensure a right to health in Haiti; end untouchability in India; rebuild the Gulf Coast after Katrina; increase access to justice in Chad and stop modern-day slave-labor conditions faced by migrant farmworkers in Florida.

King Hall has been with Varma the whole way. In her acceptance speech, Varma thanked her student cohort from law school, who “have become like family,” she said, and Johnson, her one-time Civil Procedure professor.

UC Davis is “unlike any other law school I have heard of,” she said. She recalled returning to King Hall a few years ago to speak to first-year students.

“I got very emotional looking at my students. I got very emotional looking at the diversity of the students and knowing what that would mean for communities they would serve,” Varma said.

Rising Star Award winner Dauis practices employment law at Sacramento’s Boutin Jones, Inc. Dauis was honored as a Northern California Super Lawyers Rising Star for Employment and Labor for four straight years, and as one of Best Lawyers’ “Ones to Watch” in 2021 and 2022. He is a member of Sacramento County Bar Association’s Diversity Hiring and Retention Committee and former board president of La Rana Centro Legal.

Dauis has taught at the law school and served as a tutor and mentor to participants in the King Hall Outreach Program. As a student, he served as editor-in-chief of the law review, and as a founding board member of the Coalition for Diversity at King Hall.

UC Davis shaped “who I am today and brought out the best in me,” Dauis said. “It exposed me to new ideas and taught me that collaboration and kindness are both possible and helpful in our profession.”

Monika Kalra Varma ’00

Errol C. Dauis ’11

Katherine Florey
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion: A community imperative

Recent initiatives refine UC Davis Law’s approach to its defining principles

By Carla Meyer

At UC Davis Law, diversity, equity and inclusion are fundamental yet never fixed concepts.

Over the past three years, the law school added a DEI Fellow, Alexis Elston, developed an ongoing Racial Justice Speaker Series and established an annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service and Celebration, among other initiatives aimed at ensuring everyone feels welcome at King Hall.

These measures do not reflect a new campaign, but represent “a real, conscious effort to capitalize on our successes in DEI issues over time,” UC Davis Law Dean Kevin R. Johnson said. “The recent developments have really focused on refining a good thing.”

Throughout its history, UC Davis Law has promoted justice and equality for all. In 1969, the law school, led by students, named its brand-new building Martin Luther King Jr. Hall to honor the civil rights giant who had been killed a year earlier.

Yet the law school’s faculty remained entirely white two decades later, before Johnson and two other professors of color, Evelyn Lewis and Arturo Gándara, were hired in 1989, Johnson said.

“The real incredible change that took place is the diversification of the faculty to what it is today,” Johnson said. Under the direction of Johnson, the law school’s dean since 2008, and his predecessor, Rex Perschbacher, UC Davis Law built a “majority-minority” faculty — rare for a top-tier law school.

“The opportunity I saw was to establish a systematic program for diversity, equity and inclusion that would bring more diversity to the faculty and the student body, and the stresses and strains on students of color is well-known in law school. Having that support is important.”

Later that year, King Hall introduced its groundbreaking First Generation Advocates program, which pairs first-generation college graduates — usually around one-fifth of first-year students each fall — with faculty mentors to help ease the transition to law school.

“I was really struck by the first FGA event I attended — just to see all the faculty of color and first-generation faculty who came out to support students,” said Emily Scivoletto, who became UC Davis Law’s Senior Assistant Dean for Student Affairs in August 2019.

A Concerted Approach

Scivoletto had directed UC Davis Law’s Academic Success program from 2008—2010, before moving on to leadership positions at the University of San Diego and UCLA, serving as associate dean for academic and student affairs at the latter law school.

She started her second Davis position with new DEI positive elements already in place in King Hall. Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Afra Afsharipour had shepherded innovative new courses including Implicit Bias and the Law, and the Law Students Association had introduced the position of vice president for DEI, first held by Montserrat Garcia Juarez ’21.

“The opportunity I saw was to establish a systematic program for diversity, equity and inclusion that would bring (Student Affairs) and the groups who wanted to do this kind of work together,” Scivoletto said.

That first semester, “Dean Johnson really set the tone,” she said. “He talked about how important it was to support our students, and put money behind it. Johnson approved funding for the senior leadership team to meet with diversity consultant Michelle Silverthorn, who discussed best practices for administration and held training sessions for students, staff and faculty.

“These trainings and conversations led to greater involvement from community members in DEI programming,” Scivoletto said.

By Carla Meyer

The law school’s DEI success consistently draws national recognition.

In 2019, The National Jurist ranked UC Davis Law No. 1 on its list of most diverse law schools. In 2020, preLaw Magazine recognized Davis as the No. 3 law school for racial justice. The Princeton Review’s most recent “Best Law Schools” rankings place UC Davis Law at No. 5 for faculty diversity and No. 2 in resources for women.

“One you realize those kinds of changes have been made and you have reached the kind of ‘critical mass’ you have been seeking, then the question is retention and ensuring success,” Johnson said. “You think, ‘How do we make things even better?’”

In early 2017, the law school added in-house psychologist Dr. Margaret S. Lee — a development “you might not think is DEI-related, but it is,” Johnson said.

“Part of my thinking was, ‘You have a majority-minority student body, and the stresses and strains on students of color is well-known in law school. Having that support is important.’

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“These trainings and conversations led to greater involvement from community members in DEI programming,” Scivoletto said.
The most immediate and visible example was the inaugural MLK Day of Service and Celebration in January 2020. The event was conceived before Scivoletto’s arrival, through a request from the Black Law Students Association. The previous spring to create an annual commemoration of King’s legacy.

Scivoletto helped form a new “MLK Day Working Group” of volunteers on “BLSA” would have school-wide support,” she said. “We ended up with a good system that now is three years running.”

That first MLK Day included a talk by Alameda County Public Defender Brendon Woods, volunteer opportunities at Fourth & Hope, a Woodland nonprofit that serves the unhoused population, and a workshop to assist Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients. It also went a long way toward making first-year student Kalan Andrews ’22 feel at home.

Andrews grew up in Prince George’s County, Md., where most residents and elected officials are Black, and where Andrews performed community service every MLK holiday through her church, which also would hold a town hall on racial justice issues that day.

“It was empowering to see those kinds of social justice-oriented things in my everyday life, and then be able to come to law school and see those same things being implemented,” Andrews said.

She already had been impressed by the MLK mural in the King Hall courtyard, which also was on her first visit to the law school. Co-created by Rena Harris ’19, the mural was dedicated to the law school by Harris and the BLSA in spring 2019.

“I had never been to California before I came to law school, and I thought it was so cool that this law school values MLK this way,” Andrews said. A BLSA member, Andrews served as the LSA’s second vice president for DEI and sits on the law school’s admissions committee.

A DEI Point Person

During her first semester in Student Affairs, Scivoletto invited students from various affinity groups to coffee — a practice that led to, among other actions, the dean’s office assisting the fledgling Vietnamese Law Students Association on events and helping the Lambda Law Students Association increase awareness of, and potentially add, gender-inclusive restrooms in King Hall.

Scivoletto had envisioned a DEI point person to work beside her and had talked with Johnson and Senior Assistant Dean for Administration Brett Burns about adding a new position.

But then the pandemic arrived, and “since we didn’t know what was going to happen, we said, ‘Let’s hire a fellow,’” Scivoletto said. “BLSA was also very interested in having someone there to work on these issues, and we felt the time was right.”

In June 2020, amid massive protests over the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others, the law school launched a search, resulting in the selection of Elston, then assistant director of admission at UC Davis Law.

Elston, a 2013 law school graduate, said she brings to the job “my own experiences as a person of color attending a top-50 law school, along with my experiences working with some of our current students in other ways while I was in admissions, especially the BLSA.”

Andrews was part of the selection committee that chose Elston.

“When all the things happened in 2020 with George Floyd and the different marches and rallies, I felt like a lot of law schools were not really listening or taking action,” Andrews said. “I really like that our law school took action and created Alexis’ role.”

Elston immediately took a lead role on the annual MLK event, and in 2021 assumed direction of First Generation Advocates. While continuing its mentor program, FGA now offers Academic Success and professional development workshops and mentoring from the FGA Student Board.

Elston holds office hours for first-generation students or any student with DEI concerns. She also created a specialized implicit bias training for student organizations that hold tryouts or application processes.

Along with Johnson and Scivoletto, Elston guides the Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Formed in spring 2021, the committee contains faculty, staff, students and community representatives and plans to complete a draft of King Hall’s first DEI strategic plan this semester.

A Less Hierarchical Law School

Elston said she had been encouraged going into her new role by how accessible Johnson always has been to students.

“When I first got to the law school, I was shocked at how easy it was to meet with the dean. I did not have that experience at my law school, let alone have (the dean) actively walk around the law school and talk to people.”

“This law school is different from many others in being less hierarchical and more inclusive in decision-making,” Johnson said. “We have had a student on the educational policy committee for as long as I can remember — at least 30 years — and that’s pretty extraordinary.”

UC Davis Law also includes students on its admissions committee, which Johnson said he is not aware of any other law school doing.

“I think it’s amazing they even went a student’s perspective,” said Andrews, part of the admissions committee this year alongside classmate Arton Falahat ’21.

In 2021, Johnson and Professor Raquel Aldana — previously UC Davis’ Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Diversity — assumed leadership of UC Davis Law’s Aoki Center for Critical Race and Nation Studies. Started in 2013 to honor late UC Davis Law Professor Keith Aoki, and based in critical race theory, the center now co-sponsors the Racial Justice Speaker Series, further enhancing its reputation for presenting thought-provoking lectures.

Diversity, equity and inclusion should be on everyone’s mind at the law school, because that awareness “benefits all of us,” Johnson said.

“Part of my job is to ensure DEI is embedded in everything we do, and to make sure there’s real substance to the kinds of things we’re trying to do, as opposed to window dressing.”

The MLK Day event, became a permanent part of the annual law school calendar.

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Bottom: Student volunteers assist with chores at Fourth & Hope; a Woodland nonprofit that serves the unhoused, on the 2021 MLK Day of Service and Celebration. Along with a DEI fellow and committee, 2020-21 ushered in UC Davis’ Racial Justice Speaker Series, which, like the MLK Day event, became a permanent part of the annual law school calendar.

Created in response to the 2020 Black Lives Matter protests, the series brings in scholars from around the country to explore issues pertaining to all areas of law and communities of color. Speakers have addressed systemic racism in the criminal justice system, immigration law, corporate law and national security, among other topics.

“The series was designed to get people thinking and talking about these issues in a constructive way,” Johnson said.

“These are hard issues for everybody. It would be nice if we had answers to them, but at a minimum, we should be talking about them.”

Top: From left, Ethan Hicks ’24, Yasmeen Cayabyab ’22, Tyler Szeto ’22 and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Fellow Alexis Elston at the children’s book drive during the 2022 MLK Day of Service and Celebration at King Hall.
CHARLES A. BIRD ’73, TOP APPELLATE ATTORNEY AND GREAT FRIEND TO KING HALL, DIES AT 73

Charles A. Bird ’73, a leading appellate attorney and dedicated alum who established UC Davis Law’s Boecherer and Bird Endowed Chair, has died at age 73. He passed away in June after a long illness.

Focused on appeals and writs in all California and federal appellate courts, Bird retired as a partner with Dentons in San Diego in 2018. He spent 45 years with Dentons and its predecessor firms.

Bird argued civil cases in the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Federal, Sixth, Ninth and Tenth circuits and California’s Supreme Court and six intermediate appellate districts. More than 60 of his cases were decided in officially published opinions according to a post by Dentons.

Bird was a double Aggie, earning his B.A. from UC Davis in 1969 (the same year his wife, Charlotte, earned hers) before graduating Order of the Coif from UC Davis Law in 1973.

Bird clerked for the Hon. Robert Boecherer, an Alaska Supreme Court justice and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit judge who would become Bird’s longtime friend. (Boecherer died in 2011).

In honor of Bird’s Boocherer, and Charles Bird’s parents, Elizabeth and Donald G. Bird, UC Davis Law in 1969 established the Boecherer and Bird Endowed Chair for the Study and Teaching of Freedom and Equality. The chair’s purpose is to preserve and expand understanding of the virtues necessary to a great republic, including the freedom of conscience embodied in the liberties of political, religious, informational and artistic expression of the First Amendment.

Bird is survived by his wife, Charlotte.
ANDREA REYES ’22 RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS SKADDEN FELLOWSHIP

By Carla Mayer

The Skadden Foundation has selected Andrea Reyes ’22 as a 2022 Fellow. Skadden Fellowships provide two years of funding to help launch the careers of public interest lawyers.

Reyes is just the third UC Davis Law student to receive this highly competitive fellowship since the program began in 1988. The others are: Margaret Miller ’99 and Angela Yahaira Breining ’10.

“Hearing the news I received a Skadden Fellowship overwhelmed me with joy,” Reyes said. “Ever since, I have reflected on the years’ worth of work I have engaged in that has allowed me to commit myself to public service before, during, and now after law school. I feel incredibly proud to share this accomplishment with my community and grateful to the friends, family, professors and mentors who have supported me throughout my legal career.”

Reyes will work for Dolores Street Community Services of San Francisco, providing direct immigration representation of undocumented workers, day laborers, individuals facing housing instability, and potential survivors of labor trafficking,” she said.

During law school, Reyes has worked with the Immigration Law Clinic, Center for Workers’ Rights, Asilo Center for Critical Race and Nation Studies, and as a research assistant to Dean Kevin R. Johnson. She also has served as a Latino Law Students Association and First Generation Advocates board member.

Recipient of a John Paul Stevens Fellowship Foundation public service fellowship and a Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund law school scholarship, Reyes also is an alumna of the King Hall Outreach Program, which helps undergraduates from underrepresented communities prepare for the law school admissions process.

UC DAVIS LAW STUDENTS RECEIVE MALDEF SCHOLARSHIPS

Andrea Reyes ’22 and Raquel Campuzano-Santamaria ’21 have received 2020-21 Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund Law School Scholarships.

Since its founding in 1968, MALDEF has awarded scholarships to students committed to furthering its mission of promoting and protecting the civil rights of the Latino community in the United States. Each 2020-21 scholarship recipient will receive $5,000. The recipients are selected by a national Law School Scholarship Committee of leading attorneys.

Campuzano-Santamaria currently works as a law clerk for Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), a nonprofit organization that provides immigration legal aid services to minor children in the Central Valley.

Afra Afsharipour
Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Law
Comparative Corporate Governance
(eds. Afra Afsharipour & Martin Gelter), Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd. (2021)

Dolores Street Community Services of San Francisco, providing direct immigration representation of

Handbook on Corporate Governance in India (with Manali Paranjape), The Conference Board (2021)

Raquel Aldana
Professor of Law

Ashutosh Bhagwot
Boschker and Bird Endowed Chair 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

David Horton
Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law

Kevin R. Johnson
Dean and Mult-Applied Professor of Public Interest Law and Chicano Studies

NEW BOOKS By King Hall Alumni

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Maggy Krell ‘03 is the author of the new book Taking Down Backpage: Fighting the World’s Largest Sex Trafficker, which recounts how Krell’s team at the California Attorney General’s Office prosecuted the (now-defunct) sex advertising website Backpage.com.

Wajahat Ali ’07, a New York Times contributing op-ed writer, has written a memoir, Go Back to Where You Came From and Other Helpful Recommendations on How to Become American. The book chronicles Ali’s experience growing up as a Muslim Pakistani American.

Maggy Krell ‘03

Barbara Breining ’64

Andrea Reyes


Courtney Joslin
Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law
Social Parenthood in Comparative Perspective (co-edited with Clare Huntington & Christiane von Bayern), NYU Press (forthcoming)

Carleton F.W. Larson
Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law


Leticia Saucedo
Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law


Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law
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Leticia Saucedo
Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law

Dean Kevin R. Johnson is the most-cited immigration law scholar in the United States, according to University of Chicago Professor Brian Leiter’s scholarly rankings in that area of law, released in October.

UC Davis Law’s faculty collectively placed 24th on the Leiter list of “Top 50 Law Faculties in Scholarly Impact, 2021.” The King Hall faculty moved up a spot since 2018, the fifth year of the index, when it was ranked 26th.

Dean Johnson ranks ninth among Shapiro’s top 26 “Most-Cited Critical Race Theory and Feminist Jurisprudence Scholars of All Time.” Shapiro combined critical race theory and feminist jurisprudence into a single category “because of the similar questions and themes they address,” he wrote in the law review essay.

Professor Darien Shanske ranks No. 6 among tax professors in all-time SSRN downloads. As of Jan. 1, Shanske’s work had been downloaded 133,421 times.

Leonard D. Schlesinger, dean emeritus at St. Louis University Law School, 2021 "Top 50 Law Professors in Legal Scholarship" list, he is one of 50 law school deans and professors who were cited most frequently in the peer-reviewed academic legal literature during 2019.

Our faculty continued to bolster UC Davis Law’s outstanding reputation in 2021. The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund appointed Professor Letizia Saucedo as a national senior counsel. Saucedo will be on partial leave from the law school as she assumes her new post. Saucedo previously worked for MALDEF from 1999-2003. As national senior counsel, Saucedo will work with MALDEF leadership in litigation efforts nationwide.

Chancellor Gary S. May selected Professor Brian Soucek as a UC Davis Chancellor’s Fellow. The fellowship continues until July 2023 and includes a one-time award of $25,000 to be used in support of research, teaching and service activities. The Section on Evidence recognized Professor Emeritus Edward Imwinkelried with its John Henry Wigmore Lifetime Achievement Award. The Section on Professional Responsibility honored Professor Irene Ortizsewyjimi Joe for outstanding achievement.

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Professor Carlton F.W. Larson was a finalist for an American Bar Association Silver Gavel Award for the second year in a row, for his 2020 book On Treason: A Citizen’s Guide to the Law. He was a finalist in 2019 book The Trials of Allegiance: Traitors, Juries, and the American Revolution.

The Association of American Law Schools’ Section on Alternative Dispute Resolution honored Professor David Horton’s article “Infinite Arbitration Clauses” as the year’s best. The Section on Evidence recognized Professor Emeritus Edward Imwinkelried with its John Henry Wigmore Lifetime Achievement Award. The Section on Professional Responsibility honored Professor Irene Ortizsewyjimi Joe for outstanding achievement.

Dean Kevin R. Johnson and Professor Raquel Aldana, internationally recognized immigration law scholars, assumed leadership of UC Davis Law’s Aoki Center for Critical Race and Nation Studies.

The Schwartz/Levi Inn of Court Presented Professor Emeritus Alan Brownstein with its 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award. Brownstein, a nationally recognized constitutional law scholar, taught Constitutional Law, Law and Religion and Torts at UC Davis Law for more than 30 years.

Before his retirement from full-time teaching, Brownstein held the Boochever and Bird Endowed Chair for the Study and Teaching of Freedom and Equality. He continues to write frequently about constitutional issues for leading publications, including The Hill.
Policarpio credits King Hall with making ethnically diverse hometown, Vallejo, inspiration from her background. Her "as the eldest daughter of Filipinx Fund, Inc. NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Area, and interned and externed at the Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay on campus, Policarpio has interned "22. Policarpio Khrystan observed were disparities I career, the professional step of my "At every step of my educational and professional career, the disparities I observed were stark," says Khrystan Policarpio '22. "So, I made it my mission to bridge the gap." In addition to her extensive involvement on campus, Policarpio has interned at the ACLU of Northern California and the Brennan Center for Justice, clerked at the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area, and interned and externed at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. "As the eldest daughter of Filipinx immigrants and a first-generation college graduate," Policarpio draws inspiration from her background. Her ethnically diverse hometown, Vallejo, California, declared bankruptcy one month before her high school graduation, where only 49% of her class graduated. Policarpio credits King Hall with making her a stronger advocate. "I hope that I may be just as kind, as warm, as understanding, as bold and unafraid as the individuals who have supported me. I hope to continue shaking the table and to continue advocating for change in a way that is both community-informed, and to the extent possible, community-led. I do this work for Vallejo and for the communities that look like mine." Angela Breining '19 Another King Hall alumnus, Angela Breining '19, launched her post-law school career as a Skadden Fellow with Centro Legal de la Rana in the Workers’ Program. (2022 Skadden Fellow Andrea Reyes "as is also profiled in this issue.) Breining provided remote legal clinics to low-wage and immigrant workers in the Northern Sacramento Valley and conducted Know Your Rights presentations. "I began to think of these presentations as community empowerment presentations, because that is exactly what they do, they empower workers which in turn empower communities." When her two-year Fellowship ended, Breining became a labor associate at Beeson, Tayer, and Bodine in Sacramento, where she represents labor unions and individual workers.

In law school, Breining co-founded the First Generation Advocates Program, along with classmates and Professor Leticia Saucedo. Now she continues to mentor first-generation law students and professionals. "Being first-gen myself, I often feel like I am walking in the legal profession with a blindfold. I want to make sure other first-gen students can navigate law school and the legal field with all the tools at their disposal so they can thrive." Tariq El-Gabalawy '21

At King Hall, Reza Harris '19 had a strikingly visible impact: with artist Eric Norberg, he created the Martin Luther King Jr. mural in the courtyard. Harris also clerked for Associate Justice Mariano-Florentino Cuellar, co-founded the Restorative Justice Practicum, and was the Commencement student speaker. Previously, Harris had co-founded the 5 Elements Youth Program in the San Francisco Bay Area which uses hip-hop culture to promote children’s and youths’ educational and personal development. He had also worked with homeless and formerly homeless youths, children, and parents. Harris’s passion for social justice advocacy work at King Hall. He works part-time with King Hall’s Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Fellow Alexi Elratn. El-Gabalawy is also a certified law clerk with the Los Angeles County Office of the Public Defender, where he assists indigent clients. Before coming to King Hall, El-Gabalawy worked to extend educational opportunities to students from diverse and historically under-represented communities. His efforts ranged from promoting creative writing at a Title I continuation high school to retaining college students at UC Santa Cruz to providing mentorship and career exploration to middle school students through the Spark Program. El-Gabalawy reflects, "Other than the quality of instruction at King Hall, I think that my experiences working and organizing with students and staff/faculty at King Hall have helped me the most. In terms of exposure to how lawyers can serve as advocates and servants to vulnerable individuals and communities of color around the world contending with the day-to-day impact of institutionalized racism, King Hall was a great resource."
The Class of 2020 enjoyed a belated graduation celebration in October at the Buehler Alumni Center on campus. Graduates posed for photos in regalia, dined with family and friends and caught up with classmates.

The Class of 2020’s in-person commencement, planned for May 2020, did not happen, because of the pandemic. But the faculty speaker (Professor Irene Joe) and graduate speaker (Princepreet Singh ’20) the class had chosen to address them at that commencement participated in the October 2021 event. Congratulations Class of 2020!

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2021

UC Davis Law celebrated its remarkable, resilient Class of 2021 with a photo opportunity at King Hall on May 14 and a virtual commencement May 15.

Attorney General Rob Bonta was the commencement’s keynote speaker. Chancellor Gary S. May, Dean Kevin R. Johnson, faculty speaker Jasmine Harris and student speaker Viktoriya Chebotarev ’21 also offered remarks.

May congratulated the graduates on their resolve during a pandemic and while “racial tensions polarize our country and immigrant communities are under attack.”

Through “some of the most tumultuous days our country has ever seen… you remained dedicated to learning about the pursuit of truth, justice and the equal application of law,” May said.

Johnson noted that a King Hall education offers a “framework for battling injustice at every level” and lauded the commitment to public service the class showed during law school.

The graduates amassed nearly 24,000 collective public service hours — an achievement celebrated during the virtual Public Service Graduation in April. During that event, Jeanette Boykins ’21 was honored with the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Service Award. Boykins also received the Alumni Association Award for outstanding service.

Congratulations, Class of 2021! Special thanks to the graduates’ family members, friends and pets for taking part in the festivities.

MEMBERS OF THE UC DAVIS LAW CLASS OF 1970 CELEBRATED THEIR 50TH LAW SCHOOL REUNION ON OCT. 9 IN THE KING HALL COURTYARD.

Postponed for a year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the afternoon gathering featured appetizers and a champagne toast by Dean Kevin R. Johnson.

Johnson thanked the class members for taking a chance on what was still a new law school all those years ago. He noted that they were part of the student body that pushed to name the building for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., after the civil rights leader was killed in 1968.

“Our law school’s world-renowned focus on social justice started with you,” Johnson said. After toasting the class, Johnson gave the podium over to Steve Frank ’70, a reunion committee member who was instrumental in organizing the event.

Frank acknowledged the class members present and paid tribute to many who had passed away since graduating from law school.

In December, UC Davis Law held its annual Swearing-in Ceremony for recent graduates who passed the California Bar Exam. Congratulations to California’s newest licensed attorneys! Thank you to San Mateo Superior Court Judge Renee Reyna ’06 for delivering the state oath and U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California Judge Troy Nunley for delivering the federal oath.

KING HALL’S NEWEST ATTORNEYS
2022 UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, March 9**
Bill Smith Memorial Lecture

**Thursday, March 10**
“Taking Down Backpage” book event with Maggy Krell

**Friday, March 11**
Journal of International Law and Policy Symposium

**Saturday, March 12**
Alumni Reunions

**Thursday, March 17**
Celebrating King Hall

**Wednesday, March 30**
Racial Justice Series with St. John’s University School of Law Professor Cheryl Wade

**Thursday, March 31**
California International Law Center: Former President of the Republic of Chile Dr. Ricardo Lagos

**Tuesday, April 5**
California International Law Center: Former President of Chile Michelle Bachelet

**Wednesday, April 6**
Racial Justice Series with Rutgers Law School Professor Rose Cuison-Villazor

**Thursday, April 14**
Racial Justice Series with Colorado Law School Professor S. James Anaya

**Saturday, May 14**
Commencement

Please visit law.ucdavis.edu for details and additional event listings.