Ceremony Livestream
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107th Commencement Ceremony / Sunday, May 29th, 2022

Procesional

Grand Marshals
Board of Trustees
Commencement Speaker
Administration
Faculty
Graduates

National Anthem
Katrina Woolverton ’02

Welcome
Charles P. Fairchild ’09, Chair, Board of Trustees
Darby Dickerson, President and Dean

Class of 2022 Address
Laura R. Lascoe

Commencement Address
Brian Panish ’84
Founding Partner
Panish | Shea | Boyle | Ravipudi LLP

Conferring of Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree
Charles P. Fairchild ’09, Chair, Board of Trustees
Darby Dickerson, President and Dean
Recipient: Michael E. Cahill

Conferring of Degrees—Master of Laws, Juris Doctor
Charles P. Fairchild ’09, Chair, Board of Trustees
Darby Dickerson, President and Dean
Professor Danielle Kie Hart, Grand Marshal
Professor John Heilman, Grand Marshal

Recessional

Grand Marshals
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Graduates
Recognized among the country’s leading trial attorneys, Brian J. Panish has obtained some of the most significant jury verdicts in United States history on behalf of plaintiffs. His courtroom victories include a $4.9 billion verdict in the landmark products liability case Anderson v. General Motors, over 100 verdicts and settlements in excess of $10 million, and six verdicts in excess of $50 million in personal injury and wrongful death cases. Panish consistently serves in a leadership role in some of the largest personal injury cases in California and the country, including as Plaintiffs’ Lead Trial Counsel in the Porter Ranch/Aliso Canyon Gas Blowout Litigation, recently resolved for $1,800,000,000, as well as Plaintiffs’ Co-Lead Counsel in both the Thomas Fire and Woolsey Fire litigations in Southern California. Most recently, Panish represents the husband and son of Halyna Hutchins, a cinematographer who was fatally shot on the movie set of ‘Rust’ in October 2021.

Panish is a three-time recipient of the prestigious California Lawyer Attorney of the Year Award (2022, 2019, 2013) and was named among the 2022 Titans of the Plaintiffs Bar by Law360. Additional accolades and honors include being named among the 2021 LA 500 as well as named among the Leaders of Influence: Litigators & Trial Attorneys by the Los Angeles Business Journal, recognizing the most influential leaders and impactful executives in Los Angeles, the 2021 Best Lawyers® Lawyer of the Year – Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions, and a 2020 Plaintiffs Lawyer Trailblazer by National Law Journal.

He is currently serving as President of the prestigious Inner Circle of Advocates, an invitation-only group composed of 100 of the best plaintiffs’ lawyers in the nation. He is also a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), and served as the 2011 President of the Los Angeles Chapter of ABOTA.

Panish received his law degree, with honors, from Southwestern Law School in 1984, as well as an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 2011, when he also delivered the commencement speech at graduation. In 2017, Southwestern established the Panish Civil Justice Program with a goal of providing top litigation training to students, creating a crossroads for the bench and bar, and strengthening the foundations of the American civil justice system. He received his B.S. from California State University, Fresno, where he was named The Fresno State Scholar-Athlete in 1980. In 2010, he was an alumnus at the school’s Centennial Celebration in 2010.

Please visit www.swlaw.edu/Panish for his complete bio.

"Brian Panish is one of the most renowned trial lawyers in the United States. He’s also part of a three-generation Southwestern family. I’m looking forward to the wisdom he will share with our graduates."

- Darby Dickerson, President and Dean
Honorary Degree Recipient

Michael E. Cahill
Member and Finance Committee Co-Chair, Southwestern Law School Board of Trustees; Executive Vice President and General Counsel (Retired), Trust Company of the West

Michael E. Cahill has served on the Southwestern Law School Board of Trustees since 2004. During his 18-year tenure on the Board, he has served on several committees, including as a member of the Audit & Compliance Committee and the Executive Committee, and as Chair of the Finance Committee.

Cahill is a private investor and consultant. For 22 years, he served as Executive Vice President, Managing Director, and General Counsel for The TCW Group, Inc. TCW is a leading global-asset management firm based in Los Angeles that serves institutional and individual investors nationally and abroad with a broad range of publicly offered and private products across fixed income, equities, emerging markets, and alternative investments.

Before that, Cahill was Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Act III Communications, a diversified media and entertainment company owned by TV producer Norman Lear. Act III’s businesses included film and television production, television broadcasting, movie theaters, and trade publishing.

Before joining Act III, Cahill was an attorney in private law practice with O’Melveny & Myers focusing on corporate, securities, finance, and mergers and acquisitions, representing public companies in insurance, aerospace, consumer products, entertainment, banking and finance, as well as private and start-up businesses. Cahill started his law career as a litigation attorney in San Diego with Shenas, Robbins, Shenas & Shaw, representing clients in California and federal courts as well as the U.S. Supreme Court.

Cahill sits on the boards of two registered public investment funds offered by KKR in the fixed income area. He is on the Advisory board of the Homeboy Ventures and Jobs Fund. Cahill has held board positions on various civic, community, investment, and professional organizations. He has been asked to speak on various topics, including venture capital, international joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions, and investment management.

Cahill holds an LL.M. from Harvard University, a J.D. from Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, Toronto, and a B.A. from Bishops University, Quebec.
Laura holds a Bachelor of Musical Performance - Clarinet, with a Minor in Holocaust History from Chapman University and a degree from the University of Hawaii - KCC in the Culinary Arts; she also is a Certified Iyengar Yoga Teacher. She used her multi-faceted experiences to start a boutique digital marketing business, Banyan Media. Her business savvy and wide-ranging interests led her to law school.

Laura has been active in the Southwestern community as the SCALE SBA Vice President, the SBA Election Committee Chair, a SCALE Peer Mentor, member of the SCALE Peer Mentor Advisory Board, and the Competitions Chair for the Trial Advocacy Honors Program. Laura has immersed herself at Southwestern and is excited to start her legal career in Washington, D.C.

Laura says, "Congratulations to all who are graduating this year! Our time in law school has been very unique. We have endured and moved through law school in unprecedented times. We have shown our grit and determination to not let a pandemic get in our way of receiving a J.D. I am honored to be this year’s 2022 Commencement Student Speaker. I hope that my speech is relatable and memorable for all."
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Dinah Minkoff  
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Southwestern’s General LL.M. Program is designed for students who have already earned a law degree in the United States or abroad and would like to continue their legal studies in a particular area according to their individual goals. To earn the LL.M. degree, students complete 24 units of post-J.D. coursework on a full- or part-time basis. Students work closely with their Southwestern faculty advisor to develop a detailed course of study tailored to their own interests from a comprehensive selection of more than 150 electives and core courses.

- Arman Asryan
  Bachelor’s of Law, Artsakh State University – Republic of Artsakh

- Cristina Ivens *
  Bachelor’s Degree, National Autonomous University of Mexico - Mexico

- Gulnara S. Kalimullina

- Ezequiel David Strajman *
  Abogado, Universidad de Buenos Aires - Argentina

LL.M. Program in Entertainment and Media Law

Drawing on the resources and activities of the Donald E. Biederman Entertainment and Media Law Institute, Southwestern established the first LL.M. degree in Entertainment and Media Law at an American law school. To qualify for the specialized LL.M. degree, students must already possess a J.D. degree and complete a minimum of 24 units of post-J.D. coursework on a full- or part-time basis. By virtue of Southwestern’s extremely broad range of nearly 60 entertainment and media law courses, students can select a general group of courses or pursue a more focused entertainment or media law curriculum.

- Lauren E. Reinas *
  B.A., West Chester University of Pennsylvania
  M.A., West Chester University of Pennsylvania
  J.D., Southwestern Law School

* José Siderman-Fulbright Human Rights Fellow

Established by the family of José Siderman, the José Siderman-Fulbright Fellowship at Southwestern provides the opportunity for an Argentine law graduate to earn an LL.M. degree in Civil Liberties and Human Rights at the law school and spend the following summer as an intern at the ACLU or another civil rights organization.

* December 2021 Graduate
** July 2022 Graduate
Candidates for the Degree of Juris Doctor

Full-Time Day Program

Students who choose Southwestern's traditional full-time day program complete their J.D. degree in three academic years of full-time study. During this time, they pursue a broad-based legal education with opportunities to focus on a particular area of the law. All first-year students participate in the designated curriculum. Second- and third-year students combine required courses with a wide range of electives to tailor a program suited to their interests and goals. Students take the designated curriculum of 15 units each semester during their first year and a course load of 10 to 16 units each semester thereafter. Students must complete 87 units to graduate.

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B.A., University of La Verne

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B.A., Holy Names University

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B.A., Duke University

M.S., Sacramento State University

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B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Kailah R. Armstrong
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Arman Avagyan
B.A., University of California, Irvine

David Avalos
B.A., California State University, Los Angeles

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B.A., University of Missouri, Kansas City

Nanor Babian
B.A., California State University, Long Beach

Aymen Bahrun
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Karanveer Bains
B.A., University of California, Merced

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M.A., California State University, Fullerton

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Kyle Besa
B.S., University of Oregon

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B.A., Loyola Marymount University

B.F.A., Loyola Marymount University

Richard L. Burson
B.A., California State University, Northridge

Joanna M. Calderon
B.A., California State University, Fullerton

Christine Chen
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Malak Cherkaoui Jaouad
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Terrence Chew
B.S., Loyola University Chicago

One S. Choi
B.A., Pennsylvania State University

Meghry S. Chopurian
B.A., University of California, Berkeley

M.H.A., University of Southern California

Ariel F. Coto
B.A., University of San Diego

Ashley E. Crews
B.A., University of Pittsburgh

Gabrielle L. Crivello
B.A., Chapman University

Cheryl A. Cruz
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Coraal Dadon
B.A., California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Charles R. Danscuk
B.S., California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

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I – Southwestern Journal of International Law
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C – Law Commentator
V – Military Veteran
* December 2021 Graduate
** July 2022 Graduate
*** December 2022 Graduate
♦ Southwestern Torch Bearer
Kristina N. David
B.A., University of California, Riverside

Andres E. De La Cruz
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Josie D. Deese
B.A., Texas Southern University

Elisa A. D’Egidio
B.A., Catholic University of America

Pauline Demerjian
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

David Derderian
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Mike M. Dermendjian
B.S., University of California, San Diego

Jacqueline Dilanchyan
B.A., Loyola Marymount University

Jennifer Eaton
B.A., Loyola Marymount University

Zehara H. Eden
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Marian A. El Hasan
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Nathan B. Eprem
B.A., California Lutheran University

Christopher E. Faenza
B.S., San Diego State University

Michael A. Faenza
B.A., California State University, Long Beach

Amanda Luisa Fazio
B.A., Loyola Marymount University

Rachel S. Feigelson
B.S., Boston University

Savannah R. Feldman
B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Jesse A. Fernandez
B.A., California State University, Long Beach

Daniel S. Fields
B.S., University of Florida

Jaqueline A. Flores Reyes
B.A., La Sierra University
M.A., California State University, Los Angeles

Amanda C. Francisco
B.A., California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Arturo Garcia
B.A., University of California, Riverside

Kyla Autumn Garcia
B.A., University of California, Irvine

Allegra A. Garside
B.S., California State University, Long Beach

Alexander Gasarian
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Yisrael Gelb
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Master's Degree, Rabbinical Seminary of America

Tannaz Ghayadi
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Emily S. Goldberg
B.S., Ohio University

Christopher C. Gordon
B.A., University of Puget Sound

Tara Goudarzi
B.A., University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Chloe P. Graham
B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Kelsi D. Grau
B.A., California State University, Northridge

Harutun C. Grigoryan
B.A., California State University, Northridge

Jacob H. Halajian
B.A., University of Southern California

Sheila Hanley
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Madison F. Hathaway
B.S., Arizona State University

Amira F. Heath
B.A., University of California, Irvine

Kimberly Hernandez
B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Zeke Arthur E. Hindle
B.A., Loyola Marymount University

Asher Y. Hoffman
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Alexandra N. Isenberg
B.A., San Diego State University

Anastasia Ivanoff
B.A., Columbia University

Steve M. Juarez
B.A., California State University, Los Angeles

Hovanes Kalpakchian
B.A., University of Southern California

Jinni Kang
B.A., Seoul National University - South Korea
M.A., Seoul National University - South Korea

Willow L. Karfiol
B.A., American University
Mariam Karkashadze N B.A., University of California, Los Angeles
Christina Kartashyan T B.A., University of California, Irvine
Surafel D. Kebede * B.A., University of California, Riverside
Mouna Kezbar N1 B.A., Loyola Marymount University
Nicole Khachikian B.A., University of California, Berkeley
Mehek K. Khaira B.A., University of California, Los Angeles
Alexander S. Khalil B.B.A., George Washington University
Solar T. Kharadjian B.A., California State University, Northridge
Dorna Khazeni I B.A., King’s College London - United Kingdom
M.F.A., University of Utah
Kentaro F. Kida B.A., University of Washington
Jeong Kim B.A., University of California, Irvine
Sara Kim B.A., California State University, Long Beach
Herug Kitsinian B.A., California State University, Northridge
Elisha B. Kohanbash L * B.S., University of California, Los Angeles
Garen G. Kosoyan B.A., Pepperdine University
Mitchell B. Krems B.A., Brandeis University
Lauren M. Krug T J B.A., Florida State University
Morgan Leigh Larsen * B.A., Purdue University
Aszaneé R. Laws B.A., Loyola Marymount University
Ivy N. Le B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara
Priscilla Le * B.A., University of California, Irvine
Susan T. Le B.S., California State University, Long Beach
Uyen P. Le B.A., California State University, Fullerton
Christina M. Lee L B.A., University of California, Los Angeles
Victoria Levin T S B.A., California State University, Northridge
Sara Levine N1 B.S., Florida State University
Tingyu Tiffany Lo L B.A., University of California, Berkeley
Abigail M. Lombardo T J * B.A., University of San Diego
Nanduo Lu B.A., University of California, Berkeley
Jomari Carlo R. Lucero I B.A., Lyceum of the Philippines University, Manila - Philippines
Leslie V. Luis-Mendez B.A., University of California, Los Angeles
Hasan Maaz * B.A., University of California, Berkeley
Niccolette S. Malinoff B.A., University of Arizona
Lilit Markosyan B.A., University of California, Los Angeles
Evan T. Martin L B.A., Loyola Marymount University
Jeffrey A. Martin S B.F.A., California State University, Fullerton
Fabiola Martinez N B.A., University of California, Berkeley
Jaquelin M. Martinez B.S., California State University, Northridge
Vahe Martirosian B.A., California State University, Northridge
Selena L. Matavosian B.A., California State University, Northridge
Cindy Medrano B.A., California State University, Los Angeles
Nicholas B. Mehlum * B.A., Bemidji State University

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* December 2021 Graduate
** July 2022 Graduate
*** December 2022 Graduate
♦ Southwestern Torch Bearer
Fatima R. Mejia
B.S., San Diego State University
M.S., San Diego State University

Tracey J. Miller
B.A., University of California, Irvine

Elizabeth L. Misirian
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Amanda Moradzadeh
B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Jovana T. Morales
B.A., University of California, Irvine

Shazir Mucklai
B.S., University of Texas at Dallas

Reymond K. Munson
B.S., Florida Southern College

B.N. Arducchia
B.A., Saint Edward’s University

Alexander J. Navi
B.A., University of California, San Diego

Ana Naylous
B.A., California State University, Northridge

Ani Nazaryan
B.A., California State University, Northridge

Shani Ninio
B.S., California State University, Northridge

Julia D. Norman
B.A., American University

Etan M. Nozar
B.S., California State University, Northridge

Alvin Y. Okoreeh
B.A., California State University, Dominguez Hills

John W. Olivo III
B.A., University of California, Riverside

Wendy Ortega
B.A., University of California, Davis

Arnold Ovsepyan
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Tatiana M. Owens
B.A., California State University, Dominguez Hills

Jennifer Padilla
B.S., California Lutheran University

Byung Keun Park
B.Com., University of Toronto - Canada

Joon B. Park
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Joshua M. Pignon
B.S., California State University, Long Beach

Lauren N. Polk
B.S., University of Florida

Dylan R. Pond
B.A., University of Southern California

Alixandra M. Powers
B.A., Northeastern University

Breanna M. Ramirez
B.A., California State University, Los Angeles

Diana Ramirez Vielman
B.A., University of California, Irvine

Adrian Rangel
B.A., University of California, Davis

Sara Rashti
B.A., Loyola Marymount University

Bianca C. Rector
B.A., Pepperdine University

Gordon K. Reed
B.S., University of Oregon

Francis Rivera
B.A., California State University, Los Angeles

Markisha M. Roches
B.A., California State University, Northridge

Megan S. Rodef
B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Elaine M. Rosenfeld
B.A., University of California, Santa Cruz

Sharis Rostamlou
B.A., University of California, Irvine

Ian A. Rothweiler
B.A., Cornell University

Cesar Rueda
B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Rivana Rosa Russo
B.A., San Diego State University

Jeannine Nora Sabuncu
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Michelle Sadigh
B.A., California State University, Northridge

Jonathan C. Salvilla
B.A., University of Nevada, Reno

Sara M. Santiago Cortes
B.A., University of California, Long Beach

Maria Stephanie Sanchez
B.A., California State University, Northridge

Nancy I. Santiago Cortes
B.A., University of California, Irvine

Razmig H. Sarkissian
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Patrick Shahverdian
B.A., Virginia Military Institute
Sheida Sheikhpour  
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Talin Simonian  
B.S., California State University, Northridge

Kayla K. Smith  
B.S., University of California, Los Angeles

Erica Stepanian  
B.S., California State University, Northridge

Lyla H. Stone  
B.A., University of California, Santa Cruz

Kirsten E. Stowe  
B.B.A., Howard University

Oran Subanakyo  
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Yidu Sun  
B.A., University of Southern California

Daniel J. Sykes  
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Melanie Tahmasian  
B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Frankie Tao  
B.A., Purdue University

Sevak Tatevosyan  
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Cristina A. Terrazas  
B.A., California State University, Northridge

Sarguis Terterian  
B.S., University of California, Santa Barbara

Jacob A. Thomasy  
B.A., California State University, Bakersfield  
M.A., California State University, Bakersfield

Adam L. Tobal  
B.A., Florida Atlantic University

Robert M. Torres  
B.S., California State University, Northridge

Sophia C. Tu  
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Emily Turi  
B.A., Purchase College

Carlos L. Valenzuela  
B.A., California State University, Long Beach

Martha M. Vasquez Hernandez  
B.A., University of Southern California

Ricardo I. Viscarra  
B.S.E.E., California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Mia Vitte  
B.A., University of California, Irvine  
M.A., University of Southern California

Ameer K. Wafer  
B.A., California State University, Northridge

Tiffany M. Wagner  
B.A., Saint Mary’s College of California

Zachary D. Wagner  
B.A., University of Southern California

Kaiyuan Wang  
B.A., University of Southern California

Jordan T. Webster  
B.A., California State University, Channel Islands

Frances G. Wood  
B.A., University of Washington

Sydney N. Woods  
B.S., Arizona State University

Kaisheng Yang  
B.S., Sichuan University - China  
M.B.A., University of California, Riverside

Alexander R. Vessanyantz  
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Francisco R. Yeverino  
B.F.A., Texas State University

Shabnam C. Youssefá  
B.A., University of California, San Diego

Chelsea Zaragoza  
B.A., California State University, Northridge

Jeffrey Zhang  
B.S., University of California, Santa Barbara

Camila Zhao Yingying  
B.A., University of California, Irvine

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Candidates for the Degree of Juris Doctor

Part-Time Evening Program

The evening program is a four-year comprehensive course of study designed for students who would like to pursue their J.D. degree on a part-time basis. The program’s schedule provides a way for students to attend law school while maintaining their full-time work responsibilities.

Robert E. Anich
B.F.A., The University of Akron

Rijenea Appling
B.S., California State University, Northridge

Hoervi A. Aryeetey
B.A., Loyola Marymount University

Angélica Cervantes
B.S., California State University, Long Beach

Alexandra Christensen
M.L., Evergreen State College

Daniel T. Cox
B.S., California State University, Northridge

Kevin P. Culpepper
B.A., California State University, Dominguez Hills

Dale A. Estrada
B.S., California State University, Los Angeles

Karen Gevorkian
B.S., California State University, Northridge

Bryan M. Gleason
B.A., Manhattanville College

Shahrzad F. Haddad
B.A., Arizona State University

Taranth H. Harirchi
B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Laura M. Hartman
B.A., California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Frank Cruz Herrera Jr.
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Natasha Komadina
B.A., Pepperdine University

Jason C. Lee
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Jacqueline G. Lendvai
B.A., Whittier College

Alexandria N. Lewis
B.A., University of California, Berkeley

David Lyons
B.A., California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Kisha Lyons
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Kimberly C. Morosi
B.A., University of California, Irvine

Rafael Muñoz Hernandez
B.A., California State University, Northridge

Daisy V. Parga
B.A., California State University, Los Angeles

Ann Park
B.A., Loyola Marymount University

Marianna Petrosyan
B.A., Yerevan State University - Armenia

Anthony C. Pirro
B.S., Arizona State University

Aaron J. Rafael
B.A., University of California, Irvine

Carla Lizbet Rosas-Hernandez
B.A., California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Leasley Salazar
B.A., Duke University

Allen G. Salgado
B.A., University of California, Irvine

Stephanie Mei-Wah Scamman
B.A., Occidental College

Meggan J. Selzer
B.S., Western Kentucky University

Esther K. Teixeira
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Victoria Van Tuyl
B.A., Pennsylvania State University

Dulce N. Velasquez
B.A., California Baptist University

Lene Viculin
B.A., Michigan State University

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PLEAS and Part-Time Day Program

PLEAS (Part-Time Legal Education Alternative at Southwestern) is one of only a very few part-time day programs in the country designed to accommodate students with child- or elder-care responsibilities. Established in 1981, the four-year PLEAS schedule is typically arranged to enable parents and guardians to attend law school while their children are in school. A select number of other students are granted a similar schedule. Part-time day students attend classes with traditional full-time students, taking a designated curriculum during the first two years of study. There are many opportunities for elective courses and externships during the final two years. Students take 8 to 11 units each semester and attend two summer sessions. Students must complete 87 units to graduate.

Elina S. Andjunyan PL
B.A., University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Coralee M. Carrell
B.A., California State University, San Bernardino

Alexandra Boyd Gargiulo
B.A., Dominican University of California

Lucy E. Hernandez***
B.A., University of Southern California
M.F.A., Antioch University

Zhuoting Liao PL
B.A., California State University, San Bernardino
M.B.A., California State University, Fullerton

Jesse Lucas PL
B.S., California State University, Los Angeles

Shawn Michael McKendry M1*
B.S., National University

Magdalena A. Mirisch-Krueger PL
B.A., Warsaw School of Economics - Poland

Iryna Naumova
B.A., American Jewish University

Brian S. Pocrass
B.A., University of Southern California
B.S., University of Southern California

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PL – PLEAS

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Candidates for the Degree of Juris Doctor

SCALE®—Two-Year J.D. Program

Established in 1975, SCALE is the first two-calendar-year accelerated J.D. course of instruction in the nation. SCALE students learn fundamental legal principles and develop core lawyering skills through an integrated curriculum that utilizes hypothetical problems as a teaching method while encompassing all essential subject matter taught in traditional required courses. Hands-on experience is provided in class and through externships in professional legal settings. SCALE’s intensive workload relies on total immersion and is designed to begin acclimating students to the rigors of law practice.

Mohamad H. Abdallah
B.A., Michigan State University

Anora Abramova T
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Taylor S. Ajlouny
B.B.A., University of San Francisco

Miya Briyona Allen
B.A., California State University, Northridge

Teni Amadian
B.S., California State University, Northridge

Sabrina Akasha Ames
B.S., Southern Utah University

Nupur Apte T
B.A., The Australian National University - Australia

Martin P. Avanesian
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Michael A. Azara
B.S., Michigan State University

Charlotte Bray M
B.A., California State University, Long Beach

Alexandra Chavez TS
B.A., California State University, Northridge

James H. Clark
B.A., University of Arizona

Julissa M. Colindres
B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Christopher R. Cornell
B.A., Abilene Christian University

Miakela M. Davenport
B.A., University of Maryland

Chelsea E. Dean
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Natalie Elias
B.A., California State University, Fullerton

Lindsay N. Gavigan
B.A., California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Mahnam Ghorbani T
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Katherine S. Giegoldt
B.S., California State University, Northridge

Christopher R. Jensen
B.A., California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Katherine Q. Johnson
B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Perry C. Jones
B.A., George Mason University

David J. Kim 1
B.S., University of California, San Diego

Hayanna Kim
B.A., Syracuse University

Vivian H. Kim 1
B.B.A., Loyola Marymount University

Jeffrey Y. Kozono 1 ∗
B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Robert Kwan
B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Laura R. Lascoe TS
B.M., Chapman University

Jeffrey A. Laufer
B.A., California State University, Northridge

Hui Liu
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Shireen L. Mahdavi
B.S., University of California, Irvine

Patricia A. Mamac
B.S., California State University, Northridge

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C – Law Commentator
B – J.D./M.B.A.
FD – Full-Time Day Program
SC – SCALE Program
** July 2022 Graduate
J.D./M.B.A. and J.D./E.M.B.A. Concurrent Degree Programs

In partnership with The Peter F. Drucker and Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management of Claremont Graduate University, Southwestern established concurrent-degree programs for students who wish to combine a J.D. and Master’s of Business Administration (M.B.A.) or a J.D. and Executive Master’s of Business Administration (E.M.B.A.). To earn the J.D./M.B.A. degree, students apply 16 units earned at the law school to the 60 units required for the M.B.A. degree and complete the remaining 44 units at Drucker. To earn the J.D./E.M.B.A. degree, an option for students with extensive management experience, students apply 10 units completed at the law school to the 48 units required for the E.M.B.A. degree and complete the remaining 38 units at Drucker.

Aaron Kohanoff
B.S., University of Southern California
M.B.A., Drucker School of Management

Mordechai E. Zilberstein
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles
M.B.A., Drucker School of Management

The following notation after a graduate’s name denotes participation in the corresponding program during law school. For a full description of the honors program, refer to pages 22 and 23.

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C – Law Commentator
B – J.D./M.B.A.
FD – Full-Time Day Program
SC – SCALE Program
** July 2022 Graduate

The following notation after a graduate’s name denotes participation in the corresponding program during law school.
Student Organizations

Moot Court Honors Program

The Moot Court Honors Program provides students with the opportunity to develop oral and written advocacy skills through competitions in appellate advocacy. Students who excel during the annual Moot Court Intramural Competition are invited to interview for Southwestern’s nationally recognized Moot Court Honors Program. Those selected represent Southwestern in regional and national interscholastic competitions as oralists, brief writers, or board advisors. Members of the Moot Court Board of Governors are selected based upon scholarship and participation in previous competitions. Southwestern’s moot court teams regularly win major regional and national awards for brief writing, oral appellate advocacy, and overall team excellence and have earned a reputation as one of the most active and successful moot court programs in the country.

Negotiation Honors Program

The Negotiation Honors Program provides students with the opportunity to develop and demonstrate core lawyering skills in the context of negotiating. Members of the program take part in competitions that allow them to apply the skills of legal research, writing, advocacy, and client counseling through negotiation exercises, expanding their experience in all aspects of legal practice. Top performing students in the annual Negotiation Intramural Competition are eligible to interview for the Negotiation Honors Program. The Negotiation Board of Governors, made up of experienced team members, coordinates both the intramural competition finals and team preparation for interscholastic competition.

Trial Advocacy Honors Program

The Trial Advocacy Honors Program provides students with the opportunity to develop oral advocacy skills through the annual Trial Advocacy Intramural Competition, the JEB (Joseph Esposito/Bill Seki) Competition, and interscholastic competitions in which Southwestern students compete against students across the nation. The program prepares students to be effective courtroom advocates who are able to conduct direct- and cross-examinations and present compelling opening statements and closing arguments. Students who excel in the Intramural rounds are eligible to apply for positions in the Trial Advocacy Honors Program and represent Southwestern in regional and national trial competitions. The Trial Advocacy Board of Governors, made up of experienced team members, coordinates both the Intramural Competition finals and team preparation for interscholastic competition.

Southwestern Law Review

The Southwestern Law Review is a student-edited journal that publishes scholarly articles and commentary on California and federal law from prominent jurists, law professors, practitioners, and students on the Law Review staff. Each student member of the Law Review has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and writing skills. Students ranked in the top ten percent of the first-year day and SCALE classes and second-year evening and PLEAS classes, as well as students who excel in the annual Summer Write-on Competition, are invited to participate. Members of the Law Review Executive Board are selected based upon scholarship, editing skills, legal research skills, extensive personal interviews, and overall contribution to the Law Review. Recent volumes of the Southwestern Law Review have examined environmental law, the First Amendment, labor law, family law, public interest law, health law, copyright, criminal procedure, the right to privacy, sexual harassment, and the federal and state Statutes of Limitation.
Southwestern Journal of International Law

The Southwestern Journal of International Law publishes scholarly notes and articles contributed by students and members of the legal community on issues that complement Southwestern’s extensive course offerings and faculty expertise in international and comparative law. Participation on the Journal allows students to develop their legal writing and research skills along with their substantive knowledge of topics covered by the Journal. Any Southwestern student in good academic standing who has completed at least the first-year day or SCALE program or at least the second-year evening or PLEAS program may compete in the summer Write-on Competition to earn a place on the Journal staff. Members who are recognized for outstanding contributions to the Journal are selected to serve on the Editorial Board during the subsequent year. Recent symposia, with proceedings later published in the Journal, have included “2021: International Law Ten Years From Now,” “The Future of the Exclusionary Rule: American and International Perspectives,” “Arctic Sovereignty: Cold Facts, Hot Issues,” “Abandoning the Inquisitor: Latin America’s Criminal Procedure Revolution,” “Antitrust and Intellectual Property in Global Context,” and “CAFTA and Commercial Law Reform in the Americas.”

Journal of International Media and Entertainment Law

The Journal of International Media and Entertainment Law is a semi-annual publication produced by Southwestern’s Donald E. Biederman Entertainment and Media Law Institute in cooperation with the Forums on Communications Law and the Entertainment and Sports Industries of the American Bar Association. The Board of Editors is composed of Biederman Institute faculty and members of the Forums’ committees. Students who are interested in entertainment and media law are selected to work with the Board on research, technical editing and other tasks. The first of its kind, the Journal promotes scholarship focused on the international dimension of media and entertainment law and addresses all aspects of international and comparative law in these areas, including topics related to content, regulation, intellectual property, distribution, publishing, Internet and technology, and transactions.

Student Bar Association

The Southwestern Student Bar Association (SBA), to which all students automatically belong, has been recognized several times as “the most outstanding student bar association” in the region and nation by the American Bar Association/Law Student Division and other entities. The SBA Board of Directors is composed of elected executive officers; the American Bar Association/Law Student Division representative; class representatives; and directors of appointed committees. The SBA sponsors programs and events to promote student interests, provides a variety of extracurricular experiences for students and encourages community service. Among the activities recently presented by the SBA and student organizations are the SBA Safe Spaces Series, PILC Trivia Bowl, Midnight Club and Sunrise Club, Hoover Toy Drive, and Bison Week festivities.

Law Commentator

The Law Commentator is a student-run news magazine produced by and for the Southwestern student body in print and online formats. The student editors develop editorial and news policies and determine coverage. Features of the publication include articles and commentary by students, faculty and administrators on campus programs and events, student accomplishments, alumni profiles, legal issues in the news, and media and entertainment developments.
Awards and Scholarships

Latin degrees cannot be determined until all grades have been completed and GPAs have been calculated.

Dean's Academic Leadership Award

The Dean's Academic Leadership Award was established by the Board of Trustees to provide scholarships to the highest-ranking upper-division students.

Sara Levine  
Kimberly C. Morosi  
Alex J. Welfringer

Dean's List

The top ten percent of each class (SCALE, day program, or part-time), based on annual GPA, determines who is on the Dean's List at the end of each academic year.

Arman Avagyan  
Nanor Babian  
Brynna Mia Bodair  
Coraliee M. Carrell  
Meghry S. Chopurian  
Alexandra Christensen  
Ariel F. Coto  
Ashley E. Crews  
Andres E. De La Cruz  
Pauline Demerjian  
Zehara H. Eden  
Alexandra B. Gargiulo  
Tannaz Ghayadi  
Christopher C. Gordon  
Chloe P. Graham  
Laura M. Hartman  
Perry C. Jones  
Jinni Kang  
David J. Kim  
Elisha B. Kohanbash  
Natasha Komadina  
Jeffrey Y. Kozono  
Uyen P. Le  
Christina M. Lee  
Sara Levine  
Tingyu Tiffany Lo  
Evon T. Martin  
Nicholas B. Mehlum  
Kimberly C. Morosi  
Anais N. Naylous  
Alvin Y. Okoreeh  
Lauren N. Polk

Dean's Fellows

Upper-division students in the top of their class are invited to serve as Dean’s Fellows. Selection is based upon their expertise and experience with particular courses and professors. Dean’s Fellows work with students on overall preparation and comprehension of coursework, and help students develop effective study strategies to maximize their opportunities for academic success.

Anora Abramova  
Sabrina Akasha Ames  
Brynn Mia Bodair  
Charlotte Bray  
Malak Cherkouai Jaouad  
Alexandra Christensen  
Ariel F. Coto  
Andres E. De La Cruz  
Pauline Demerjian  
Arturo Garcia  
Bryan M. Gleason  
Chloe P. Graham  
Kelsi D. Grau  
Sheila Hanley  
Laura M. Hartman  
Amira F. Heath  
Kimberly Hernandez  
Alexandra N. Isenberg  
Christopher R. Jensen  
Jinni Kang  
Mouna Kezbar  
Kentarou F. Kida  
David J. Kim  
Jeffrey Y. Kozono  
Jeffrey A. Lauffer  
Christina M. Lee  
Sara Levine  
Tingyu Tiffany Lo  
Evon T. Martin  
Nicholas B. Mehlum  
Kimberly C. Morosi  
Nolan A. Nardecchia  
Danielle L. Niemann  
Alvin Y. Okoreeh  
Lauren N. Polk  
Stephanie Mei-Wah Scamman  
Lyla H. Stone  
Kristin A. Strange  
Bryse K. Thornwell  
Sophia C. Tu  
Emily Turi  
Martha M. Vasquez Hernandez  
Alex J. Welfringer  
Mordechai E. Zilberstein
Dean’s Merit Award

The Dean’s Merit Award was established by the Board of Trustees to provide scholarships to upper-division students who have demonstrated academic excellence and are in the top thirty percent of their class.

Arman Avagyan
Nanor Babian
Steven T. Barile
David Anthony Beirne
Kyle Besa
Charlotte Bray
Alexandra Chavez
Malak Cherkaoui Jauoud
One S. Choi
Alexandra Christensen
Ariel F. Coto
Ashley E. Crews
Kevin P. Culpepper
Andres E. De La Cruz
Pauline Demerjian
Zehara H. Eden
Amanda Luisa Fazio
Rachel S. Feigelson
Arturo Garcia
Alexandra B. Gargiulo
Allegra A. Garside
Alexander Gasparian
Tannaz Ghayadi
Bryan M. Gleason
Christopher C. Gordon
Chloe P. Graham
Kelsi D. Grau
Shahrzad F. Haddad
Jacob H. Halajian
Sheila Hanley
Laura M. Hartman
Amira F. Heath
Kimberly Hernandez
Asher Y. Hoffman
Alexandra N. Isenberg
Hovanes Kalpakchian
Jinni Kang
Willow L. Karfiol
Mouna Kezbar
Alexander S. Khalil
Kentaro F. Kida
David J. Kim
Elisha B. Kohanbash
Natasha Komadina
Garen G. Kosyan
Jeffrey Y. Kozono
Jeffrey A. Laufer
Ivy N. Le
Uyen P. Le
Christina M. Lee
Jacqueline G. Lendvai
Zhuoting Liao
Tingyu Tiffany Lo
Abigail M. Lombardo
Jomari Carlo R. Lucero
Leslie V. Luis-Mendez
Evan T. Martin
Fabiola Martinez
Selena L. Matavosian
Shawn Michael McKendry
Nicholas B. Mehlum
Magdalena A. Mirisch-Krueger
Alexander J. Navi
Anaéis Naylous
Alvin Y. Okoreeh
Arnold Ovsepyan
Ann Park
Lauren N. Polk
Simone E. Poyourow
Aaron J. Rafael
Nancy I. Santiago Cortes
Stephanie Mei-Wah Scamman
Patrick Shahverdian
Lyla H. Stone
Kirsten E. Stowe
Sarguis Terterian
Bryse K. Thornwell
Sophia C. Tu
Emily Turi
Carlos L. Valenzuela
Martha M. Vasquez Hernandez
Dulce N. Velasquez
Zachary D. Wagner
Jordan T. Webster
Tasher N. Willet
Chelsea Zaragoza
Jeffrey Zhang
Camila Zhao Yingying
Mordechai E. Zilberstein

Biederman Scholars

The Donald E. Biederman Entertainment and Media Law Institute of Southwestern established the Biederman Scholars program in an effort to recognize academic excellence and expand opportunities for promising future entertainment lawyers. Students selected as Biederman Scholars are eligible for special externships, practicum placements in entertainment and media law firms, and other mentoring opportunities. To be considered as a Biederman Scholar, students must be in the top ten percent of their class and have a demonstrated interest in entertainment or media law. Candidates are selected by the Biederman faculty and approved by the Institute’s Executive Board.

Brynn Mia Bodair
Zehara H. Eden
Perry C. Jones
Stephanie Mei-Wah Scamman
Bryse K. Thornwell
The Wildman/Schumacher Scholarship program was established in 1983 in memory of Paul W. Wildman, who served Southwestern for 28 years as a student, faculty member, dean, and president, and Southwestern’s founder, John J. Schumacher, who championed legal education opportunities for students from a wide range of backgrounds and actively encouraged the enrollment of women and students of color long before other institutions did so.
The Public Interest Law Committee’s Summer Grant Program was established in 1990 with the mission of providing financial support to students seeking full-time summer clerkships with a nonprofit legal services organization providing no cost legal assistance to underserved, marginalized communities. This program makes it possible for students to acquire the practical experience necessary to address the needs of indigent communities. Recipients are selected annually based on the merit of their proposed summer clerk positions, participation in on-campus public interest activities, community work, and commitment to pro bono or public interest career practice.

George and Katrina Woolverton Public Service Award

Established in 2010 through the generosity of Southwestern alumni George ’75 and Katrina ’02 Woolverton, the George and Katrina Woolverton Public Service Award is given to one graduating student in recognition of demonstrated and extraordinary dedication to public interest law activities while at Southwestern.

Dorna Khazeni

Woolverton Family Public Interest Award

The Woolverton Family Public Interest Award honors one graduating student in recognition of exceptional dedication to public interest law activities while at Southwestern.

Jeffrey A. Martin

Harvey L. and Lillian Silbert Public Interest Fellowship Program

The Harvey L. and Lillian Silbert Public Interest Fellowship Program was established in 2000 by the Harvey L. and Lillian Silbert Foundation. This program permits students who are selected as Silbert Fellows to receive grants that will enable them to work and gain legal experience at non-profit public interest organizations. The Silbert Foundation’s generous gift not only assists numerous legal service providers but also benefits Southwestern students by providing them an opportunity to gain practical legal experience and exposure to public interest work.

Emily S. Goldberg

Martha M. Vasquez Hernandez

Public Interest Law Summer Grant Program

The Public Interest Law Committee’s Summer Grant Program was established in 1990 with the mission of providing financial support to students seeking full-time summer clerkships with a nonprofit legal services organization providing no cost legal assistance to underserved, marginalized communities. This program makes it possible for students to acquire the practical experience necessary to address the needs of indigent communities. Recipients are selected annually based on the merit of their proposed summer clerk positions, participation in on-campus public interest activities, community work, and commitment to pro bono or public interest career practice.

Public Interest Law Service Award

Southwestern’s Public Interest Law Service Award honors selected graduating students who demonstrated significant dedication to public interest law activities while at Southwestern.

Angelique O. Ajala

Emily S. Goldberg

Vivian H. Kim

Fabiola Martinez

Jovana T. Morales

Tatiana M. Owens

Markisha M. Roches

Eleni I. Rodriguez

Cristina A. Terrazas

Alex J. Welfringer
Public Service Program

Southwestern’s Public Service Program was established in 2009 to encourage students to perform 25 hours of service each year as part of the legal profession’s responsibility to ensure equal access to justice for all communities. In partnership with civil legal aid, nonprofit services organizations, and government agencies, students provide direct legal services, litigation and policy advocacy, and community legal education in a wide variety of settings and contexts. Students who perform a minimum of 75 hours of public service throughout their law school experience receive special recognition at Commencement and have the notation “Public Service Distinction” placed on their law school transcript.

Angelique O. Ajala
Charlotte Bray
Daniel T. Cox
Mikaela M. Davenport
Andres E. De La Cruz
Amanda C. Francisco
Kyla Autumn Garcia
Willow L. Karlfiol
Dorna Khazeni
Vivian H. Kim
Laura R. Lascoe
Tingyu Tiffany Lo
Abigail M. Lombardo
Jeffrey A. Martin
Fabiola Martinez
Cindy Medrano
Jovana T. Morales
Tatiana M. Owens
Christopher E. Phelps
Alixandra M. Powers
Diana Ramirez Vielman
Markisha M. Roches
Eleni I. Rodriguez
Michelle R. Slater
Cristina A. Terrazas
Alex J. Welfringer
Frances G. Wood
Chelsea Zaragoza

Judge Harry Pregerson Public Service Fellows

Made possible by a grant from the Rodan Family Foundation in honor of the esteemed 9th Circuit Judge, the Judge Harry Pregerson (JHP) Public Service Fellows are selected students who demonstrate exceptional dedication to public service, and who are most likely to dedicate their legal careers to working on behalf of underserved communities and causes. Through funded summer fellowships, specialized training, leadership development, and facilitated interaction with practitioners, academics, and like-minded students, JHP Public Service Fellows also serve as an integral part of creating service-minded culture, community, and leadership at Southwestern.

JHP Public Service Fellows undergo a competitive committee review process comprised of Southwestern faculty, staff, and alumni who select JHP Public Service Fellows on the basis of merit, potential for leadership, and demonstrated commitment or significant achievements in the fields of public service.

Jacqueline A. Flores Reyes
Dorna Khazeni
Jeffrey A. Martin
Tatiana M. Owens
Eleni I. Rodriguez
The History of Academic Dress

The traditional academic attire that we see as a colorful part of Commencement exercises had its beginnings in the Middle Ages when the university first developed as an institution of higher learning.

The most important centers of intellectual life in the 10th century were the monasteries—centers least affected by the disorders of the time. The relative stability of the monastic life left monks free to develop systematic graded education for the first time in the history of Western society. The first students were monks and priests, and the costumes they wore were more for protection from the weather than as distinctive regalia for the scholarly way of life. Caps were a necessity in the cold, drafty buildings and capes and hoods were also worn for warmth. In later centuries, as the British universities passed from the control of the monasteries, the costumes took on brighter colors, and the hood was singled out as the item to be made distinctive for various degrees by color, trimming, and lining.

The use of caps, gowns, and hoods has been continuous in the United States since Colonial times—the tradition having been transplanted from Oxford and Cambridge to the New World. However, the dress code was modified and the vivid colors so prevalent in Great Britain were eliminated. Prior to 1895, faculty academic costumes varied widely from university to university. Since few people knew the distinguishing marks or colors for the various degrees, the dress code was standardized for all American universities. At the same time, students began a movement which would spread throughout the country to make academic regalia an integral part of the commencement ceremony. A desire to make the festivities more impressive and interesting as well as to add grace and dignity to the ceremony led the students in this successful endeavor.

Southwestern students participating in today’s commencement ceremony are wearing regalia for the degrees of Master of Laws and Juris Doctor. The gowns for the Master of Laws degree have full, rounded sleeves marked with three purple velvet bars to indicate the completion of a master’s program. The gowns for the Juris Doctor degree have full, rounded sleeves marked with three black velvet bars to indicate the completion of a doctoral program. The academic hoods for both degrees bear purple and white edging identifying Southwestern Law School as the institution conferring the degree. The purple tassel signifies a legal studies degree.

Students who have been on the Dean’s List (top ten percent of each class at the end of each academic year) or participated in academic co-curricular honors or extracurricular service programs are wearing stoles in distinguishing colors as follows: Dean’s List—scarlet with white lettering; Dean’s Fellow—light green with white lettering; Moot Court Honors Program—white with purple lettering; Negotiation Honors Program—green with white lettering; Trial Advocacy Honors Program—purple with white lettering; Law Review—gold with purple lettering; Journal of International Law—purple with gold lettering; Journal of Media and Entertainment Law—silver with purple lettering; Los Angeles Public Interest Law Journal—maroon with silver lettering; Student Bar Association—navy blue with gold lettering; Law Commentator—light blue with white lettering; and the Public Service Program—blue with white lettering. Southwestern Torch Bearers are wearing silver cord, honoring their connection with Southwestern alumni, faculty, or staff members. Military Veterans are wearing red, white, and blue chords. Students with concentrations are distinguished as follows: Civil Litigation and Advocacy—gold; Criminal Law and Advocacy—teal; Entertainment and Media Law—purple; Labor and Employment Law—white; Public Interest Law—burgundy; and Technology Law and Entrepreneurship—royal blue.
Congratulations, Graduates!

This program contains official lists of names of graduates who received degrees in December 2021 and unofficial lists of names of candidates for May and July 2022 graduation. Degree conferral for anticipated May and July 2022 graduates is not official until final grades for the student’s final semester or term have been entered and graduation requirements have been verified. Southwestern’s official registry for conferral of degrees is the Registrar’s Office.