



SOUTHWESTERN

LAW SCHOOL
Los Angeles, CA

Commencement

May 2026

The Rose Bowl
1001 Rose Bowl Dr., Pasadena, CA 91103

Commencement Livestream

Scan the QR code below to see the ceremony livestream, or visit www.swlaw.edu/commencement2026



Katarina R. Monzon '26,
National Anthem Singer &
Christina S. Sorfazian '26,
Student Speaker

SOUTHWESTERN

LAW SCHOOL

Los Angeles, CA

111th Commencement Ceremony / Friday, May 15, 2026

Processional

Grand Marshals
Board of Trustees
Commencement Speaker
Honorary Degree Recipient
Administration
Faculty
Graduates

National Anthem

Katarina R. Monzon '26

Welcome

Darby Dickerson, President & Dean
Walter M. Yoka '80, Vice-Chair, Board of Trustees

Class of 2026 Address

Christina S. Sorfazian '26

Conferring of Honorary Doctor of Laws Degrees

Walter M. Yoka
Darby Dickerson

Recipients:

Hon. Consuelo Maria Callahan
Shawn Holley '88

Commencement Address

Shawn Holley '88

Conferring of Juris Doctor Degrees

Walter M. Yoka
Darby Dickerson
Professor John Heilman, Grand Marshal
Professor Richard Lorren Jolly, Grand Marshal

Tribute

Professor Isabelle R. Gunning (In Memoriam)

Greetings from the Alumni Association

Rachel Gezerseh '07,
President, Alumni Association Board

Recessional

Grand Marshals
Board of Trustees
Commencement Speaker
Honorary Degree Recipients
Administration
Faculty
Graduates

Honorary Degree Recipient

The Honorable Consuelo Maria Callahan



Judge Consuelo Maria Callahan serves as a United States Circuit Judge on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. She was appointed by President George W. Bush in May 2003, following a unanimous Senate confirmation. Judge Callahan received her bachelor's degree from Stanford University, her Juris Doctor from McGeorge School of Law, and her Master of Laws degree from the University of Virginia School of Law. Judge Callahan has also been awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Western University of Health Sciences and an honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of the Pacific.

Before her appointment to the federal bench, Judge Callahan was a state judicial officer (1986 to 2003), serving on both trial and appellate courts. She began her judicial career as Commissioner of the Stockton Municipal Court. She was subsequently appointed Judge of the San Joaquin County Superior Court and Justice of the California Court of Appeals for the Third Appellate District.

Before being appointed to the bench, Judge Callahan was a Deputy City Attorney in Stockton and a Deputy District Attorney for San Joaquin County. As a prosecutor, Judge Callahan prosecuted major felonies, including but not limited to child abuse, sexual assault, career criminals, and capital homicides.

Judge Callahan selflessly donates her time to committees and activities for both the court system and the public. As a state court judge, she was active in court governance and training as a member of the Board of the California Judges Association. She participated in the presentation of numerous programs sponsored by the Center for Judicial Training and Research. Judge Callahan is also a coauthor of The Rutter Group's California Practice Guide: Employment Litigation. In addition, she served as a Regent for the University of the Pacific from 2005–2014 and rejoined the Board in 2022, serving to the present. She is a current Trustee for Western University of Health Sciences and the American Inns of Court, where she serves as Chair and President, respectively.

Throughout her career, Judge Callahan has received numerous professional honors and awards. Judge Callahan has been honored as the 2005 Alumna of the Year and a 2024 Alumni of Distinction by McGeorge School of Law, as the 2006 Sacramento Judge of the Year, and as the 2008 ABOTA Humanitarian Judge of the Year. She is also a 2009 Athena Award recipient, the 2014 American Inns of Court Ninth Circuit Professionalism Award recipient, the 2016 Judge Armendariz Award recipient, and the 2017 University of the Pacific Alumni Award Recipient for Distinguished Public Service, and the 2023 Saint Thomas Moore Award recipient.

Commencement Speaker & Honorary Degree Recipient

Shawn Holley '88



Shawn Holley '88 is a partner at Kinsella Holley Iser Kump Steinsapir, a Los Angeles law firm where she practices entertainment/business litigation and criminal defense. She started her career as a Los Angeles County Public Defender, where she handled hundreds of serious criminal cases. After leaving the Public Defender's Office, she worked as an associate at the Law Offices of Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr., where she practiced civil litigation and criminal defense, notably as a member of the O.J. Simpson defense team.

Ms. Holley's list of past and present clients include Kanye West, Justin Bieber, Michael Jackson, Tupac Shakur, Snoop Dogg, Torey Lanez, T.I., Kathy Griffin, Rosario Dawson, Ryan Phillippe, Lindsay Lohan, Nicole Richie, Paris Hilton, the Kardashian/Jenner family, Katt Williams, Charlamagne tha God, Mike Tyson, "Sugar" Ray Leonard, Lamar Odom, Reggie Bush, and members of Black Lives Matter. She prevailed in a high-profile trial on behalf of Dodgers pitcher Trevor Bauer. Ms. Holley recently prevailed as co-lead counsel in the wrongful death trial, *Skaggs vs. Angels Baseball*.

Ms. Holley is also co-executive producer on a scripted television show inspired by her life and career, which is currently in its third season on Hulu.

Ms. Holley is a Los Angeles native who attended the University of California, Los Angeles, and Southwestern University School of Law. She is married to Dorian Holley, a prominent and well-known vocalist and vocal director. They have three daughters: Nayanna, Sasha, and Olivia. She loves books, music, and SoulCycle.

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In Loving Memory of Isabelle R. Gunning

Mayor Tom Bradley Professor of Law

Professor Isabelle R. Gunning, who passed away on March 28, 2026, was a beloved member of the Southwestern Law School community for more than three decades and a distinguished legal scholar, teacher, and civic leader whose life advanced justice in Los Angeles and far beyond.



She joined the faculty in 1992 and served as the inaugural Mayor Tom Bradley Professor of Law and the inaugural Director of the Critical Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Concentration. She was admired for the seriousness of her intellect, the moral clarity she brought to difficult questions, and the care with which she taught, mentored, and challenged those around her.

Her life in the law was shaped by the civil rights struggles of the 1970s and by a belief she carried throughout her career: that the law, even in a society marked by profound inequality, could still be made to serve justice. A foundational voice in critical race feminism and multicultural legal theory, she also brought that commitment into public life. She served as president of the ACLU of Southern California, later represented the affiliate on the National ACLU Board, and led the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations through difficult public work on policing, bias, and community trust.

Her legacy lives on in the students she shaped, the communities she served, and the institutions she helped strengthen in the pursuit of justice.

Administrators

President & Dean

Darby Dickerson

President & Dean

Vice Deans

Anahid Gharakhanian

Vice Dean and Co-Director, Externship Program

Natalie Rodriguez '12

Vice Dean

Julie K. Waterstone

Vice Dean for Experiential Education and External Engagement

Faculty Deans and Administrators

Luke Boso

Co-Associate Dean of Research

Alexandra D'Italia

Director of the Writing Center and Director, Moot Court Honors Program

Bridgette M. de Gyarfas '94

Director, Legal Analysis, Writing, and Skills Program and Director, Southwestern's Evening Hybrid Program

Margaret Hall

Associate Dean and Law Library Director

Jodi Jewell

B.A., J.D., Faculty Director, Parris Academy for Excellence in Law and Leadership

Nydia Johnson '10

Associate Dean, Academic Success and Bar Preparation

Cristina C. Knolton

Associate Dean for SCALE®

Janet Nalbandyan '04

Co-Director, Externship Program

Andrea Ramos

Director of Clinical Programs and Director of Immigration Law Clinic

Orly Ravid '14

Associate Dean of the Biederman Entertainment, Media, and Sports Law Institute

Sarah Schimmel

Co-Director of Negotiation Honors program and Associate Director of Bison Bar Pass Program

Byron G. Stier

Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives

Della Thompson-Bell '02

Caregiving Students' Co-Advisor

Tracy L. Turner

Associate Dean for Learning Outcomes

Rachel E. VanLandingham

Co-Associate Dean of Research

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Director of Facilities

Marcie Canal

Chief Operating Officer

Marisela Cervantes

Executive Director of Board Governance and Governmental Relations

Janet Dial

Vice President, Institutional Advancement

Sammy Elzarka

Assistant Dean of Accreditation Compliance and Institutional Effectiveness

Katrina Garcia

Director of Administrative Services

Michael Garcia

Director of Campus Safety and Security

Lisa M. Gear

Associate Dean for Admissions

Cindy Goldberg

Assistant Dean for Online Education Administration and Caregiving Students' Co-Advisor

Jordan Hall

Associate Dean, Student Services

Lauren Hughes-Leslie

Assistant Dean and Chief of Staff

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Director of Financial Aid

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Chief Communication & Marketing Officer

Robert Mena

Associate Dean for Student Affairs

Sean Murphy

Chief Information Officer

Laura T. Ponder

Chief Financial Officer

Chanté Spann

Assistant Dean, Online Education

Oscar Teran

Associate Dean of Career Services

Julie Xanders

General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

Eileen Zwiers

Registrar

Emeritus Staff

Doreen E. Heyer

Senior Associate Dean for Academic Administration Emerita

Debra L. Leathers

Associate Dean for Institutional Advancement Emerita

Candidates for the Degree of Master of Laws

General LL.M. Program

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.

Fulbright-José Siderman Human Rights Fellowship

In an effort to promote the training of young Argentine lawyers in civil liberties and human rights, the Fulbright Commission in Argentina and the family of José Siderman have established the Fulbright-José Siderman Human Rights Fellowship at Southwestern. The Fellowship brings an Argentine law graduate to Los Angeles to complete an LL.M. degree in Civil Liberties and Human Rights or an LL.M. degree in Advocacy at the law school.

The Fulbright Commission in Argentina selects one Siderman Fellowship recipient per year as part of its regular grant competition. The program involves nine months of study at Southwestern and a three-month externship. Applicants must be law graduates from an accredited Argentine law school and are selected based on their academic ability, English language fluency, and potential for furthering human rights and social justice in Argentina.

Andres Eduardo Melean Nava ¹✧

Abogado, Universidad Rafael Urdaneta – Venezuela

Rodrigo Albano Robles Tristan ¹*✧

LL.B., University of Buenos Aires – Argentina

The following notations after a graduate's name denote participation in the corresponding program during law school. For a full description of the honors program, refer to pages 21 and 22.

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** July 2026 Graduate

*** December 2026 Graduate

◆ Southwestern Torch Bearer

✧ Fulbright-José Siderman

Candidates for the Degree of Juris Doctor

Full-Time Day Program

Students who choose Southwestern's 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.

Konstantin Abajian

B.S., Pepperdine University

Ebehmalen O. Aboiralor^J

B.A., California State University, Fullerton

Firoozeh A. Adli

B.S., The Los Angeles Film School

Christian X. Aguayo

B.A., Point Loma Nazarene University

Evelyn M. Aguilar Chaidez^T

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Michael Angel Ahn^J

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

Aya Al Shehabi

B.A., California State University, Long Beach

Alexandria M. Alcalá^T

B.A., University of California, Irvine

Oksana Aldendeshe^{L^S}

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Anjelique S. Alexander

B.F.A., Chapman University

Mikayla Brook Grande Allaire^M

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Esperanza Alonso^J

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Maria P. Alvarez Saavedra

B.A., California State University, Fullerton

Ali Mohammed Amini^M

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Ronnie S. Anabi

B.S., Azusa Pacific University

Olivia Anderson

B.A., University of Washington

Emil Andreasyan^J

B.A., University of California, Riverside

Christineh E. Antinian^C

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Emiliano F. Arellano

B.A., California State University, Dominguez Hills

B.S., California State University, Dominguez Hills

Carl Ashbel

B.S., California State University, Northridge

Sevada Avartzarian

B.A., California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Ani Avoyan

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Sioneh Azarian^J

B.A., University of Southern California

Nicole Bala^L

B.A., Gonzaga University

Serge Balassian

B.A., University of California, Berkeley

George A. Banna^J

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Daniela Barragan

B.A., University of California, Irvine

Nathan J. Barukh

B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Juliet Bernal^J

B.A., American University of Paris - France

Brooke M. Betts

B.A., University of Texas, Austin

Norman Bhuian^L

B.A., University of Southern California

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V – Military Veteran

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*** December 2026 Graduate

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Arielle Z. Bitton ^{*}
B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Lynette Bonyadi ^{*}
B.S., California State University, Northridge

Astgik Boyadzhyan
B.A., California State University, Northridge

Tierra M. Boyd [†]
B.A., Seton Hall University

Laurence C. Brahm
B.F.A., New York Film Academy

Baylyne Joy Brunetti ^S
B.A., University of San Diego

Jeffrey W. Burke
B.S., American University

John Matthew C. Camara ^{1S V}
B.A., Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Kierra K. Capurro ^{1S}
B.A., University of Nevada, Reno

Andrew J. Castaneda ^L
B.A., California State University, Fullerton

Amanda Castro
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Natalie Centi
B.A., Fairleigh Dickinson University

Mary Sami Chammas [†]
B.A., California State University, Fullerton

Madison P. Conway ^{ML}
B.B.A., University of San Diego

Alexis M. Cornejo-Peril ^T
B.A., University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Kassandra H. Cuellar
B.A., Loyola Marymount University

Rebecca Cunha
B.S., Arizona State University

Kane H. Davies
B.S., Sonoma State University

Samuel A. Dayan
B.A., Fairleigh Dickinson University

Nayelie De Santiago
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Cassandra De Vera
B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Nicholas G. Demirjian ^{1*}
B.A., California State University, Northridge

Madison G. Dobson ^{ML}
B.S., University of Kansas

Jesse Dorfman
B.S., California State University, Northridge

Donovan J. Dragon
B.S., University of California, Irvine

Karina Elliana DuBourdieu ^{†*}
B.A., University of California, San Diego
B.S., University of California, San Diego

David Enayati
B.S., California State University, Northridge

Devyn Ray Espino-Canche [†]
B.A., California State University, Long Beach

Selena Estrada ^M
B.A., University of California, Irvine

Alexi Ezdrin ^T
B.A., The Pennsylvania State University

Amir Fattahi
B.A., University of California, San Diego

Andres Fernandez
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Miranda M. Flores-Tirado ^S
B.A., Kalamazoo College

Inioluwa Praise Gbenjo [†]
B.A., Howard University

Arpi N. Gevorgyan
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Alexandra Ghassemieh
B.A., University of Southern California
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Yervant G. Hadjian ^{*}
B.S., University of Southern California

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B.S., Northeastern University

Nathaniel Haroonian ^{*}
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Sofya Harutyunyan ^L
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Connor W. Haviland ^L
B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

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B.A., University of California, Riverside

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B.A., Chapman University

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Elen Hovhannisyan
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Miranda C. Hughes ^{T†}
B.A., San Francisco State University

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M.A., University of Southern California**Melissa B. Keshishian**B.A., University of Southern California
M.S., University of Southern California**Izabelle H. Khanzetyan**^S

B.A., University of Southern California

Lina Khodaverdi^CB.A., California State Polytechnic
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Ph.D., University of Southern California**Chorok Kim**

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B.A., San Jose State University

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B.A., University of California, Riverside

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San Marcos**Jack A. Lehrer**

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Jiaxing Lin

B.A., University of California, Riverside

Cian Logue^{*}

B.S., Northern Arizona University

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B.A., California State University, Northridge

Saul Lopez-Pulido^S

B.A., University of California, Irvine

Daniel J. Lozada

B.A., University of California, Davis

Davit Malkhasyan

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

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University, Pomona**Zion Marzini Rabanepur**^{*}

B.A., University of California, Berkeley

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M.A., Loyola Marymount University**Madison S. McPhearson**

B.S., William Jessup University

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B.A., California State University, Northridge

Rhea Mehra^N

B.A., University of California, Riverside

Elena S. Melehani

B.S., University of California, Santa Barbara

Jonathan A. Midolo

B.S., California State University, Northridge

Nicole Marie Milner^{LSV}B.A., University of North Carolina
at Charlotte**Anasheh Mirzaians**^M

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Jeremy D. Neutel

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Charlie Phu Nguyen^{LJ}

B.A., California State University, Fullerton

Harmanjit Nijjer

B.A., San Francisco State University

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and Entertainment Law*

C – *Law Commentator*

V – Military Veteran

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*** December 2026 Graduate

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B.A., University of California, Irvine

Xthlali Nunez †

B.A., California Lutheran University

Natalie O'Rourke †

B.S., Arizona State University

Michael Elizabeth Orton †

B.S., University of Nevada, Reno

Matthew G. Ospina †

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Kaylin H. Pak

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Alisson S. Pena

B.A., University of California, Irvine

Leah Perez †

B.A., University of California, Irvine

Juan C. Pinon

B.A., University of California, Riverside

Allen Poghosyan

B.S., California State University, Northridge

Eric J. Rachmani

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Zachary C. Radin

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Nellie Rafaelian †

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Kristina M. Ramirez †

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara
M.S., Arizona State University

Andrew Ramos †

B.A., University of California, Irvine

Ariana M. Reynoso †

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

John A. Riordan †

B.S., Chapman University

Melinda E. Rivas

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Nicholas B. Rodriguez †

B.A., University of California, San Diego

Samantha V. Rosales

B.S., California Lutheran University

Nicolas D. Ruiz

B.A., California State University, Northridge

Odelia Safadel

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Deeba Saffarian-Toosi

B.A., Boston University

Kamilla Salikhova †

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Jenna A. Samuelian

B.S., Southern Illinois University,
Carbondale

Hector D. Sanchez

B.S., California State University,
Los Angeles

Kohar E. Sanikian

B.A., California State University,
Long Beach

Lia Sarkisian *

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Daniel Sasson

B.A., University of California, Davis

Rachel J. Schneider

B.A., Pitzer College

Alex J. Schott

B.S., University of Colorado, Boulder

Nicholas Scopazzi-Beatty

B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Zareh C. Shahinian †

B.A., University of California, Riverside

Nicole S. Sharifi

B.A., University of California, Irvine

Shivani Sharma

B.A., University of La Verne

Nathaniel A. Shaumyan

B.S., California State University, Northridge

Sandra Shenouda

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Angela Sheu

B.A., New York University

Emily Shirvanian †

B.A., California State University, Los
Angeles

Arsen Shirvanyan

B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Bethany R. Shrove

B.A., University of California, Irvine

Nolan K. Silverstein †

B.A., Wake Forest University

Hera Simonian

B.A., California State Polytechnic
University, Pomona

Cindy Sinaie

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Chance P. Sinerius

B.A., California State University,
Long Beach

Naomi L. Sirota †

B.Com., Toronto Metropolitan University -
Canada

Christina S. Sorfazian †

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Kristofer W. Sosa †

B.A., Loyola Marymount University

Ana Sofia Soto †

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Raad Soudani^J

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Alyssa V. Stevenson^I

B.A., University of Colorado, Boulder

Shira Striks

B.A., Thomas Edison State University

Maryam Sudzhyan^C

B.A., Loyola Marymount University

Jacob Susman

B.S., University of Colorado, Boulder

Madison D. Sutlovich

B.A., University of Oregon

Sadaf Tabibzadeh

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Michelle Nareh Tahmasian^{*}

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Lorenzo Jose N. Tanlu

B.A., Trinity University

Lianna Tashchian

B.S., California State University, Northridge

Roderick S. Tatanian

B.S., University of Southern California

Anush Ter-Ghukasyan

B.S., California State University, Northridge

Tina Toonian

B.S., California State University, Northridge

Antonio Torres

B.A., San Diego State University

Mina R. Trujillo

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Hou Min Tsai^{*}

B.S., University of California, Davis

Lindsay Q. Tucker

B.B.A., Whitworth College

Michael M. Tufenkchian^C

B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Esteban Urzua^T

B.A., California State University, Northridge

Carla P. Vallejo Hernandez^{*}

B.A., University of California, Merced

B.S., University of California, Merced

Brittany N. Van Horn

B.A., Northern Arizona University

Kristiana A. Varela^T

B.A., University of California, Merced

Jacquelyn Vasantachat

B.A., University of California, Berkeley

M.S.W., University of Southern California

M.S.C.J., University of Southern California

Samouel Vaseghyzand

B.A., University of California, Irvine

Paola Velazquez^S

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Jonathan I. Vergara-Diaz

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Joel Vidal-Cortes^I

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Ethan K. Wang

B.A., University of California, Irvine

Sean P. Wilkins

B.A., California State University, Northridge

Lauren Wonn^L

B.A., University of California, Riverside

Keaton T. Woodburn^J

B.A., Pepperdine University

Kenneth M. Yadidi^{*}

B.A., University of California, San Diego

Charles J. Yeganeh

B.A., University of California, San Diego

Alexander L. Yessayan^{S*}

B.S., University of Southern California

Isabella T. Zemshman

B.A., California State University, Northridge

M.S., California Lutheran University

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V – Military Veteran

* December 2025 Graduate

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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. Students must complete 87 units to graduate.

Xiomara Angel

B.A., Occidental College

Alejandra Chavez

B.S., California State University,
Dominguez Hills
M.P.S., The Pennsylvania State University

Stephanie Cohen

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Jeremy J. Davison ^{ML}

B.M., California State University, Long
Beach

Gisell Del Carmen ^{MI}

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Olivia O. Dilas ^I

B.A., University of Novi Sad - Serbia
M.A., The George Washington University
M.A., Tel Aviv University - Israel

Madison N. Eckardt ^S

B.A., University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Roman J. Henson ^M

B.S., Charter Oak State College

Graciela A. Hernandez

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Roberto Jr. Hernandez

B.A., University of California, Davis

Nathan H. Lhrar ^{LJ}

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Vanessa M. Lopez ^T

B.A., California State University,
Long Beach

Jessenia Marie Medina

B.A., University of Southern California

Kelvin Monroy

B.A., California State University, Fullerton

Summer Peachey

B.A., California State University, Fullerton
M.P.A., National University

Ekaterina K. Perez ^{IJP}

B.A., University of Southern Queensland –
Australia
B.S., Far Eastern Federal University - Russia
M.A., University of New Haven

Katrina L. Petty ^J

B.A., California Lutheran University

Natalie Renee Resendiz ^J

B.S., Mount Saint Mary's University

Leslie Rodriguez

B.A., University of California, Irvine

Claire P. Schweighofer

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Aman M. Shamim

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Ediberto Soto Del Moral ^{LJ}

B.S., Pepperdine University
M.B.A., Pepperdine University

Mary S. Sutton ^V

B.S., University of California, San Diego

Michael Witt

B.A., Muhlenberg College
M.S., University of Pennsylvania

Anthony K. Wong

B.A., University of California, Davis

Christopher E. Yanchev

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Mark A. Zambon ^V

B.S., California State University,
Sacramento

Candidates for the Degree of Juris Doctor

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.

Lucas A. Berman *

B.A., New York University

Tatiana S. Faus ^{LPL} ♦

B.A., Kuban State University - Russia

Gustavo R. Guevara

B.A., University of California,
Los Angeles

Qlehd Mernell C. Guiwa ^{N*}

B.A., Point Loma Nazarene University

Elizabeth T. Houston ^{PL}

B.A., Sonoma State University

Monique Madrid

B.A., Mount Saint Mary's University
M.L.S., Loyola Law School

Michael G. Mardini ♦

B.A., California State University,
Northridge

Shakeh Nikogosyan

B.A., California State University,
Northridge

Rachel F. Perkins ^{LPL}

B.B.A., Belmont University

Amanda M. Von Essen

B.A., University of California,
Santa Barbara

Cian L. Williams

B.A., The University of British
Columbia - Canada

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International Law*

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and Entertainment Law*

C – *Law Commentator*

V – Military Veteran

PL – PLEAS

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*** December 2026 Graduate

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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. Students must complete 87 units to graduate.

Jacob M. Akopnik ^{SI}

B.A., California State University, Northridge

Lina Gregorian Alexander ^{NI***}

B.S., University of California, Santa Barbara

Natalie Tina Altounian ^{MI}

B.A., University of California, Berkeley

Derrian C. Annan

B.A., California State University, Northridge

Alfred Jordan S. Arizala ^N

B.A., Loyola Marymount University

Sergey Asatryan

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Courtney Hannah Azari ^{JS}

B.A., University of Southern California

Alison P. Beck

B.A., University of Southern California

Lauren N. Brasesco ^{TL}

B.M., Azusa Pacific University

Breanna S. Caal

B.A., California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

John D. Campbell IV

B.A., Pepperdine University

Zack A. Castorina ^{T***}

B.S., University of Oregon

Andrew Sungkyu Choi

B.A., University of California, Irvine

Zara G. Davis ^{NI}

B.A., University of Kansas

Erin M. Doyle ^{*}

B.S., University of Southern California

Lauren E. Duffy ^{*}

B.A., University of Washington

Jeffrey E. Eaker

B.A., Arizona State University

Wessal Esber Fabela ^{ML}

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara

Zachary J. Fiumara ^T

B.S., Loyola Marymount University

Albert Hovhannisyann ^L

B.S., Greensboro College

Marina R. Kaye ^J

B.A., California State University, Northridge

Xitlaly E. León

B.A., University of California, Davis

Stephen J. Liem ^{***}

B.A., University of California, Irvine

Valeria Linan

B.A., University of California, Merced

Tucker Bradley Morgan ^N

B.A., San Francisco State University

Donya Noori ^{*}

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Savannah N. Panah^I

B.M., Portland State University
M.M., Boston University

Luke Pastor^L

B.A., University of Southern California

Sara E. Pelayo^J

B.A., California State University, Northridge

West Pesina

B.A., San Francisco State University

Samuele J. Protano^N

B.A., University of California, Santa Cruz

Hannah Robinson^N

B.S., Utah State University
M.Ed., Utah State University

Samantha L. Scadron

B.A., Pace University

Mallory Baird Smith^{***}

B.S., Syracuse University

Justine M. Stange

B.A., California State University,
Los Angeles

Alyssa P. Steinfeld^{IJ}

B.S., Chapman University

John Sun

B.S., Arizona State University

Aris Terteryan

B.S., California State University, Northridge

Rebecca M. Trujillo

B.A., California State University, Northridge

Stephanie D. Urena

B.A., California State University, Fullerton
M.A., University of California, Irvine

Rebekah Verghese^{***}

B.S.A., University of Texas, Austin

Leila O. Wazana

B.A., Loyola Marymount University

Omeed J. Zokaeim

B.S., University of California, Los Angeles

J.D./M.B.A. Concurrent Degree Program

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 Masters of Business Administration (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.

Fiona C. Cheung^{B FE *}

B.A., University of California, Berkeley
A.D., The Juilliard School
M.B.A., Drucker School of Management

The following notations after a graduate's name denote participation in the corresponding program during law school. For a full description of the honors program, refer to pages 21 and 22.

M – Moot Court Honors Program

N – Negotiation Honors Program

T – Trial Advocacy Honors Program

S – Student Bar Association

L – *Southwestern Law Review*

I – *Southwestern Journal of International Law*

J – *Journal of International Media and Entertainment Law*

C – *Law Commentator*

V – Military Veteran

* December 2025 Graduate

** July 2026 Graduate

*** December 2026 Graduate

B – J.D./M.B.A.

FE – Full-Time Evening Program

♦ Southwestern Torch Bearer

Student Organizations

Moot Court Honors Program ^M

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. Southwestern has earned a reputation as one of the most active and successful moot court programs in the country.

Negotiation Honors Program ^N

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 ^T

The Trial Advocacy Honors Program provides students with the opportunity to develop oral advocacy skills through the annual Trial Advocacy Intramural Competition, the JEBS (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 competitions.

Southwestern Law Review ^L

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 Production Exercise 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 civil rights and social justice, tort law and emerging technologies, immigration law, international and humanitarian law, bankruptcy and economic justice, environmental regulation, and the evolving landscape of legal education.

***Southwestern Journal of International Law*¹**

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 in 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 Production Exercise 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. Symposia, with proceedings later published in the *Journal*, have included "In the Shadow of Territorial Conflict Symposium: Legacies of Soviet-Era Media Control and Speech Norms," "Fake News and Weaponized Defamation: Global Perspectives," and "Freedom of Information Laws on the Global Stage: Past, Present, and Future."

***Journal of International Media and Entertainment Law*¹**

The *Journal of International Media and Entertainment Law* is a semi-annual publication produced by Southwestern's Donald E. Biederman Entertainment, Media, and Sports 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, media, and sports 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^S

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 Bison Vote: Electioneering and Managing a Campaign Event, the PILC Trivia Bowl, and the Hoover Toy Drive.

***Law Commentator*^C**

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.

Zara G. Davis
Jeremy J. Davison

Connor W. Haviland
Isabel Kasch

Dean's List

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

Evelyn M. Aguilar Chaidez
Oksana Aldendeshe
Carl Ashbel
Nicole Bala
Lauren N. Brasesco
Andrew J. Castaneda
Fiona C. Cheung
Madison P. Conway
Alexis M. Cornejo-Peril
Zara G. Davis
Jeremy J. Davison
Madison G. Dobson
Erin M. Doyle

Wessal Esber Fabela
Alicia N. Govea
Henry S. Hand
Connor W. Haviland
Elizabeth T. Houston
Elen Hovhannisyann
Emma Suzanne Idiart
Isabel Kasch
Kyle A. Legge
Jack A. Lehrer
Nathan H. Lhrar
Nicole Marie Milner
Harmanjit Nijjer

Luke Pastor
Leah Perez
Rachel F. Perkins
Ariana M. Reynoso
Nicholas B. Rodriguez
Nicolas D. Ruiz
Zareh C. Shahinian
Nolan K. Silverstein
Naomi L. Sirota
Mary S. Sutton
Lauren Wonn

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.

Alexandria M. Alcala
Anjelique S. Alexander
Mikayla Brook Grande
Allaire
Emil Andreasyan
Lauren N. Brasesco
Fiona C. Cheung
Madison P. Conway
Alexis M. Cornejo-Peril
Zara G. Davis
Nayelie De Santiago
Gisell Del Carmen
Lauren E. Duffy
Wessal Esber Fabela

Connor W. Haviland
Roberto Jr. Hernandez
Elizabeth T. Houston
Albert Hovhannisyann
Elen Hovhannisyann
Isabel Kasch
Laura Kato
Ethan Korn
Lauren LaBorde
Nicole Marie Milner
Kelvin Monroy
Natalie O'Rourke
Luke Pastor
Ekaterina K. Perez

Leah Perez
Kristina M. Ramirez
John A. Riordan
Hannah Robinson
Nicholas Scopazzi-Beatty
Zareh C. Shahinian
Sandra Shenouda
Nolan K. Silverstein
Chance P. Sinerius
Naomi L. Sirota
Alyssa P. Steinfeld
Lauren Wonn

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.

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Evelyn M. Aguilar Chaidez | Tatiana S. Faus | Allen Poghosyan |
| Oksana Aldendeshe | Andres Fernandez | Nellie Rafaelian |
| Lina Gregorian Alexander | Alicia N. Govea | Kristina M. Ramirez |
| Mikayla Brook Grande | Gina N. Greco | Ariana M. Reynoso |
| Allaire | Yervant G. Hadjian | John A. Riordan |
| Emil Andreasyan | Henry S. Hand | Melinda E. Rivas |
| Carl Ashbel | Sofya Harutyunyan | Hannah Robinson |
| Sioneh Azarian | Connor W. Haviland | Nicholas B. Rodriguez |
| Nicole Bala | Roman J. Henson | Nicolas D. Ruiz |
| George A. Banna | Graciela A. Hernandez | Kamilla Salikhova |
| Nathan J. Barukh | Elizabeth T. Houston | Samantha L. Scadron |
| Lucas A. Berman | Albert Hovhannisyan | Nicholas Scopazzi-Beatty |
| Brooke M. Betts | Elen Hovhannisyan | Zareh C. Shahinian |
| Norman Bhuian | Emma Suzanne Idiart | Nolan K. Silverstein |
| Lynette Bonyadi | Hovhanes H. Karageozyan | Chance P. Sinerius |
| Lauren N. Brasesco | Isabel Kasch | Naomi L. Sirota |
| Andrew J. Castaneda | Laura Kato | Ediberto Soto Del Moral |
| Natalie Centi | Melissa B. Keshishian | Raad Soudani |
| Fiona C. Cheung | Lauren LaBorde | Alyssa P. Steinfeld |
| Madison P. Conway | Kyle A. Legge | Madison D. Sutlovich |
| Alexis M. Cornejo-Peril | Jack A. Lehrer | Mary S. Sutton |
| Kane H. Davies | Nathan H. Lhrar | Lindsay Q. Tucker |
| Zara G. Davis | Alexis E. Lopez | Michael M. Tufenkchian |
| Jeremy J. Davison | Frances C. McCall | Stephanie D. Urena |
| Gisell Del Carmen | Nicole Marie Milner | Jonathan I. Vergara-Diaz |
| Nicholas G. Demirjian | Anasheh Mirzaiaans | Lauren Wonn |
| Madison G. Dobson | Devon W. Moreland | Charles J. Yeganeh |
| Jesse Dorfman | Charlie Phu Nguyen | Alexander L. Yessayan |
| Erin M. Doyle | Harmanjit Nijjer | |
| Donovan J. Dragon | Luke Pastor | |
| Lauren E. Duffy | Ekaterina K. Perez | |
| Selena Estrada | Leah Perez | |
| Wessal Esber Fabela | Rachel F. Perkins | |

Writing Fellows

Upper-division students with strong writing skills are invited to serve as fellows for the Writing Center. Selection is based on their academic performance, a writing sample, and ability to teach students. Writing Fellows work with students on the writing process, basic writing style, organization, grammar, and punctuation. They focus on strengthening students' writing and rewriting skills in the context of their writing classes and externships to prepare them to excel in the legal workplace.

Kane H. Davies
Andrew Ramos

Wildman/Schumacher Scholarship

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.

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Konstantin Abajian | Erin M. Doyle | Hovig M. Manoyan |
| Firoozeh A. Adli | Donovan J. Dragon | Zion Marzini Rabanepur |
| Evelyn M. Aguilar | Lauren E. Duffy | Frances C. McCall |
| Chaidez | Jeffrey E. Eaker | Madison S. McPhearson |
| Michael Angel Ahn | Madison N. Eckardt | Kiran Mehr |
| Jacob M. Akopnik | David Enayati | Rhea Mehra |
| Oksana Aldendeshe | Devyn Ray Espino- | Elena S. Melehani |
| Anjelique S. Alexander | Canche | Nicole Marie Milner |
| Lina Gregorian Alexander | Wessal Esber Fabela | Kelvin Monroy |
| Mikayla Brook Grande | Amir Fattahi | John Hovik Nahabedian |
| Allaire | Andres Fernandez | Dzina Nelson |
| Natalie Tina Altounian | Zachary J. Fiumara | Charlie Phu Nguyen |
| Maria P. Alvarez Saavedra | Miranda M. Flores-Tirado | Harmanjit Nijjer |
| Ronnie S. Anabi | Inioluwa Praise Gbenjo | Donya Noori |
| Olivia Anderson | Artyom Ghabuzyan | Angela Noravian |
| Emil Andreasyan | Annabel Gholichian | Natalie O'Rourke |
| Xiomara Angel | Rachel M. Glusak | Michael Elizabeth Orton |
| Derrian C. Annan | Julia Gonzalez | Matthew G. Ospina |
| Christineh E. Antinian | Alicia N. Govea | Kaylin H. Pak |
| Alfred Jordan S. Arizala | Gina N. Greco | Savannah N. Panah |
| Sergey Asatryan | Gustavo R. Guevara | Luke Pastor |
| Sioneh Azarian | Yervant G. Hadjian | Sara E. Pelayo |
| Nicole Bala | Henry S. Hand | Alisson S. Pena |
| George A. Banna | Nathaniel Haroonian | Leah Perez |
| Daniela Barragan | Sofya Harutyunyan | West Pesina |
| Nathan J. Barukh | Connor W. Haviland | Katrina L. Petty |
| Lucas A. Berman | Roman J. Henson | Allen Poghosyan |
| Juliet Bernal | Roberto Jr. Hernandez | Eric J Rachmani |
| Brooke M. Betts | Graciela A. Hernandez | Kristina M. Ramirez |
| Norman Bhuian | Ashley G. Hight | Andrew Ramos |
| Arielle Z. Bitton | Albert Hovhannisyan | Natalie Renee Resendiz |
| Lynette Bonyadi | Elen Hovhannisyan | Ariana M. Reynoso |
| Tierra M. Boyd | Miranda C. Hughes | John A. Riordan |
| Laurence C. Brahm | Jamie L. Hunt | Hannah Robinson |
| Lauren N. Brasesco | Emma Suzanne Idiart | Nicholas B. Rodriguez |
| Jeffrey W. Burke | Nicole C. Jackson | Nicolas D. Ruiz |
| John Matthew C. Camara | Hovhanes H. | Jenna A. Samuelian |
| Kierra K. Capurro | Karageozyan | Lia Sarkisian |
| Andrew J. Castaneda | Nicholas Karkanen | Daniel Sasson |
| Zack A. Castorina | Isabel Kasch | Samantha L. Scadron |
| Amanda Castro | Laura Kato | Alex J. Schott |
| Alejandra Chavez | Marina R. Kaye | Nicholas Scopazzi-Beatty |
| Stephanie Cohen | Michaela Noelani Kemna | Zareh C. Shahinian |
| Madison P. Conway | Melissa B. Keshishian | Aman M. Shamim |
| Alexis M. Cornejo-Peril | Izabelle H. Khanzetyan | Nathaniel A. Shaumyan |
| Kassandra H. Cuellar | Ethan Korn | Sandra Shenouda |
| Rebecca Cunha | Pamela D. Lazo Villatoro | Angela Sheu |
| Kane H. Davies | Kyle A. Legge | Emily Shirvanian |
| Zara G. Davis | Jack A. Lehrer | Arsen Shirvanyan |
| Jeremy J. Davison | Nathan H. Lhrar | Bethany R. Shrove |
| Samuel A. Dayan | Jiaxing Lin | Nolan K. Silverstein |
| Nayelie De Santiago | Liliana K. Lopez | Cindy Sinaie |
| Cassandra De Vera | Saul Lopez-Pulido | Chance P. Sinerius |
| Nicholas G. Demirjian | Daniel J. Lozada | Naomi L. Sirota |
| Madison G. Dobson | Monique Madrid | Ana Sofia Soto |
| Jesse Dorfman | Davit Malkhasyan | Raad Soudani |

Justine M. Stange
Alyssa P. Steinfeld
Maryam Sudzhyan
John Sun
Jacob Susman
Mary S. Sutton
Michelle Nareh
Tahmasian
Lorenzo Jose N. Tanlu
Lianna Tashchian
Anush Ter-Ghukasyan
Aris Terteryan
Antonio Torres
Rebecca M. Trujillo
Lindsay Q. Tucker

Stephanie D. Urena
Esteban Urzua
Jacquelyn Vasantachat
Rebekah Verghese
Joel Vidal-Cortes
Ethan K. Wang
Leila O. Wazana
Sean P. Wilkins
Michael Witt
Anthony K. Wong
Lauren Wonn
Keaton T. Woodburn
Christopher E. Yanchev
Charles J. Yeganeh
Alexander L. Yessayan

Isabella T. Zemshman
Omeed J. Zokaeim

Biederman Scholars

The Donald E. Biederman Entertainment, Media, and Sports 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 entertainment and media law educational, networking, and other mentoring opportunities. To be considered as a Biederman Scholar, students must be in the top twenty percent of their class, have excelled in Copyright, and have a demonstrated interest in entertainment, media, sports, or music law. Candidates are selected by the Biederman faculty and Associate Dean of the Biederman Institute.

Oksana Aldendeshe
Norman Bhuian
Zara G. Davis
Henry S. Hand

Connor W. Haviland
Melissa B. Keshishian
Nolan K. Silverstein
Naomi L. Sirota

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.

Nicole Bala

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.

Miranda M. Flores-Tirado

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 nonprofit 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.

Natalie O'Rourke

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.

Alexandria M. Alcala
Esperanza Alonso
Nathan J. Barukh
Baylynnne Joy Brunetti
Alexis M. Cornejo-Peril
Andres Fernandez
Alicia N. Govea
Vanessa Hernandez
Emma Suzanne Idiart
Lauren LaBorde
Madison S. McPhearson

Eva Mooradian
Nellie Rafaelian
Melinda E. Rivas
Nicolas D. Ruiz
Bethany R. Shrove
Justine M. Stange
Jacquelyn Vasantachat
Paola Velazquez
Jonathan I. Vergara-Diaz
Sean P. Wilkins
Isabella T. Zemshman

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.

Esperanza Alonso
Emiliano F. Arellano
Olivia O. Dilas
Melinda E. Rivas
Paola Velazquez
Isabella T. Zemshman

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.

Emiliano F. Arellano
Courtney Hannah Azari
Nicole Bala
Astagik Boyadzhyan
Baylynnne Joy Brunetti
Kassandra H. Cuellar
Nayelie De Santiago
Olivia O. Dilas
Miranda M. Flores-Tirado
Vanessa Hernandez

Jamie L. Hunt
Xitlaly E. Leon
Eva Mooradian
Natalie Renee Resendiz
Zareh C. Shahinian
Bethany R. Shrove
Raad Soudani
Jacquelyn Vasantachat
Paola Velazquez
Isabella T. Zemshman

There Is a Light Foundation Scholars

The There Is a Light Foundation Public Service Scholarship was established by Arash Homampour '92 in 2024. This scholarship recognizes upper-level students who demonstrate a strong commitment to public service, leadership, and academic excellence, empowering a new generation of advocates dedicated to making a meaningful impact in their communities.

Esperanza Alonso
Nicole Bala
Baylynnne J. Brunetti
Kierra K. Capurro
Stephanie Cohen
Alexis M. Cornejo-Peril
Gisell Del Carmen
Olivia O. Dilas
Wessal E. Fabela
Miranda M. Flores-Tirado
Qlehd Mernell C. Guiwa
Vanessa Hernandez

Jamie L. Hunt
Lauren LaBorde
Saul Lopez-Pulido
Madison S. McPhearson
Devon W. Moreland
Matthew G. Ospina
Natalie R. Resendiz
Hannah Robinson
Hector D. Sanchez
Justine M. Stange
Paola Velazquez
Isabella T. Zemshman

Parris Academy for Excellence in Law & Leadership

The Parris Academy for Excellence in Law & Leadership was established by Carrol and R. Rex Parris '80 in 2024. The Phase 3 Award recognizes students who have demonstrated exceptional leadership by completing a comprehensive leadership development program, serving in significant leadership roles, and designing, implementing, and defending a capstone leadership project.

Courtney Hannah Azari

The History of Academic Dress

VINTAGE SOUTHWESTERN CLASS PHOTO



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—the 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. Before 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 that 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 have full, rounded sleeves marked with three purple velvet bars. 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 (the 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; Writing Fellow—light purple 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 cords, honoring their connection with Southwestern alumni, faculty, or staff members. Military veterans are wearing red, white, and blue cords. Students with concentrations are distinguished as follows: Civil Litigation and Advocacy—gold; Criminal Law and Advocacy—teal; Critical Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies—forest green; 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 2025 and unofficial lists of names of candidates for May, July, and December 2026 graduation. Degree conferral for anticipated May, July, and December 2026 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.