The Business Law Emphasis Program was designed to enable students to learn to practice law on behalf of, or in matters concerning, companies and trade associations. The program also illustrates how to utilize legal knowledge to contribute to the entrepreneurship and prosperity of a business. Students explore aspects of international business, mergers and acquisitions, business start-ups, bankruptcy, taxation, and accounting. Students who complete the Business Law Emphasis Program will receive a certificate and transcript notation.

Ryan Chavez (’09)
Chief Finance Officer and General Counsel
Asterias Biotherapeutics, Inc.

Alumni Spotlight – Business Law
Chapman University Fowler School of Law alumnus Ryan Chavez (’09) is Chief Finance Officer and General Counsel at Asterias Biotherapeutics, Inc., where he oversees all financial aspects of the publicly traded biotechnology company.

When Ryan joined Asterias in 2016, the company’s President and Chief Executive Officer noted, “Ryan’s financial and legal background and prior experience within the healthcare industry will continue to be instrumental…. He has quickly become a key member of our leadership team.”

Prior to joining Asterias, Ryan was Vice President and General Counsel of Mallinckrodt’s Autoimmune and Rare Disease Division. Before joining Mallinckrodt, he served as Associate General Counsel at Questcor. Prior to joining Questcor, he worked at the law firms of Stradling, Yocca, Carlson & Rauth and Rutan & Tucker. Previously, Mr. Chavez served in various financial roles at General Electric Company.

Ryan earned his J.D., magna cum laude, from Chapman University School of Law and his B.A., with honors and distinction, from Stanford University. In law school, he was Editor-in-Chief of the Chapman Law Review.

Select Employers & Externship Opportunities
- Angels Baseball
- Asterias Biotherapeutics, Inc.
- CoreLogic
- K&L Gates
- Koeller, Nebeker, Carlson & Haluck, LLP
- Microsemi
- Niagara Bottling, LLC
- Rutan & Tucker LLP
- Toshiba
- VIZIO

Related Student Organizations & Competition Teams
- Business Law Society
- Health Law Society
- Intellectual Property Law Society
- Tax Law Society
- Advocacy & Dispute Resolution Board
REQUIRED COURSES
- Corporations or Business Associations
- Federal Income Tax
- Financial Accounting

EMPHASIS ELECTIVE OPTIONS
- Administrative Law & Practice
- Business Planning
- Corporate Stock & Asset Acquisition
- Employment Law
- In-House Corporate Counsel
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Taxation of Business Organizations
- Secured Transactions
- Securities Regulation

EDUCATION
Harvard Law School, Juris Doctor, magna cum laude
University of Chicago, B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in Economics

PRIOR CAREER HIGHLIGHTS
- Dean of Chapman University Fowler School of Law
- Presidential Fellow and Fletcher Jones Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law, Chapman University Fowler School of Law
- Bank of America Dean and Professor of Business, UC Berkeley Haas School of Business
- Professor of Law, Stanford Law School
- Member, United States Congress
- Member, California State Senate
- Director, California Department of Finance
- White House Fellow, Office of the Chief of Staff
- Executive Assistant to the Deputy Attorney General, United States Department of Justice
- Director of the Bureau of Competition, Federal Trade Commission
- Member, California Governor’s Board of Advisors
- Law Clerk for Justice Byron White, Supreme Court of the United States
- Law Clerk for Judge George E. MacKinnon, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
- Member, Board of Editors, Harvard Law Review

Learn more about Chapman’s Business Law Emphasis Program at http://www.chapman.edu/law/academic-programs/emphasis-areas/business-law.aspx