



 **CHAPMAN**
UNIVERSITY

Fowler School of Law

SPRING 2025

AMICUS



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LETTER FROM THE DEAN

KENNEDY HALL | MAY 1, 2025

At its best, advocacy is about good story-telling. So what's the story from the Fowler School of Law this year?

As you'll read in these pages, advocacy lives large – a legacy of competition teams in moot court, mock trial, appellate advocacy and ADR laying the foundation for extraordinary achievement: the largest number of national team victories in our history, individual recognition for our students, and a huge win in the most acclaimed and most popular entertainment law competition in the country the first time Chapman entered. I had the privilege of meeting a mother/daughter duo from the first Chapman Law class who gifted us a vintage competitions teams letterman jacket, tying our past to our present. Most importantly, though, our competitions teams students are known for their collegiality, professionalism and ethics – personal priorities for me and all characteristics interwoven into the rich culture of classes and extracurricular activities captured in words and images in these pages.

Serving as a resource for non-partisan legal information and education has also been a priority for me since starting as Dean in June 2023, and this year built on last. We launched a new series – SCOTUS in Focus, with expert professors providing incisive analysis and commentary on the cases before the Supreme Court. We hosted an extraordinary Law Review Symposium on looted art that drew national attention to a subject receiving continuing focus; an Entertainment Law Symposium exploring the transformative impact of artificial intelligence on the changing industry our students are about to enter; and a panel to a packed house put together by students from the newly formed National Security and Intelligence Law society. An extraordinary debate between Professors Tom Bell and Lawrence Rosenthal on the Second Amendment demonstrated the value of vigorous and respectful disagreement. Our sponsorship of the showing of



the documentary on Doss v Bernal with the OC Hispanic Bar Association tied us to the judiciary and to the legal history of Orange County. The research by our faculty featured in these pages is only a small window into the rich array of articles, books, papers and presentations that keep their expertise in demand and inform their work as teachers in classrooms that we rightly claim are focused on "encouragement, not intimidation."

That culture, intimate class size and well-deserved reputation for preparing professionals for the future also draws an increasingly accomplished student cohort. For the second year in a row we admitted the most qualified class (as measured by LSATs and GPAs) ever; we moved up in US News to the highest ranking we've had since 2012; we leapt to record high #56 nationwide in trial advocacy and received top 100 specialty rankings in both international law and tax; our 2024 ultimate bar passage rate after one year is 85.84% and our 2023 ultimate rate after 2 years, an important metric for accreditation, is an astounding 94.96%. Career placement remains very strong, and employers and alumni remind me how proud they are of being Chapman graduates. The alumni we profile here are but a small sampling of the remarkable attorneys who give their time, advice and support so generously.

So what's the story? We remain a place centered on our mission: "The Fowler School of Law is a place where future lawyers prepare for life as professionals and officers of the court, providing the groundwork for a lifetime of legal service." It's been a privilege to serve as Dean for this second year of extraordinary achievement and community. Enjoy reading!

DR. PAUL D. PATON

Dean and Donald P. Kennedy Chair in Law

CELEBRATING UNCOMMON EXCELLENCE

**PROFESSOR GEORGE WILLIS & ANNALISA GOODE**

Professor George Willis and Administrative Assistant Annalisa Goode were both named to the 2024 American Association of Law Schools (AALS) Pro Bono Honor Roll for faculty and staff, respectively. Nominated for his work as Director of the Tax Law Clinic at the Fowler School of Law, with invaluable staff support from Annalisa Goode, Professor Willis has represented low-income taxpayers for the past 25 years on a pro bono basis, serving hundreds of taxpayers with federal tax problems every year and educating taxpayers regarding their rights.



DEAN PAUL PATON was appointed as the only US-based commissioner of the IBA's Commission on the Future of Legal Services for 2025, reappointed as co-chair of the IBA Alternative and New Business Structures Committee and named Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.



PROFESSOR RICHARD REDDING was elected as a member of the American Law Institute (ALI). The role of the ALI is to produce scholarly work to clarify, modernize and improve the law, making his membership a distinct personal and professional honor.



JOE KAHN (3L) caps off an undefeated list of advocacy competition wins (24-0, including wins in two national contests) this year by being honored as a 2025 National Association of Legal Advocacy Educators (NALAE) Academic All-American Advocate.



JONATHAN BARONE (3L) a veteran and former US Navy submariner, recognized for his work establishing the FSOL student-led Veterans Advocacy Law Society, has been named by the American Association of Law Schools (AALS) in its 2024 pro bono honor roll.



PROFESSOR MARIO MAINERO (right) has been selected as Fowler School of Law's Professor of the Year, and **PROFESSOR LAN CAO** (left) has been voted as 1L Professor of the Year for 2024-25. Fierce commitment to student excellence and indelible classroom presence ensure that both remain faculty and student favorites, as well as exemplary icons of the best that Chapman's Fowler School of Law has to offer its students and the broader academic and legal communities.



BUSINESS LAW

CORPORATE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

SUSANNA K. RIPKEN | 2024

ABSTRACT

Classic theories of civil disobedience endorse the right of individuals to commit illegal acts to protest unjust laws and policies. Acts of civil disobedience have historically played a central role in exposing injustice and producing vital legal and social change. The literature on civil disobedience is vast; political and legal theorists have long recognized the contributions of individual legal resisters in the ongoing pursuit of a just society. Little attention has been given, however, to intentional lawbreaking by organizational entities that seek to protest unjust, illegitimate, or discriminatory laws. This article addresses that gap by exploring the prospect of corporate civil disobedience and revealing its potential to transform law in furtherance of democratic ideals.

If the purpose of civil disobedience is to draw attention to perceived injustices, provoke public dialogue over controversial issues, and catalyze legal reform, that purpose can arguably be fulfilled by a corporate person equally as well as an individual one. This article explains how corporate entities can commit conscientious breaches of law to counter problematic rules and policies. Defiance of the law comes with costs and risks, but legal resistance by entities can provide value in a society that understands the importance of dissenting voices in enhancing democratic debate. Highlighting several theoretical, normative, and doctrinal questions surrounding corporate civil disobedience, this article sketches a framework for viewing corporate civil disobedience as a potentially useful tool in a well-functioning democratic system.



Susanna K. Ripken, *Corporate Civil Disobedience*, 100 Ind. L. J. 249 (2024)

HIGHLIGHTED EXCERPTS

Acts of civil disobedience are controversial. No one enthusiastically endorses deliberate lawbreaking as an ideal practice. Rather, civil disobedience is tolerated in a liberal democracy because it can produce important legal reforms when other measures have proven ineffective. Civil disobedience is subject to several criticisms that highlight the problems associated with legal resistance in general. Corporate lawbreaking in particular poses specific challenges and potential costs that require careful consideration.

Page 274

Several past and potential examples of entity lawbreaking reveal the possible scope of an organizational form of civil disobedience. In discussing the following examples, this article does not contend that all the dissenting entities held the moral high ground, nor does it suggest that the offending law in each case deserved to be breached. Rather, the point of the discussion is to demonstrate that principled breaches of law may be performed not only by individuals but also by collective entities, with the aim of contributing to the public debate over what is the most just pathway for the polity overall. Collective entities in various contexts have resisted laws in ways that bear similarities to civil disobedience. Page 265



Susanna Kim Ripken holds the William P. Foley II Chair in Corporate Law and Taxation and teaches business law at the Fowler School of Law. She is the author of several scholarly works on corporate and securities law, including the book *Corporate Personhood*. She has received numerous awards for her scholarship and her teaching.

ABA ANTITRUST MAGAZINE

THE ECONOMICS CASE FOR THE CONSUMER WELFARE STANDARD IN ANTITRUST

TOM CAMPBELL | AUGUST 30, 2024

The American Bar Association publishes a treatise, “Competition Laws Outside the United States,” with chapters on forty-seven countries across Asia, Europe, the Americas and Australia. There is only one entry for all of Africa: South Africa. This shocking oversight was what compelled me to devote my fall, 2024, sabbatical semester to creating a compendium of Africa’s antitrust laws, accessible to competition lawyers and judges across the globe.

I have long had an interest in Africa. My wife and I have taught business law and economics on seven occasions at four different universities in Africa: the Kigali Institute of Science and Technology in Rwanda, the School of Banking and Finance in Rwanda, the University of Asmara in Eritrea and Ashesi University in Berekuso and Accra, Ghana. When I was a Member of the United States Congress, I served on the Africa Subcommittee of the International Relations Committee and undertook official travel to over twenty sub-Saharan countries. On each occasion, I would meet with representatives of the government, local businesses, and American firms doing business in those countries. I would ask specifically about the status of government regulation of competition between economic actors. At Chapman, and before that at Berkeley and Stanford, I have taught antitrust law for many years. From all these experiences, it came naturally to me to devote my sabbatical to studying the antitrust laws in Africa.

I made a study of the antitrust (competition) laws of Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Angola, Rwanda and South Africa. In addition to specific countries’ antitrust structures, Africa is characterized by several powerful cross-border competition regimes as well, with investigators, courts and published rulings in the antitrust area. Chief among these

are the Economic Community of West African States, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the East African Community, and the West African Economic and Monetary Union.

Each competition regime in sub-Saharan Africa that I studied incorporates prohibitions against collusion between competitors and abuse of a market-dominant position by a firm with market power. Enforcement is entirely by the government, rather than by private parties, with the exception of Kenya and South Africa. All countries and regional organizations require prior approval for mergers above a certain size within their jurisdictions, except the West African Economic and Monetary Union. The countries disagreed on whether political boundaries could take precedence over economically realistic boundaries in determining a relevant market—a key concept in deciding whether a firm has market power. The countries also differed on whether considerations of public policy other than economic factors could be considered by the antitrust authorities. (In the case of South Africa, eliminating the vestiges of apartheid is explicitly identified as one of those kinds of factors.) All countries and organizations except Rwanda included charging too high a price to consumers as a potential antitrust violation; Rwanda alone followed the US model of avoiding controls on the absolute level of prices (while condemning price discrimination).



Campbell, Tom, *The Economics Case for the Consumer Welfare Standard in Antitrust*, 38 *Antitrust Magazine* 3 (Summer 2024)



Dr. Tom Campbell’s principal area of academic work is in the application of economics to legal questions. He has served as Dean of the Haas School of Business, UC Berkeley, Professor of Law at Stanford, a member of the United States Congress, as a member of the California State Senate and the director of the California Department of Finance.

LAND USE

THE POWER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO INVALIDATE PRIVATE DEED RESTRICTIONS

KEN STAHL | 12 FEBRUARY, 2025

ABSTRACT

Many cities and states facing a severe housing crisis have taken steps to reform restrictive land use regulations that block the production of new housing. These efforts have been hindered, however, by the prevalence of homeowners associations that impose overlapping restraints on housing production through private deed restrictions. In response, many cities and states have considered enacting laws to “override” or invalidate these private deed restrictions. In a previous article, I argued that state legislatures have the power to override private deed restrictions, notwithstanding potential arguments under the Constitution’s Takings and Contract Clauses. Increasingly, however, local governments have also been taking the initiative to reform their land use regulations. Accordingly, this article takes on a related question—do local governments have the power to override covenants?

This question is more complicated because the doctrine of home rule and other related principles place some limitations on local land use powers that do not apply to state governments. In particular, local governments may be restricted in their ability to affect “private law” obligations, possibly including the enforceability of private deed restrictions. Nevertheless, I argue that local governments do have the power to override covenants, and that, in fact, local governments may be better positioned to do so than state governments are.



Stahl, Kenneth, *The Power of Local Governments to Invalidate Private Deed Restrictions* (February 11, 2025). Iowa L. Rev. (forthcoming 2025/2026)

Local governments possess knowledge of local conditions that enable them to tailor overrides appropriately, and local governments’ sensitivity to the concerns of landowners makes it unlikely that they would overreach in regulating private property rights. More broadly, local government scholars today are divided over whether local land use control has the potential to be something more than just a license for NIMBYs (“Not in My Backyard”) to block needed housing. This article shows that local power and local knowledge need not be synonymous with “no,” and there is a way to affirm the capabilities of local democracy without it devolving into unchecked parochialism.

HIGHLIGHTED EXCERPT

Fortunately, many local governments are already rising to the occasion and reforming zoning regulations to accommodate their fair share of the regional housing need. If these reforms are to be truly meaningful, however, local governments may need to take the next step and override covenants that impede the progress of zoning reform.

Page 44



Kenneth Stahl is the director of the Environmental, Land Use, and Real Estate Law certificate program at Chapman University Fowler School of Law. His scholarly work focuses on the relationship between the local political process and judicial doctrine in land use and local government law.

CRIMINAL LAW

SUICIDE'S SHADOW: THE EVOLUTION OF A GHOST CRIME

SCOTT HOWE | JUNE, 2025

ABSTRACT

Law treats suicide as malfeasance—a display of mental illness and worse, a ghost crime that has never left us. While states no longer criminally punish suicide, they detain and force mental-health treatment on many who attempt it, or indicate they might attempt it, and threaten criminal sanctions against those who aid or encourage it. For these and other reasons, the suicide label functions not merely as a description of an event but as a censure.

A lengthy, legal history, fueled originally by religion but then tempered by pragmatism, led to these circumstances and can largely rationalize relevant legal doctrines and practices as they currently operate. Yet a countervailing view of consensually hastened deaths as often acceptable has powered a continuing movement for reform. It is possible to envision in the distant future the culmination of this effort in the acceptance of suicide as a right or privilege. However, the movement in its present stages has sought to elide rather than directly challenge law's suicide prohibition.

Success has come most notably through legislated suicide exemptions in several states that authorize doctors to prescribe for certain terminally ill patients a lethal dose of medicine that the patient can self-administer. More states will likely follow what has already begun. But if the exemption movement is not to stall with terminally ill patients who self-administer prescribed medicine, what is the immediate path forward? This article distinguishes between advances that can be achieved without defying the negative conceptions of suicide that currently prevail and other advances that would begin to seriously undermine law's anti-suicide regime. In the former category are

Howe, Scott, *Suicide's Shadow: The Evolution of a Ghost Crime*. (June, 2025). *Mo. L. Rev.* (forthcoming 2025/2026)

We regret the omission of a QR Code link to the complete article, a limit of the author's agreement with the Missouri Law Review. Mo. L. Rev. is slated to publish this article in June, 2025.

exemptions that cover consensually hastened deaths that are plausibly called natural and other exemptions for deaths that, with changes to official reporting practices, can at least be characterized as not suicide (or homicide). Yet this article concludes that there is no apparent inflection point along the way that can define an area of potentially permanent stasis. Law's anti-suicide system may well continue evolving through the distant future until suicide becomes a right or privilege.

HIGHLIGHTED EXCERPT

A transition to understanding suicide (including consensual euthanasia) as often acceptable eventually would help undermine suicide's ghost-crime status. Reformers may not do well to push this perspective soon, however, because negative conceptions of suicide may be too powerful, pervasive, and enduring to allow the effort to succeed. Indeed, the reform movement will likely continue to sidestep the suicide prohibition rather than try directly to undermine it. Yet the distinction between exempted, consensually hastened death, and acceptable suicide is illusory at a fundamental level, even if such a distinction is helpful in securing suicide exemptions. And when consensually hastened deaths become legitimized in various contexts and the understanding that they equate with suicide prevails, what now seems implausible will become tangible.



Scott Howe has substantial experience both as a criminal defense lawyer and as a law professor in the fields of criminal law, criminal procedure and evidence. He has served as an attorney for the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, and as Deputy Director of the Texas Death Penalty Resource Center in Austin, Texas.

FORGING PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY | JUSTIN CRUZ

College and law school recruitment events are often where many Chapman law students first connect with the Fowler School of Law. This year, our admissions team attended over 100 events across the U.S., Hawaii and Canada, in an effort to attract a talented incoming class. The results speak for themselves: Our fall 2024 class includes students from 67 undergraduate institutions, representing 43 majors, 12 states and 6 countries, including Argentina, Armenia, Canada, Egypt, Korea and Peru. With many students speaking languages such as Arabic, Armenian, Farsi, Korean, Russian and Spanish, the class is truly international.

The 2024/25 academic year has been an action-packed year for our Admissions Office: We hosted the 2025 California LAW Pathways Summit, a two-day event that brought together over 200 attendees, including prospective law students, professors and advisors. The summit featured a college and law school fair with 28 participating institutions. Just one year after receiving the 2024 California Law Pathways Educational Pipeline Award for the annual Fowler School of Law Pre-Law Winter Institute, Chapman saw this program grow by 10%, with double the number of pre-law advisors attending compared to previous years.

With multiple admissions events throughout the year and strong partnerships with the Career Service Office, the Dean's Office, faculty and students, our Admissions team is perfectly positioned to support prospective law students. Whether it's about admissions, scholarships or the unique opportunities at the Fowler School of Law, we're here to guide every aspiring student on their journey.





1. Congressman Lou Correa encourages prospective law students 2. Associate Dean of Admission and Diversity Initiatives Justin Cruz 3. Director of Admission and Diversity Initiatives Nichole Dudley 4. Prof. Scott Howe presenting a mock law class 5. An audience of prospective students 6. Our Scholars Weekend event 7. Alumni panel

2024 1L ENTERING CLASS PROFILE

JD APPLICATIONS

2082

ENTERING STUDENTS

143

ACCEPTANCE RATE

27%

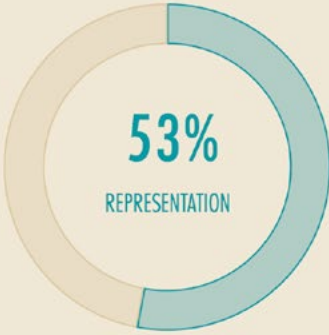
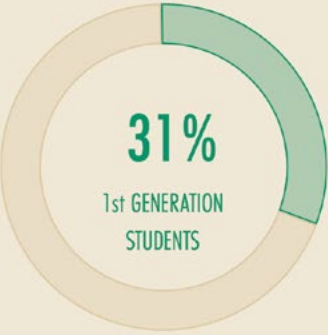
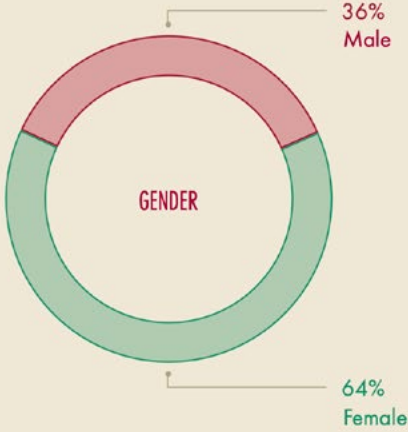
STUDENT : FACULTY RATIO

8:1

GPA | LSAT SCORES

PERCENTILE	GPA	LSAT
75TH	3.84	164
MEDIAN	3.67	162
25TH	3.27	156

STUDENT AGE RANGE



RAISING THE BAR, A TEAM EFFORT | MARIO MAINERO

As tough as exams get, the California bar exam represents a formidable hurdle in the career of a lawyer, requiring rigorous and diligent preparation from graduating law students across the state. Fowler School of Law's Bar Preparation team, under the watchful guidance of Associate Dean Mario Mainero and Assistant Dean Sarira Sadeghi, serves to provide exceptional support to our bar-takers, supplementing commercial review programs with up to three group preparation sessions each week, grading thousands of written submissions and providing feedback, to best prepare Fowler students to meet this challenge each July.

In July 2024, one hundred and two Fowler School of Law graduates passed the California Bar Exam, posting a well-earned 75% successful pass rate for first-time bar-takers from our school.

When viewed in context, this achievement speaks volumes about how seriously the Fowler School of Law takes bar preparation: Of the 8,600-plus individuals who wrote the bar exam in July, almost half—46.5% failed the exam; new graduates from California ABA-accredited schools enjoyed an 81% pass rate; and out-of-state ABA-accredited schools saw a 75% pass rate for their first-time bar-takers. Fowler School of Law students consistently deliver excellent bar passage results, typically in the upper tail of the passage rates for ABA-accredited California law schools.

We applaud every graduate who passed the CA-Bar in 2024, overcoming this final hurdle to their chosen profession. We applaud our Fowler graduates as well as the faculty, staff and alumni who worked tirelessly to secure this wonderful achievement for the school and our 2024 graduates. Well done to you all.



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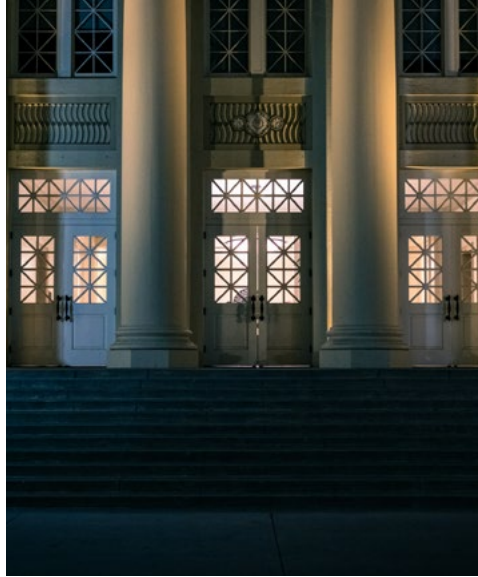


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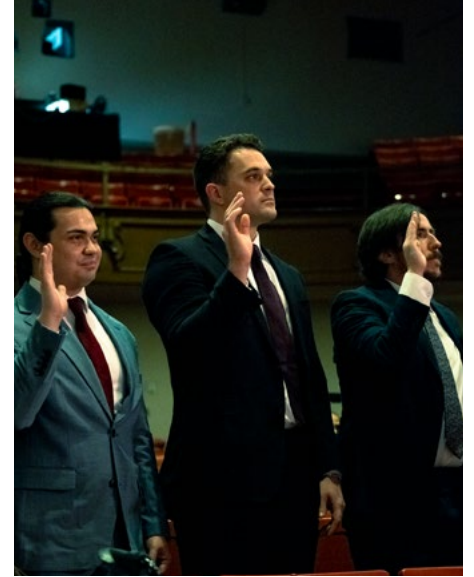
1. Setting up for the bar preparation session
2. Assistant Dean for Academic Achievement Sarira Sadeghi working with the bar-takers
3. & 4. The class settles in for their bar preparation session
5. Dean for Bar Preparation and Academic Achievement Mario Mainero presents to the group



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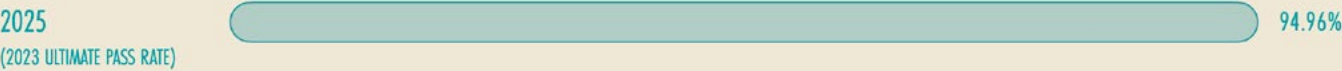


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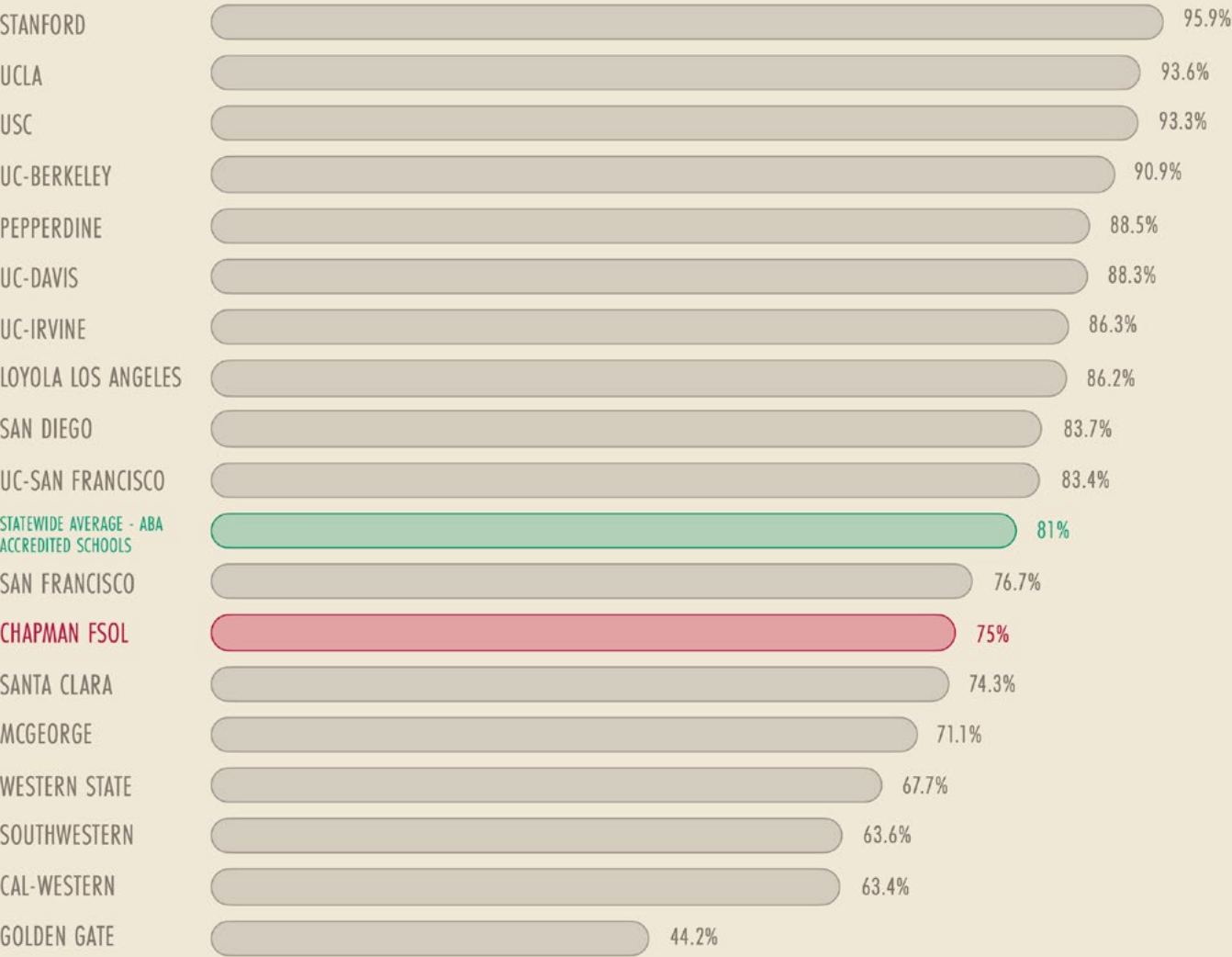
6. Dean Paul Paton welcomes the Bar Ceremony audience
 7. Memorial Hall exterior
 8. Graduates take the oath
 9. The Honorable Stephen T. Hicklin congratulates alumna Jodie Storm Sullivan
 10. The Honorable Ronald A. Clifford III addresses the audience
 11. Graduates stand for the oath

BAR PASSAGE

TWO-YEAR ULTIMATE BAR PASSAGE RATE



2024 ABA-ACCREDITED CALIFORNIA LAW SCHOOL BAR PASSAGE RATES



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS DRIVE EXCEPTIONAL EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES | CAMILLE HEENAN

"Professional."

"Well-prepared."

"Impressive."

These are just a few examples of the feedback our Career Services Office (CSO) consistently receives from employers about Fowler School of Law students—a reflection of not only the dedication of our students, but also the commitment and support provided by our Career Services team.

Beginning in October of their 1L year, each student is paired with a designated Career Services advisor—an individual who serves as their coach, partner and advocate throughout their time at Fowler.

Our advisors provide personalized guidance, exclusively tailored to each student's interests and career goals.

All first-year students also participate in Fowler's signature Professional Development Program, designed to build confidence, strengthen application materials and develop essential professional skills. This program has featured guest speakers from the Riverside County District Attorney's Office, Sheppard Mullin, the Orange County Bar Association and many Chapman alumni from local law firms. Through resume and cover letter workshops, interview preparation and discussions about

diversity and civility in the legal profession, students gain the tools they need to succeed in their summer internships and beyond.

A key strength of the Career Services Office is its deep connection with networks of employers across the Southern California legal market. Many of these partners, ranging from law firms to corporate legal departments, to public agencies and nonprofit organizations, consistently recruit and hire Fowler students. The CSO also maintains strong relationships with all five branches of the U.S. Military JAG Corps, regularly hosting them on campus to meet with students.



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1. Assistant Dean of Career Services Camille Heenan during a student workshop 2. Students engage in a CSO info session 3. Director Kristen Spada O'Brien, Esq. assists a student 4. Dean Paul Paton welcomes a US Army JAG officer 5. 1L Students during a resume planning session 6. Assistant Director of Career Services Rebecca Rogers, Esq.

Through the CSO’s recruiting programs and targeted outreach, students connect with a broad cross-section of the legal profession. Each fall and spring, approximately 150 employers participate in our recruiting efforts, offering students opportunities to interview for summer, academic year and post-graduate positions.

All of these efforts contributed to the Class of 2024 achieving an impressive 83.4% employment rate in full-time, long-term

bar passage-required or JD advantage roles. Our graduates secured positions with district attorney and public defender offices, state and federal judicial clerkships, corporations such as The Walt Disney Company, leading accounting firms and law firms of every shape and size.

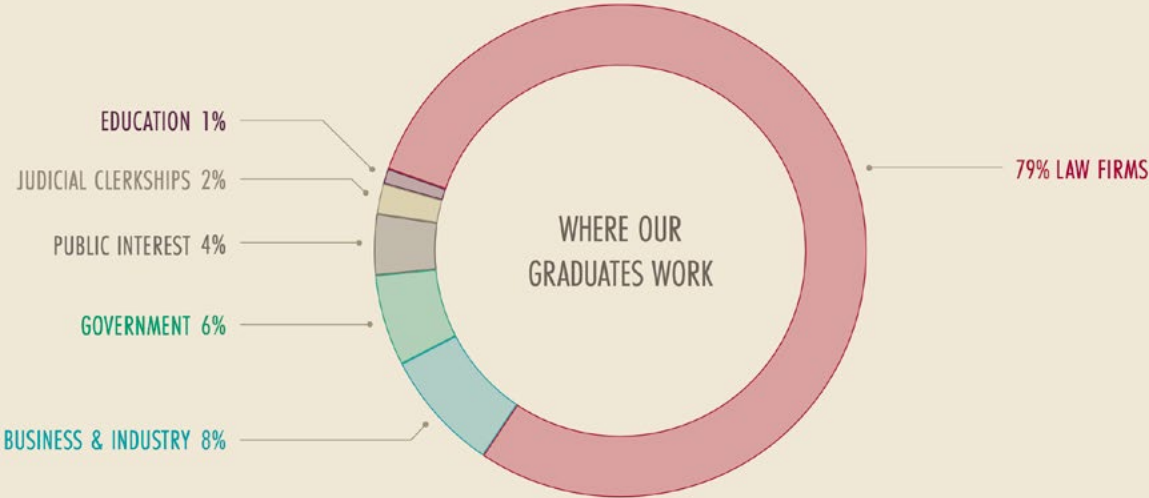
The broad range of our employment outcomes clearly demonstrates both the versatility of a Chapman legal education as well as the strength of the CSO’s personalized support.

The Fowler School of Law Class of 2025 is proving to be equally impressive. To date, and in addition to law firm attorneys, the class boasts four military JAG Officers, two U.S. Postal Service Honors Attorneys, two U.S. Federal District Court clerks, one U.S. Tax Court clerk and two attorneys at the Department of Homeland Security. We couldn’t have hoped for a better outcome for these dedicated students.

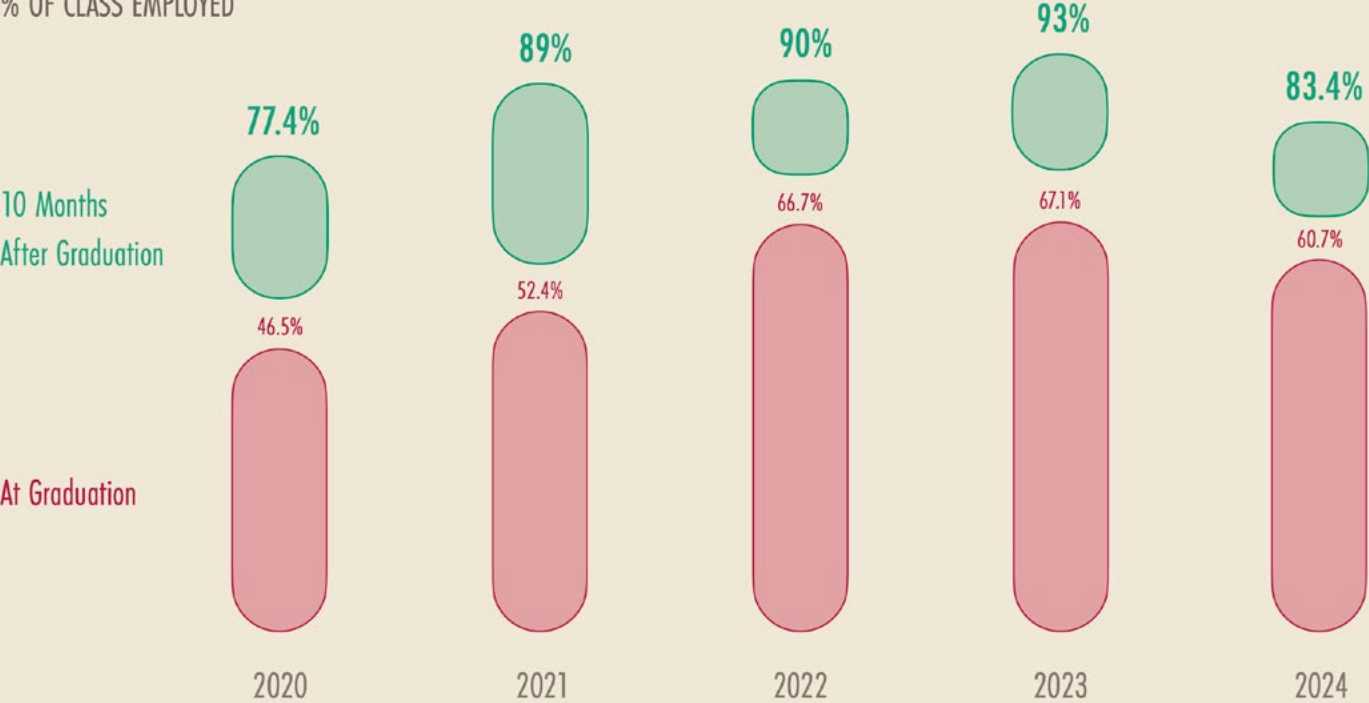
- 1. US Marine Corps JAG representatives meet with Dean Paton
- 2. Assistant Dean Camille Heenan presents a student workshop
- 3. Thurgood Marshall Bar Association Vice President Honieh Udenka (L), Dean Paton and Orange County Bar Association President Mei Tsang (R) presenting a professional development session to our 1L students
- 4. Riverside County Deputy DA Mike Romney in a panel discussion
- 5. Director of Career Services Kristen Spada O’Brien addresses questions from 1L students



2024 GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT



% OF CLASS EMPLOYED





Raiders of the Lost Art

Legal Challenges & Recoveries

CHAPMAN LAW REVIEW SYMPOSIUM
JANUARY 31, 2025

JANUARY 31, 2025

The Chapman Law Review 2025 Symposium: Raiders of the Lost Art, was a showcase of art legal expertise, experience and acumen. Drawing on scholars from around the country and coupled with an informed and entertaining keynote from CUNY art crime professor Dr. Erin Thompson, our speakers and panelists explored the subjects of art theft and repatriations before a packed Kennedy Hall symposium audience of students, faculty, staff and visitors.

Panelists discussing "The Journey Home," Kathryn "Lee" Boyd, Professor Michael Bazyler and Dr. Leslye Obiora, explored the cultural and legal dimensions of art reclamation with moderator and Chapman Professor Justin St. P. Walsh. Dr. Thompson delivered a compelling lunchtime keynote on voluntary repatriations and their growing impact on cultural property law. A second panel, "The Quest for Accountability," explored the legal struggles of prosecuting perpetrators of art theft and the increasing global push for museum transparency; panelists included investigator and journalist Jason Felch, along with advocates Nicholas M. O'Donnell and Dylan Price, with moderator Professor Michael Bazyler.

The themes of history, justice and reclaiming stolen cultural heritage made this symposium more than just an academic discussion as it touched many audience members and participants personally. Bringing the law to life, these discussions made abstract legal principles tangible through real stories of cultural loss and recovery. Even more powerful was seeing how the symposium extended beyond the legal community as audience members from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds joined the discussions.

Our grateful thanks to all our panelists and speakers, with a special note of recognition to the Chapman Law Review team, especially Taline Ratanjee and Greg Mikhanjian, for putting on a masterful display of scholarship, hospitality and hard work to host an incredibly successful and well received event.





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1. Artifacts, evidence and media from the event
2. Panelists, Law Review editors and guests
3. Nicholas M. O'Donnell presenting
4. Law Review Editor-in-Chief Taline Ratanjee
5. Keynote speaker Dr. Erin L. Thompson
6. Dean Paul Paton welcomes guests
7. Panelist Kathryn "Lee" Boyd in action
8. Map and exhibit of looted art from WWII

SCOTUS IN FOCUS

INSIGHTS INTO KEY 2024 SUPREME COURT DECISIONS



OCTOBER 24, 2024

Welcoming a new annual series to Kennedy Hall, event host and organizer Professor Deepa Badrinarayana put the Supreme Court on the scales during “SCOTUS in Focus,” a fascinating lunch-hour panel discussion, where panelists weighed up rulings from the Supreme Court’s 2023-2024 term, providing revealing insights into, and stark analysis of, key decisions from the preceding year.

Led by a probing, data-driven keynote presentation tracking historical SCOTUS trends and decisions by Washington University’s Ethan A. H. Shepley Distinguished Professor and renown Supreme Court analyst Lee Epstein; Fowler School of Law panelists, Professors Nahal Kazemi, Lawrence Rosenthal, Celestine McConville (moderator) and special guest Mr. Reuben Cahn unpacked recent SCOTUS rulings with a discerning eye, a wealth of experience and a pinch of good humor to bring a fresh and critical appreciation of many of the decisions, contentious or not, our highest court has made in its most recent term.



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1. Professor Lawrence Rosenthal presenting 2. Keynote speaker Professor Lee Epstein in discussion with the audience
3. Keller/Anderle Partner Reuben Camper Cahn presenting 4. Dean Paul Paton address the audience

A conceptual image featuring a large, ornate golden balance scale. On the left pan, a woman in a white t-shirt and dark jeans stands, holding a professional video camera. On the right pan, a blue, metallic humanoid figure stands, also holding a professional video camera. The scale is perfectly balanced. The background is a soft-focus bokeh of warm and cool lights. The image is framed by a yellow geometric pattern on the left and a red geometric pattern on the right.

AI IMPACT SYMPOSIUM ENTERTAINMENT & LAW

APRIL 11, 2025

Worlds collided in true Hollywood style on Friday, April 11, as AI experts, copyright and entertainment lawyers and Hollywood talents joined us in Kennedy Hall for the Fowler School of Law 2025 AI Impact: Entertainment and Law Symposium.

The annual Chapman Entertainment and Sports Law Symposium is a showcase of industry experience and scholarship, bringing acute focus and thought leadership to topical legal issues. The impact that artificial intelligence has made on both the legal and entertainment industries was a natural choice for this year's symposium.

Forbes columnist and AI aficionado Charlie Fink kicked proceedings off with an AI demonstration and was followed by a panel of entertainment and copyright law thought leaders, probing the future of AI and copyright law. Copyright scholar Sandra Aistars, former copyright counsel to the House of Representatives Bill Patry and SAG-AFTRA's Danielle Van Lier weighed in on the sea-change AI has ushered in for these industries while moderator, Southwestern Professor John Tehranian, kept our panelists on their toes.

Former Microsoft CTO of Media and Entertainment, Andy Beach, was in fine form as he walked the audience through his cutting-edge keynote: AI Entertainment Impact—State of the Union, offering insights, forecasts and even a few handy ChatGPT tips for bewildered users.

Our final panel: Will AI Enhance or Replace Us, featured Hollywood talents Matt Lieberman (Free Guy), Rob Minkoff (The Lion King) and SAG-AFTRA's Woody Schultz (Avatar) discussing the impact that AI has had on their industry, while sharing insights and predictions for the future of Tinseltown as it tackles the transformation



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1. Symposium organizer, Professor Judd Funk, welcoming guests 2. Forbes columnist Charlie Fink demonstrates the capabilities of AI 3. Panelists discuss, "Copyright Conundrum of AI Entertainment," moderated by Southwestern's Professor John Tehranian (left) 4. Copyright scholar Sandra Aistars in discussion with TV and film director Rob Minkoff 5. Keynote speaker and former Microsoft CTO, Andy Beach, delivering his address, "AI Entertainment Impact—State of the Union"

brought by AI to entertainment production.

Expertly moderated by WME agent and Chapman alumnus T.J. Bernardy (JD '12), this panel provoked lively debate and provided a range of insightful perspectives on the precarious tipping point where the entertainment industry currently finds itself.



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1. TV and film writer Matt Lieberman 2. Actor and SAG-AFTRA producer Woody Schultz 3. TV and film director Rob Minkoff 4. WME partner, agent and Chapman Law alumnus T. J. Bernardy (JD'12) (far left) moderating the "Will AI Enhance or Replace Us?" panel

THE CHAPMAN NATIONAL SECURITY & INTELLIGENCE LAW SOCIETY'S LUNCHEON DISCUSSION PANEL

CONSTITUTIONAL WAR POWERS**APRIL 22, 2025**

The Fowler School of Law is extremely fortunate to have the benefit of a learned and richly experienced faculty. A low student-faculty ratio means that our students and faculty work closely both on their coursework as well as passion projects like the student-led National Security and Intelligence Law Society's lunchtime discussion panel, Constitutional War Powers, a timely and topical panel exploration.

Fearlessly tackling some of the thornier legal issues surrounding executive, congressional and judicial war powers in this standing room only discussion panel were former US Congressman Professor Tom Campbell, former US Foreign Service political-military affairs officer Professor Nahal Kazemi and former Supreme Court law clerk, five-time teacher of the year and constitutional law scholar Professor Celestine McConville.

Expertly moderated by Chapman Trustee Professor Mark Chapin Johnson, faculty panelists treated the audience to a masterclass in the breadth and depth of the war powers of each branch of government and their ability (and historical willingness) to use these powers.

This fascinating panel discussion was spearheaded by Chapman's National Security and Intelligence Law Society students Trevor Kiefer, Rod Viduetsky, Joseph Ruggerio and our 2025 Commencement Speaker Christian Sutphin, supported with the kind help and of Dean Paton's office, the World Affairs Council of Orange County, as well as the Orange County chapter of the Harvard Law School Association.



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1. Image from the Constitutional War Powers event poster; uniform and pocket Constitution courtesy of 2025 commencement speaker, event organizer and US Army veteran, 3L Christian Sutphin

2. Professor Tom Campbell addresses the audience



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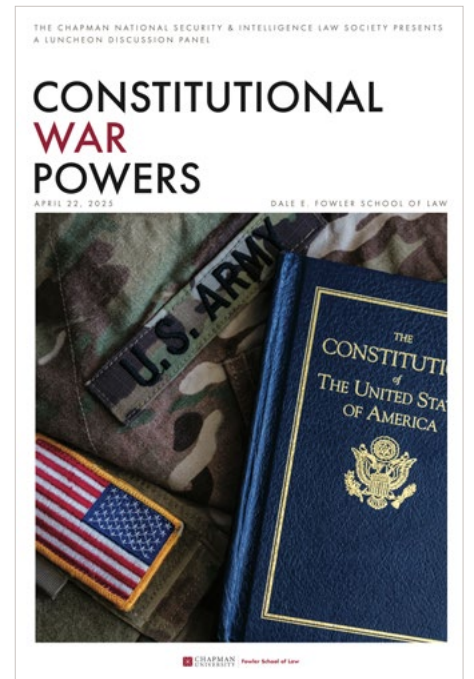
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1. Professor Kazemi looks on as moderator, Dr. Mark Chapin Johnson addresses the audience
2. Professors (L-R) McConville, Kazemi and Campbell during their panel discussion
3. Dean Paul Paton (left), the Hon. John Holcomb and Professor Tom Campbell (right)
4. Event program
5. Audience

SPECIAL EVENT DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

DOSS V. BERNAL

OCTOBER 18, 2024

Chapman University’s Folino Theater had students, faculty, staff and guests sharing this wonderful venue with members of the Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County, the Orange County Bar Association and a host of other visitors, as the Honorable Thomas A. Delaney and the Honorable Frederick Aguirre (Ret.) premiered their documentary film, “The Reenactment of the 1943 Historical Trial: Doss V. Bernal.”

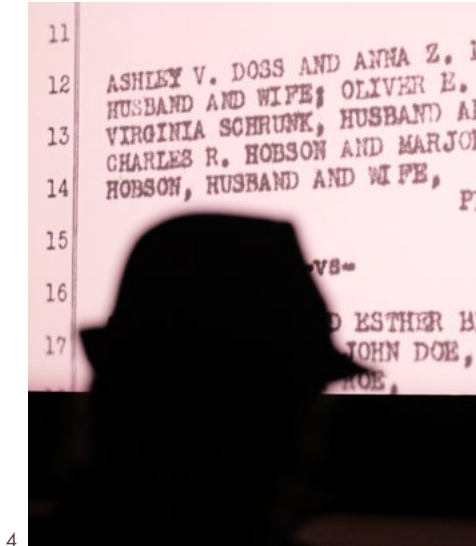
Introduced by Fowler School of Law Dean Paul Paton and wrapping up with a lively Q&A following the screening with the film’s producers, this 45-minute documentary celebrated the champions of civil rights involved in this landmark case. Based on extensive research into deposition transcripts, pleadings, rulings and periodical accounts, the film aptly illustrated how Case No. 41466 helped to dismantle barriers to equal justice in Orange County and neighboring communities.



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1. Film titles 2. The Hon. Thomas A. Delaney addresses the audience 3. The Hon. Frederick Aguirre (Ret.) on screen 4. On screen presentation of historical records from the case



BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY | JESSICA JOHN



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Students at Fowler School of Law strongly believe in a sense of community, engagement and mutual support. Through community events, donation drives and networking opportunities, students thrive on supporting their fellow classmates at the law school while serving the Orange County community at large.

Our student organizations host a wide variety of events to appeal to students, no matter where their interests lie, premised on providing everyone the chance to engage with one another outside the classroom. From hosting our annual Wellness Fair to Diversity Week, students worked together to put on our inaugural International Fair, celebrating culture through traditional food, games, exhibits and music. This student-led event was a wonderful illustration of exploring the numerous cultural communities at Chapman, encouraging students to learn from each other and to unite in a shared pride of their cultural heritage. To round out Diversity Week, our affinity organizations, students, faculty and staff came together at our annual banquet, to show appreciation for the hard work and dedication to community building shown throughout the year.

Fowler School of Law appointed a new Assistant Dean for Student Affairs this year, Jessica John, whose prior experience as an adjunct professor and program director at Fowler drives her vision for growing student engagement and strengthening community. Her aspirations for building stronger connections between students, faculty and staff outside of the classroom setting suggests many great events to come.



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1. Lorelei Olivas, Aubrey Adams and Jonathan Metry pose for their Mock Trial Executive Board photo 2. Students welcome guests to Kennedy Hall 3. Fun with furry friends on Wellness Day 4. Cheering on the finalists at the Golden Gavel contest 5. Competitions team members demonstrate the benefits of advocacy training 6. Students at the Chapman Law Review symposium en banc reception



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- 1. Students at the inaugural International Fair
- 2. Wellness Day therapy dog
- 3. 2L Holly Saleeb, extern at the family law courtroom at the Superior Court of California
- 4. Competitions teams leadership (L-R) Sofia Laws, Taline Ratanjee and Paulyne Youri
- 5. Students prep for morning class
- 6. Golden Gavel finalist Sara Seyedebrahimi
- 7. Students don traditional garb for the International Fair
- 8. Professor Henry Noyes teaching class
- 9. The Competitions Team Reception
- 10. Environmental Law Society students listening attentively during their panel discussion
- 11. Prof. Tom Campbell in conversation with a student
- 12. NAAC runner-up, Chapman advocate Megan Campbell talks advocacy skills with visitors to the school



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A WINNING FOUNDATION | JOHN BISHOP



If the foundations of professionalism are built in the classrooms of Chapman, there is no better place to stress test them than in the negotiations, trials and appellate arguments that our students perform in the Fowler School of Law Competitions Program and in local and national competitions around the country.

This past year saw Chapman teams and individual advocates lift more trophies than ever before. Across the nation, and in major centers like New York, Chicago and Florida, teams of Fowler advocates placed among the nation's best, winning the nation's premier Entertainment Law Moot Court competition, a national Criminal Mock Trial competition, second place at the National Appellate Advocacy Competition (out of 173 teams) and taking both second and third places in the ABA Client Counseling National Finals, along with a host of other top-two or top-four finishes in other national tournaments.

This year's student advocacy accomplishments may be a little

more special than usual; however, the bedrock of our focus remains a timeless Chapman tradition: courtesy, honesty and a genuine desire to use our opportunities to celebrate, both our own successes as well as those of competing teams.

This is what professionalism looks like and it is encouraged long before our students are ushered into their professional life as jurists. It is here that they learn that it's the little things that make a lasting impression on colleagues, opposing counsel and the bench: following and rooting for the success of coaches and students from the schools we compete with, connecting with our local legal community and volunteering hundreds of hours to help each other improve the skills they'll use as soon as they are sworn into the practice of law.

These successes and skills are built on a foundation of hundreds of volunteer hours, given freely by a corps of alumni and faculty coaches, who dedicate their nights and weekends to



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coaching at Kennedy Hall—and not just coaching: adjudicating, teaching and elevating our student advocate teams. Without this vital partnership with alumni and faculty coaches and judges, so much of the success we have enjoyed this year would not have been possible.

1. (Pg 33, L-R) Cardozo Fame IP Law Moot Court Tournament winners: Prof. Kim Tyler, All American Advocate Joe Kahn and teammate Kevin Hennessy
2. 2025 NAAC runners up, Sophie Jeltima and Megan Campbell
3. The Honorable Thomas A. Delaney judging The Chapman Challenge
4. Chapman advocates Joe Kahn and Adam Shoeibi
5. Teammates Jonathan Metry (L) and Kevin Lorusso (R)
6. Chapman Competitions Director Professor John Bishop
7. ADR teammates (L-R) Paulyne Youri, Sophia Laws, Taline Ratanjee
8. 3L Anuj Patel talks visitors through the benefits of participating in competitive advocacy at Chapman
9. Alumna Nicole Fuller presents the school with a gift of her vintage Chapman Competitions Team letterman jacket
10. (L-R) Renee Cabato, Trevor Kiefer and Maxwell Schenitzki
11. A few of the trophies won by Chapman teams in 2025

11





Shark Beach winners (L-R) Anuj Patel, Luke Hottinger, Arianna Burtis, Joe Kahn and coach Professor John Bishop

ALL AMERICAN ADVOCATE JOE KAHN

Joe Kahn, Mock Trial President, Moot Court Vice President, Public Interest Law Foundation President and recently named a 2025 National Association of Legal Advocacy Educators (NALAE) Academic All-American Advocate, originally came to the Fowler School of Law in pursuit of dual passions: Public service and competitive advocacy. A former college debater, Kahn was well apprised of the value of surrounding himself with people who could challenge him—people who could help to shape his nascent advocacy abilities. He found this challenge in Chapman’s Mock Trial, Moot Court and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) teams, easily “the highlight of my law school experience,” he adds.

Trying out for Mock Trial and ADR in his 1L year, Kahn was fortunate enough to be selected for both squads; he followed this up with a semi-final finish in the school’s annual Rutan & Tucker Golden Gavel competition—his entrée to the Mock Trial team under legendary Chapman advocacy coach Nancy Schultz.

“Did I know what I was doing?” recalls Kahn with a smile,

“No, not exactly.”

This much was clear when, less than two minutes into practicing his first closing argument his coach, Nancy Schultz, cut him off mid-sentence, “I’ve heard enough!”

“What followed was the most vigorous and transformative coaching I have ever received,” jokes Kahn. But it paid off—he won the Best Closing award at the San Fernando Valley Bar Association Mock Trial Tournament that year.

“I still didn’t know what I was doing, but Nancy taught me how to sound like I did—and that made all the difference.”

In his 2L year, as Vice President of Chapman’s Mock Trial team, Kahn and teammates Sophie Jeltima and Trevor Kiefer enjoyed a great deal of success, going undefeated for five rounds at the prestigious 2024 National Appellate Advocacy Competition (NAAC), with Kahn taking home the Best Overall Advocate award.

It was in 3L that Kahn truly found his stride and, along with his teammates, achieved an historic milestone at the Stetson National Pretrial Competition, advancing further than any Chapman team in history, finishing with the highest oral advocacy score in the nation. Following this success, he paired with talented advocate fellow 3L Rebekah Heath, in Chapman's inaugural Razavi Law Group Client Counseling Competition, and together they clinched the top spot as tournament champions.

Next was the Shark Beach National Trial Competition in Florida, where the Fowler team of Arianna Burtis, Luke Hottinger, Anuj Patel and Kahn secured a sensational championship win—a first for Chapman, garnering national attention. A month later, with teammate Kevin Hennessy and under the expert coaching of Chapman Professor Kim Tyler, the team won the Cardozo Fame Intellectual Property Law Moot Court Tournament in New York, the most prestigious contest of its kind in the country—giving Kahn an unprecedented finish to his 3L year: undefeated in every round of ADR, Mock Trial and Moot Court competition he entered, a 24-0 record including two national championship wins. Kahn notes with typical candor, “The coaching and camaraderie of The Fowler School of Law Competitions Program ensures that you are at your very best when only your best will suffice.”

“Competition did more than hone my advocacy skills and prepare me for a life in the courtroom. It jump-started my career in trial and appellate advocacy, including a fellowship with the Orange County Trial Lawyers Association and an externship opportunity with Justice Thomas Delaney at the California Court of Appeal,” he continues.

Like many of Fowler's competitive advocates, Kahn's gratitude for the mentorship and coaching from the Competitions Program Director, Professor John Bishop, is almost palpable. He adds that, “Chapman introduced me to the smartest people, thoroughly trained me, opened many doors and provided me with some of the best memories of my life. Thanks to Fowler School of Law, I've pursued my passion for advocacy at the highest level, in the toughest contests available—and triumphed. I am beyond excited to carry these lessons and the collegial, competitive Chapman spirit into a career in public service.”

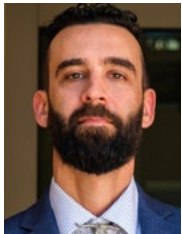


We wish this humble Chapman champ and All-America Advocate everything of the best as he builds on this remarkable start to a promising career as a professional advocate and public servant.

JOE KAHN, Mock Trial President, Moot Court Vice President, Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF) President and All American Advocate

BOBBY WALTMAN

CLASS OF 2012



Bobby Waltman's (JD' 12) passion for justice, public defense and personal injury practice began when he was just seven years old. Other kids his age might have loaded up on cartoons and MTV but Bobby Waltman spent his couch time curled up next to his father, watching Sub Rosa VHS tapes as his dad prepared cases as a worker's compensation representative for the Fremont Insurance company. In time, the VHS video tapes became law books, and Bobby watched with admiration as his father tackled a part-time law degree while supporting his family and honing the same passion for social justice and the law that Bobby Waltman would one day inherit, champion and build his law career around. By the time he got to college, a career in law was almost a fait accompli. Still, graduating a semester early from his undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, Waltman found himself living out of his van and playing keyboards in a band called "Boombox Orchestra."

"I chose the Van Life for a time," he says, "while I wouldn't equate this experience with the struggles faced by those who are unhoused, it gave me a profound appreciation for the challenges that homeless individuals endure." Living out of his van in Santa Barbara became an experience that would go on to inform both his understanding of the condition of homelessness and imbue him with a deep empathy for unhoused individuals as a public defender, instilling in him a desire to help this often misjudged and underserved group. If there was ever any doubt about pursuing a career in law, it was put to bed after his undergraduate studies, and Waltman soon gave up his adventures in the van for a home at Chapman Law.

At Chapman, Waltman found academic direction and career mentorship in the form of Professor Scott Howe...



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RAY GENNAWEY

CLASS OF 2014



Ray Gennawey's (JD '14) journey from a law student at Chapman University to Mayor of Laguna Niguel and Prosecutor in the Orange County District Attorney's Office (OCDA) reveals a steadfast commitment to public service and justice. With over a decade of experience in the OCDA, he has become a pillar of his community, balancing a distinguished legal career with a vital leadership role in local government.

Growing up in Laguna Niguel, Gennawey didn't set out to become a lawyer. It was through his family's love for TV shows like *The West Wing* that his interest in public service sparked a life-long commitment to serving others. Encouraged by his parents, Gennawey saw that the law could be a powerful tool for effecting change in his community. In turn, this led him to Chapman, where he became immersed in student leadership, serving as the President of the Student Bar Association (SBA) and representing law students at the American Bar Association's national convention. His involvement in Chapman's Mock Trial program further cemented his passion for criminal law, and an internship with the OCDA confirmed his call to the bar as a prosecutor.

Gennawey's legal career began with a fellowship at the OCDA, and he has spent over ten years with their office working on high-profile criminal cases. He is currently assigned to the Special Litigation Unit, where you will find him handling complex homicide cases, having previously served in the OCDA's Gang Unit. For Gennawey, the work is more than just legal procedure—it's about ensuring justice and providing closure to victims' families. "In my role, it's not just about convictions; it's about making sure that justice is served," Gennawey explains.

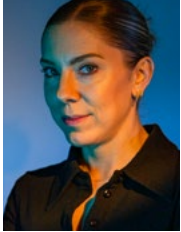
His dedication to public service extends beyond the courtroom...



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KAITLIN PETERSON

CLASS OF 2016



Returning to Fowler School of Law as an adjunct professor this spring is Chapman Double Panther alumna Kaitlin Peterson (JD/MBA '16), currently working as associate general counsel at US multinational tech conglomerate Meta, bringing a wealth of experience in gaming, IP and entertainment law to campus. You might think that gaming and entertainment law would have been an obvious choice for this lively, driven Orange County advocate, but when the gaming penny finally dropped, it took Peterson by surprise.

As a student at Chapman, Peterson found her way into any number of leadership roles: President of Moot Court, President of the Sports and Entertainment Law Society and Treasurer of the Student Bar Association, to name a few. With a natural affinity for sports and being part of team, she sought internships with the Angels baseball team and the World Poker Tour—a hybrid of entertainment and sports that played as a TV show and also included gambling—but it was in former general counsel of Blizzard Entertainment, Eric Roeder's gaming law classroom at Chapman that the proverbial penny dropped with a resounding, "This. Is. It!" for Peterson.

A casual gamer in her youth, Peterson was a quick study of both Blizzard's gaming portfolio and what her soon-to-be mentor from Blizzard had to offer her and her Chapman class from his years of experience in gaming law. Peterson excelled under Roeder's mentorship and tutelage, securing a widely coveted role as in-house counsel at Blizzard and staking her own claim as one of Blizzard's up-and-coming legal advocates. Four years later, amid the waxing and waning of tech company fortunes and the ascendancy of social media giant Facebook/META, Peterson felt she had "Grown beyond [her] role at Blizzard" and joined the Silicon Valley digital behemoth in 2020, supporting gaming partnerships, contract deals, and entertainment licensing for public-facing programs for META Games...



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LANCE COTTON

CLASS OF 2019



Lance Cotton's (JD '19) journey from the youngest of four siblings to becoming a Deputy District Attorney for the Orange County District Attorney's (OCDA) office is a testament to perseverance, community and a deep commitment to justice. As one of the few black attorneys in this prominent county office, Cotton embodies the spirit of Chapman Law—pushing his limitations, breaking barriers, building community and inspiring future generations of legal professionals.

Cotton's time as a student at Chapman was defined by both intense focus and deep involvement in the Chapman community. As a 3L student, he served as President of the Moot Court Board, leading the team to victory in national competitions. His experience in moot court sharpened his advocacy skills and solidified his passion for public speaking. He credits the late Nancy Shultz, whom he still affectionately refers to as "Coach," with providing him key guidance and opportunities through her coaching sessions. Outside of the courtroom, Cotton built community, co-founding the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) which played an important role in diversifying the student body and growing visibility and presence for students of color, "We didn't have many Black students, but we built a foundation. Now, the numbers have grown considerably," he reflects proudly.

Personal experience drove Cotton's decision to pursue a career in law when he and his single mother faced a threatening legal challenge involving an eviction. This formative moment sparked a realization that knowledge of the law was power, power he resolved to use in the protection of others. Initially, Cotton entered Chapman with a clear focus on criminal law, drawn to the courtroom and the thrill of litigation. Internships with the Long Beach Prosecutor's Office and the OCDA confirmed his latent passion for prosecution...



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ADJOURNMENT

KENNEDY HALL | MAY 1, 2025

Upon telling someone you're in law school, the first thing they often ask is, "Why?"—perhaps out of morbid curiosity or concern for your well-being. My 'why' began as a sincere interest in advocating for others but has since grown into a deeper commitment. This shift didn't happen overnight; it has been shaped by my experience at Chapman.

The most meaningful parts of law school don't always occur in the classroom. They are a reminder that good lawyering isn't just about mastering the law. It is about listening with care, showing empathy and communicating with clarity and honesty. My classmates are the ones who tempered my why, pushing me to try out for the mock trial team, encouraging me to participate in class and to share my culture, background and identity. Their support showed me the importance of collaboration and lifting one another up.

I have come to understand that advocacy does not begin or end in a courtroom, it can usually be found in the silent, unseen work: the researching, writing and willingness to lean into discomfort. My most rewarding moments in law school weren't based on academics but were the opportunities to learn from unique perspectives. Chapman has challenged me to think critically and compassionately—and not just to speak, but to speak with intention.

Early morning and late-night library study sessions punctuated by laughter-filled breaks transformed Chapman from law school to a second home for me. My anchor at Chapman is the many friendships I have formed here. Grabbing lunch after class became a routine that helped me reset and reconnect. Coffee breaks with friends reminded me to slow down and breathe. Late nights editing in the Law



Review office, playing card games with my friends in the Competitions room, practicing for competition events, dropping by professors' office hours... these moments wove together a fabric of belonging, support and motivation.

Of course, there were days when remembering why I came to law school was essential; moments when self-doubt crept in or the finish line felt impossibly distant. But every time I

wavered, I found strength in those around me: Professors who encouraged me to trust my voice, classmates who became teammates and friends, and my family, who reminded me of my purpose when I had forgotten.

I came to law school to advocate for justice. Now, that mission has expanded into a commitment to elevate voices that often go unheard and to learn from the communities I hope to serve. Chapman didn't just give me legal training; it gave me clarity, confidence and community. I'm leaving Chapman ready to speak with purpose, with the support of a community that taught me what true advocacy means.

To my Chapman family: Thank you. You have created a space where we feel safe showing up, speaking up and being proud of who we are. To my peers, thank you for reminding me of my 'why,' and for creating a culture where one feels seen and supported. I hope this year's class will carry this forward—for our clients, our colleagues and the students who come after us. Let us continue to create spaces where others feel as empowered to speak up, as we did here.

TALINE RATANJEE

Class of 2025

Editor-in-Chief, Chapman Law Review

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This photo: Students await the judge's instructions at the start of a Fowler School of Law in-house advocacy competition.



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