

discovery



USD Ranks Among Five Most Scenic College Campuses in the Country

Bing.com has rated USD No. 5 among America's top 14 scenic colleges, highlighting the school's location on a "dramatic mesa" with "awe-inspiring views of Mission Bay." The site also mentions the inspiration behind USD's elaborate architecture—the Universidad de Alcalá in Spain—and calls the buildings as "curvaceous and elaborately ornamented as the originals."

ALLEN WYNAR

> Award Winners

TWO SCHOOL OF LAW PROFESSORS AWARDED 2011 THORSNES PRIZE



Steven Smith

Professor **Steven Smith** received the 2011 Thorsnes Prize for Outstanding Legal Scholarship for his book, *The Disenchantment of Secular Discourse* (Harvard University Press, 2010). Smith is one of the nation's foremost scholars in the area of law and religion. Professor-in-Residence **Junichi Semitsu** received the 2011 Thorsnes Prize for Excellence in Teaching. Semitsu teaches and researches in the areas of media law and mass communications, constitutional law, privacy law, criminal law and procedure, and civil rights.



Junichi Semitsu

In 1995, law school alumnus and current Board of Visitors member Michael T. Thorsnes, '68, established the Thorsnes Prize for Excellence in Teaching. Awarded each year to a University of San Diego School of Law faculty member, the recipient is selected by a majority vote of upper-division law students. Established in 1999, the Thorsnes Prize for Outstanding Legal Scholarship recognizes law faculty members who have contributed significant scholarship to the national and international legal canon.



CAI Report Findings Lead Child Advocates to Sue California Department of Social Services

In September, child advocates sued the California Department of Social Services in San Diego County Superior Court. They seek to overturn regulations that allegedly allow the county to keep secret the possible causes of child deaths that occurred while it had an open child protective services file on the child. The suit was filed by Robert Butterfield, a founder emeritus board member of Promises2Kids, with USD's Children Advocacy Institute (CAI) and Morrison & Foerster law firm serving as counsel. The lawsuit alleges the regulations unlawfully block disclosure of key child death-related documents and seeks to enforce Senate Bill 39, enacted in 2007, which is meant to promote public scrutiny and an informed debate of the circumstances that led to the fatality.

*Pictured on left, USD's Methab Sandhu and
Kate Kirshbaum*



Students Excel in Evidence Competition

Third-year students Kate Kirshbaum and Methab Sandhu took third place in the 26th annual Jerome Prince Memorial Evidence Competition in April 2011. Kirshbaum also received the Best Oralist award for her advocacy in the preliminary rounds of the competition, which is one of the most prestigious tournaments on the moot court circuit. The event, which was hosted by Brooklyn Law School, provides law students from across the country an opportunity to write an appellate brief addressing evidentiary issues in a contemporary context. Thirty-six teams competed from law schools such as Duke University, Georgetown and University of Southern California. USD's team was coached by Ed Silverman, an appellate advocate and current partner at Sandler, Lasry, Laube, Byer & Valdez.

➤ LAW SCHOOL HONORED FOR
DIVERSITY INITIATIVES

Minority Report

The Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) awarded USD School of Law second place in the 2011 Diversity Matters competition. LSAC's Diversity Initiatives office developed the program to honor law schools that demonstrate a commitment to diversity and justice. In 2010-11, the law school sponsored programs that educated high school and early college minority students about the preparation for law school and the practice of law.



Alumni and Faculty Named Top Attorneys in San Diego County

USD SCHOOL OF LAW CONGRATULATES ALUMNI
AND FACULTY RECOGNIZED BY THE *SAN DIEGO DAILY
TRANSCRIPT* AS SAN DIEGO COUNTY'S TOP ATTORNEYS

USD Alumni: Bing Ai, '02; Olga Alvarez, '02; Jeffrey B. Baird, '98; Julie R. Barnes, '95; Krista Meredith Cabrera, '97; John M. Carson, '88; Charles B. Christensen, '73; Phillip R. Finch, '93 (BBA), '96 (JD); Robert J. Francavilla, '79 (BBA), '82 (JD); Cynthia A. Freeland, '95; Mary F. Gillick, '84; Jerilyn S. Jones, '84; Alex L. Landon, '71; Marty B. Lorenzo, '93 (BA), '96 (JD); Monty A. McIntyre, '80; Paul H. Neuharth, '89; Brian T. Seltzer, '77; Janis K. Stocks, '74; Walter F. Spath, '95 (JD), '96 (LLM); Elise Streicher, '81; Michael J. Weaver, '73.

USD School of Law Faculty: Frank Partnoy, George E. Barrett Professor of Law and Finance; Allen C. Snyder, Professor of Law.



Legal Dynamo

➤ INAUGURAL LEONARD
ARMATO '78 SCHOLARSHIP
FUND RECIPIENT
ANNOUNCED

Second-year law student [Jordan Gaytan](#) was selected as the recipient of the 2011 Leonard Armato Entrepreneurial Scholarship. Gaytan received a \$20,000 scholarship and mentorship opportunities with the scholarship's namesake, Leonard Armato, '78, chief marketing officer and president of the Fitness Group at Skechers USA. The fund provides financial support and real-world experience to dynamic law students pursuing careers in entertainment law, sports law or entrepreneurship.