

2024-25 School of Law  
Academic Honors & Awards



JULY 2025

This program recognizes recipients of academic honors and awards, and various service, clinic and advocacy awards for 2024-25. Congratulations to all of the students who have attained these distinctions.

## ACADEMIC HONORS (Degree Honors)

In accord with the Academic Rules of the University of San Diego School of Law, degree honors are conferred upon those students who distinguish themselves by their academic achievement.

### SUMMA CUM LAUDE

*Aparajita Das*  
*Dennis Michael Grady Jr. (LLM)*  
*Steven George Hanna*  
*Lena Elizabeth Richardson*  
*Trevor Alexander Whitehead*  
*Gabriel Leslie Richard Wild*

*Julie Yetta Roland*  
*Joshua Paul Sarsfield*  
*Joseph R. Stewart*  
*Kelly Marie Wacker*  
*Jessica Lorraine Walsh*

*Chloe Elizabeth McDonald*  
*Marven Mekha*  
*Sabina Barbara Menzhausen*  
*Alexandra Nicole Moynihan*  
*Courtney Hammond Murphy*  
*Nathan Thien Nguyen*  
*Wesley Tate Olin*

### MAGNA CUM LAUDE

*MaryBeth Noel Ammari*  
*Andrei Artamonov (LLM)*  
*Susan Gabriella Biscardi*  
*Joseph G. Ciacci*  
*Pablo de Jesus*  
*Correa Mendoza (LLM)*  
*Matthew James Dahlberg*  
*Jake Vaughn Dellinger*  
*John M. DelMastro*  
*Samantha Mariam Fakhimi*  
*Carter Marvin Garcea*  
*Alejandro Francisco*  
*Herrán Aguirre (LLM)*  
*Kevin Daniel Masso*  
*Adelaide I. Mickelson*  
*Michelle Helen Nguyen*  
*Julia Madeleine Perry*  
*Ashley G. Pyle*  
*Ana Karina*  
*Ramírez Razo (LLM)*

### CUM LAUDE

*Baharan Abdollahi*  
*Ignacio Alvarez Jr.*  
*Thu Nandar Aung*  
*Victoria Ballvé (LLM)*  
*Caroline A. Bulger*  
*Karla Alejandra*  
*Camarena Mora (LLM)*  
*Ruby Ravgiala Carlon*  
*Danielle Simran Comstock*  
*Torre Dante DiGiovanni*  
*Charles Edward Ecker*  
*Jack Thomas Edmond*  
*Kenan Elzoobi*  
*Nicole Brooke Forister*  
*Leslie Franklin Girard*  
*Danara Jolee Greer*  
*Alyssa Jean Rose Guthrie*  
*Christopher Sean Hack*  
*Anastasiia Juntunen (LLM)*  
*Matthew John Kadlec (LLM)*  
*Jessica Karolina Kocinski*  
*Hope Rose Llanes*

*Lara Rae Owen*  
*Kimball Hunter Pahl*  
*Avery Katherine Pierce*  
*Eleana Roche (LLM)*  
*Shane Scarpace*  
*Nicole Sandra Schussman*  
*Cesar R. Serrano*  
*Colette Robin Sexton*  
*Jacob Silver*  
*Zachary Evans Smith*  
*Jordan E. Thomas*  
*Julia Marie Thompson*  
*Karen Donay*  
*Valdez Virgen (LLM)*  
*Thomas McGuire Vanis*  
*Jiao Wang*  
*Joseph Wilhardt (LLM)*

## ORDER OF THE COIF

Steeped in the history of serjeants-at-law in medieval England, the American Order of the Coif dates back to 1902 and is the preeminent honor society for recognition of high academic attainment in the study of law. Membership in Coif is limited to those students in the top 10 percent of the graduating class. Congratulations to the students who have attained this high honor.

*MaryBeth Noel Ammari*  
*Susan Gabriella Biscardi*  
*Joseph G. Ciacci*  
*Matthew James Dahlberg*  
*Aparajita Das*  
*Jake Vaughn Dellinger*  
*John M. DelMastro*  
*Samantha Mariam Fakhimi*

*Carter Marvin Garcea*  
*Steven George Hanna*  
*Kevin Daniel Masso*  
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*Michelle Helen Nguyen*  
*Julia Madeleine Perry*  
*Ashley G. Pyle*  
*Lena Elizabeth Richardson*

*Julie Yetta Roland*  
*Joshua Paul Sarsfield*  
*Joseph R. Stewart*  
*Kelly Marie Wacker*  
*Jessica Lorraine Walsh*  
*Trevor Alexander Whitehead*  
*Gabriel Leslie Richard Wild*

# ACADEMIC AWARDS

Recipients of the Irvin J. Kahn; Dean's U.S. Law Award; Paul, Plevin, Quarles and Brady Labor And Employment Law Award; and Dean's Tax Scholar awards also will have their names engraved on perpetual plaques which remain on display in the law school.

## VALEDICTORIAN AWARD

For the highest cumulative grade point average overall.

*Aparajita Das*

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARD FOR THE HIGHEST CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE, FULL-TIME DIVISION

*Aparajita Das*

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARD FOR THE HIGHEST CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE, PART-TIME DIVISION

*Michelle Helen Nguyen*

## MASTER OF LAWS: DEAN'S TAX SCHOLAR AWARD

For the highest cumulative grade point average in the Master of Laws in Taxation Program.

*Dennis Michael Grady Jr.*

## MASTER OF LAWS: DEAN'S U.S. LAW AWARD

For the highest cumulative grade point average in the Master of Laws in U.S. Law program.

*Alejandro Francisco Herrán Aguirre*

## JUDGE GERALD BROWN PROGRESS AWARD

For the student with the greatest increase in grade point average, from first year to graduation.

*Michael Dudzinski*

## IRVIN J. KAHN AWARD

For the outstanding student in real property courses.

*Emily Manning Serleth*

## QUARLES & BRADY LABOR & EMPLOYMENT AWARD

For the highest cumulative grade point average in the Labor and Employment Law Concentration.

*Alexandra Nicole Moynihan*

## VIRGINIA C. NELSON GRADUATION PRIZE IN ADVANCED ADVOCACY

For outstanding efforts and distinction of earning the highest grade in Advanced Trial Advocacy.

*Isabella K. Ouliguiian*

# SERVICE AWARDS

## ACADEMIC SUCCESS FELLOW OF THE YEAR

For the graduating Fellow who consistently demonstrated exceptional teaching and mentoring, coupled with a deep sense of genuine empathy and understanding for law students at the start of their legal careers.

*Joshua Paul Sarsfield*

## MENTOR OF THE YEAR

The Mentor of the Year award honors a graduating J.D. student who has demonstrated exceptional mentorship, contributing profoundly to the law school experience and the professional growth of their peers.

*Cassidy Danielle Perez*

## USD ENHANCEMENT AWARD

For the outstanding graduates who exemplify leadership and have improved and enriched the USD law community.

*Kimball Hunter Pahl*

## ALEC L. CORY PRO BONO AWARD

For the student with the highest total pro bono hours, who promoted pro bono work on campus, and also contributed the most to make the San Diego community a better place through the type of pro bono work they completed per the California definition of pro bono.

*Kylee Ann Gwilliam*

## PRO BONO SERVICE RECOGNITION

The Pro Bono Service Recognition is given to those students who have completed in excess of 100 hours of pro bono legal service during their law school career.

*Claudia Michelle Arce*

*Mikayla Kathryn Blanchard*

*Haley Rae Cordoba*

*Jake Vaughn Dellinger*

*Samantha Mariam Fakhimi*

*Alyssa Jean Rose Guthrie*

*Chun-Hsin Ho*

*Enida Kapidani*

*Bailey Ann Neal*

*Francesca Jean Nevil Ellie*

*Raquel Pagnano Gabriel*

*Michael Purpura*

*Alexa Marie Sandberg*

*Joshua Paul Sarsfield*

*Shane Scarpace*

*Paulien Wilhelmina Gerarda Sillekens*

*Samuel Jacob Ziegler*

## PRO BONO SERVICE HIGH DISTINCTION

The Pro Bono Service High Distinction is given to those students who have completed in excess of 250 hours of pro bono legal service during their law school career.

*Brennan David Carter*

*Sierra Credico*

*Lorenzo Antonio DeLeon Diaz*

*Jack Thomas Edmond*

*Danara Jolee Greer*

*Kylee Ann Gwilliam*

*Caroline Jeanne Hammond*

*Iliana Alexis Mercier*

*Wyatt Houston Page*

*Kimball Hunter Pahl*

*April Joy Magadia Payumo*

*Cassidy Danielle Perez*

*Avery Katherine Pierce*

*Julie Yetta Roland*

*Jacob Silver*

*Julia Marie Thompson*

*Naba Wahid*

# ALCALÁ 100

The Alcalá 100 award honors graduating students who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, advocacy, and commitment to campus life, earning recognition as distinguished ambassadors for the University of San Diego.

*Claudia Michelle Arce*

*Haley Rae Cordoba*

*Aparajita Das*

*Nathan Christopher Gelbrich*

*John Walter Martin Jr.*

*Sabina Barbara Menzhausen*

*Francesca Jean Nevil*

*Wyatt Houston Page*

*Sophia Claire Parker*

*April Joy Magadia Payumo*

*Mikayla Seiler*

*Cesar R. Serrano*

*Sabrina Raquel Zunich*

## CLINIC AWARDS

### OUTSTANDING APPELLATE CLINIC INTERN

*Francesca Jean Nevil*

### OUTSTANDING EDUCATION & DISABILITY CLINIC INTERN

*Joshua Paul Sarsfield*

### OUTSTANDING ENTREPRENEURSHIP CLINIC INTERN

*Yi Zhou*

### OUTSTANDING FEDERAL TAX CLINIC INTERN

*Javier Partida*

### OUTSTANDING HOUSING RIGHTS CLINIC INTERN

*Itzelth Pricilla Gamboa*

### OUTSTANDING IMMIGRATION CLINIC INTERN

*Francesca Jean Nevil*

### OUTSTANDING STATE INCOME TAX CLINIC INTERN

*Michael Mooyoung Lim*

### OUTSTANDING STATE SALES & USE TAX CLINIC INTERN

*Joseph Wilhardt*

### OUTSTANDING VETERANS CLINIC INTERN

*Gabriel Michael Purpura*

### OUTSTANDING WOMEN'S CLINIC INTERN

*Cassidy Danielle Perez*

### OUTSTANDING WORKERS' RIGHTS CLINIC INTERN

*Tereza Abelian*

# ADVOCACY AWARDS

## CONSUMER PROTECTION POLICY CENTER'S OUTSTANDING PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCATE AWARD

For outstanding external advocacy in the legislature, courts, or before administrative agencies.

*Alexandra Carol Harten*

## CONSUMER PROTECTION POLICY CENTER'S OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTOR TO *THE CALIFORNIA REGULATORY LAW REPORTER*

For contributions to the journal that monitors the activities of California's major regulatory agencies.

*Wyatt Houston Page*

## ENERGY POLICY INITIATIVES CENTER'S OUTSTANDING STUDENT LEADER AWARD

*Emily Manning Serleth*

## ENERGY POLICY INITIATIVES CENTER'S OUTSTANDING LAW CLERK AWARD

*Emily Rose Sanchez*

## CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY INSTITUTE'S JAMES A. D'ANGELO OUTSTANDING CHILD ADVOCATE AWARD

For the graduates who have demonstrated the special skills, knowledge, and dedication necessary to be effective child advocates.

*Hailey M. Chrysler*

*Ariana Lengua Hussing*

*Bianca Viviana Hutchins*

*Sophia Claire Parker*

*Julie Yetta Roland*

## ORDER OF BARRISTERS

For demonstrated excellence in appellate and/or trial advocacy.

*Ignacio Alvarez Jr.*

*Nathan Christopher Gelbrich*

*Sofia Isabela Linares*

*Elizabeth Jane Maniscalco*

*Matthew Miranda*

*Kimball Hunter Pahl*

*Cassidy Danielle Perez*

*Parker Vincent Saxon*

*Shane Scarpace*

*Sean Philip Sullivan*

## ORDER OF BARRISTER STATUE OF LADY JUSTICE

*Kimball Hunter Pahl*

## COMMUNITY DEFENDERS AWARD

For commitment to constitutional protections in indigent criminal defense.

*Ignacio Alvarez Jr.*

*Caroline Jeanne Hammond*

*Shane Scarpace*

## MICHAEL T. THORSNES TRIAL ADVOCACY AWARD

For the outstanding National Mock Trial team member.

*Elizabeth Jane Maniscalco*

# BAR PREP AWARDS

## LA RAZA STUDENT BAR PREP AWARD

The La Raza Student Bar Prep Award is disbursed to each USD School of Law 3L student who receives the San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association Scholarship Award at the San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association Annual Awards Ceremony.

*Lorenzo Antonio DeLeon Diaz*

*Samantha Rae Rios Fidel*

*Ignacio Alvarez Jr.*

## HOPE SCHOLARSHIP BAR PREPARATION AWARD

The Hope Scholarship goes to members of the Black Law Student Association (BLSA) who demonstrate leadership on campus, continuous support of fellow law students, and dedication to addressing issues impacting the local Black community.

*Maya Nicole Ramos*

*Emmanuela S. Kubari*

## MIDDLE EASTERN LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION 3L BAR PREP AWARD

The Middle Eastern Law Student Association (MELSA) USD Law Scholarship is in support of third-year law students who have demonstrated a commitment to serving the Middle Eastern community's legal needs.

*Mark N. Metri*