



The Docket

April 2026

USD Law and Several of Its Programs Rise in the Latest *U.S. News & World Report* Best Law School Rankings



The University of San Diego School of Law climbed three spots to #54 in the *U.S. News & World Report* Best of 2026 Law School Rankings. The part-time program rose to #6 nationally and maintained its rank as #1 in California. Several specialty programs also had significant gains, including Tax Law which rose six spots to rank #12 nationally and Clinical Training, which rose 30 spots.

Ranking in the top 30% are Intellectual Property Law, Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, Contracts and Commercial Law, Health Care Law, and Environmental Law.

"It's especially meaningful to see our programs recognized at this level," said Dean and C. Hugh Friedman Professor of Law Robert Schapiro. "This distinction reflects the continued dedication of our outstanding faculty and the drive and talent of our students, who elevate these areas of excellence year after year. While rankings offer a valuable snapshot, what matters most is the strength of our community and the transformative legal education we provide. We remain deeply committed to building on this momentum and preparing the next generation of lawyers to make a meaningful difference in the world."

2026 Big Give Success



You powered USD Law's **BIG GIVE** success—raising \$904,903 for students, innovative legal education, and programs that improve the community!

More than 270 alumni, friends, faculty and others powered programs preparing future lawyers to lead with legal expertise and humanity.

Your support is an investment in students who are inspired to learn and lead; and a law school dedicated to legal excellence, service, and justice. [See the final numbers.](#)

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS



Five USD School of Law Alumni Named *SD Metro's* Top 2026 Attorneys



Joseph E. Markus '17 (BA), '20 (JD) to Receive Johnnie Cochran Jr. Memorial Award

AT THE
EDGE
OF IT ALL

Professor Joe Villaseñor '09 (JD) and Ian Pike '19 (JD) Featured on USD's At the Edge of it All Podcast

OUR COMMUNITY IN THE NEWS



Judge Dana M. Sabraw to Deliver 2026 USD School of Law Commencement Address



CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY INSTITUTE

CAI Staff Quoted in Multiple Outlets Regarding Social Media Verdicts

CONNECT WITH STUDENTS



**USD Law VICAM Team Makes Landmark First-Ever Semifinal Run at 2026
Vis East Moot in Hong Kong**



**San Diego Law Review Presents American Trade at the Border Symposium |
Register Today**

YOUR IMPACT, OUR SHARED FUTURE



**Connections and Commitment:
USD School of Law Celebrates Scholarships at Annual Luncheon**

[View Photos](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April

16

**The 15th Annual USD School of Law
Patent Law Conference**

Thurs., April 16 | 8:00 a.m. - 6:15 p.m.
Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, Theatre

April

21

Trivia Night with Trial Attorneys of USD

Tues., April 21 | 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Nova Easy Kombucha

April

22

5th Annual USD School of Law Earth Day Mixer

Wed., April 22 | 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
La Gran Terraza

April

23

Orange County Alumni Spring Reception

Thurs., April 23 | 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Minyard Morris, Newport Beach

April

24

Alumni and Grad Student Mixer

Fri., April 24 | 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
O'Toole's Gastro Pub