



The Docket

February 2026

Developing Principled Leaders: The Conscientious Leadership in Law Initiative



This spring, USD School of Law is launching the [Conscientious Leadership in Law Program](#), a certificate initiative designed to bridge the gap between academic excellence and practice-ready leadership. Administered by the Office for Law Student Affairs, this program implements the school's commitment to diversity and inclusion by highlighting these core values as essential

professional competencies. It positions inclusive and emotionally intelligent leadership not merely as an ideal, but as a prerequisite for elevating the standards of the legal profession.

As the legal landscape becomes increasingly complex, employers and clients alike require lawyers who can navigate difference, conflict, and ethical ambiguity with maturity and emotional intelligence. To meet this need, the program features a three-part workshop series explicitly training students in proactive skill-building such as collaborative conflict resolution, inclusive communication, and ethical decision-making. The curriculum translates these concepts into marketable professional skills—teaching students not just how to argue, but how to listen, resolve conflict, and act with judgment in real-world settings.

Graduates of the program will be invited to serve as Law School Leadership Ambassadors. In this role, students will represent USD Law in admissions and community engagement efforts, ensuring that our next generation of lawyers is prepared to lead with integrity, compassion, and ethical influence.

USD School of Law Expands Global Engagement Through Partnerships in India



USD School of Law is expanding its presence in India as part of a long-term strategy to strengthen global legal education and create new pathways for Indian lawyers seeking careers connected to U.S. and international markets. GradRight is the USD Law's official higher education partner in India. As the University's anchor in the region, GradRight will lead and support

USD's strategic initiatives across India, advancing its institutional goals and engagement with students, universities, and key stakeholders.

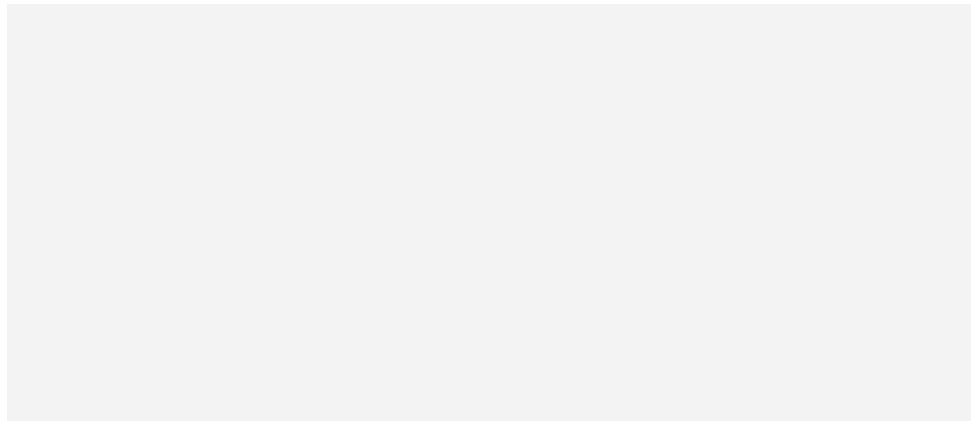
Dean Schapiro recently traveled to India, where he met with faculty and students from eight leading law schools to explore academic partnerships and collaborative initiatives focused on postgraduate legal education, interdisciplinary training, and long-term professional mobility.

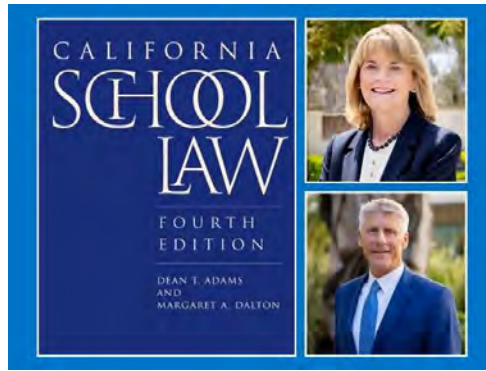
[Read more about the partnership.](#)

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS



Lambda Alpha International to Honor Board of Visitors Member Paul E. Robinson '73 (JD) with 2026 Crystal Globe Award





Professor Margaret A. Dalton '94 (JD) and Dean T. Adams '04 (JD) Co-Author Fourth Edition of *California School Law*



Four USD Law Alumni Elected to 2026 San Diego Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates Board of Directors



Robert J. Francavilla '80 (BA), '83 (JD) Named to Daily Journal's 2025 Top Plaintiff Lawyers List



YOUR IMPACT, OUR SHARED FUTURE



Big Give 2026: Why Alumni Participation Defines the Strength of USD Law

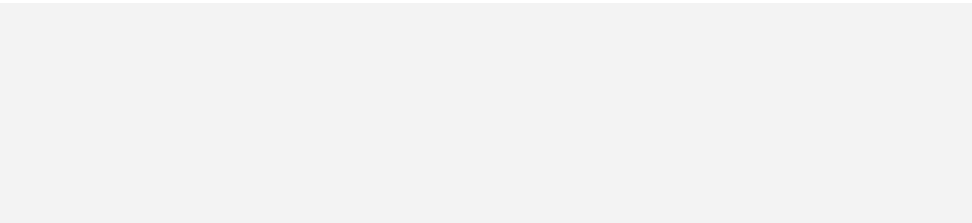
OUR COMMUNITY IN THE NEWS



EPIC Helps Advance San Diego's Regional Climate Roadmap Through EPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant Program



USD Law Student Victor Liu '27 (JD) Named Pathways to Citizenship Volunteer of the Month





USD Law Student Affairs Holds Inaugural Affinity Bar Association & Law Student Mixer | [View Photos on Instagram](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February
23

**Professor Lisa Ramsey Book Launch:
Trademarks and Free Speech**
Mon., Feb. 23 | 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Warren Hall, USD Campus

February
25

USD School of Law Judicial Reception
Wed., Feb. 25 | 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Warren Hall Lobby, USD Campus

February
26

Alumni Social @ AleSmith in Miramar
Thurs., Feb. 26 | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
AleSmith Brewing Company

March

1

USD vs University of Michigan Baseball | Alumni & Friends Day at Fowler Park

Sun., March 1 | 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Fowler Park, USD Campus

March

2

Richard Crawford Pugh Lecture on Tax Law & Policy Welcomes Ellen P. Aprill

Mon., March 2 | 5:00 - 6:45 p.m.
Warren Hall, USD Campus

March

7

Special Education Law and Advocacy Series (SELAS)

Saturdays, March 7 - April 18 | 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Virtual

March

9

Stolen Lives: A Story of Injustice, Resilience, and Love - A Movie Screening

Monday, March 9 | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Warren Hall, USD Campus

March

24

Big Give Bash 2026!

Tuesday, March 24 | 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
RJS Law - A Tax Law Firm