

2019-20 School of Law
Academic Honors & Awards



JULY 2020

This program recognizes recipients of academic honors and awards, and various service, clinic and advocacy awards for 2019-20. 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

Bridget H. Balisy (LLM)
Noah Kai Gaarder-Feingold
Kelly Ann Reis
Meghan A. Roll
William Charles Shepherd IV
Sarah J. Vandervalk

August Allen Renshaw
Matthew David Seeley
Alicia Margarita Gamez Umpierre
Nicholaus H. Woltering
Alexander Hendrik Wilkens (LLM)

Leehee Falek
Tara Nicole Giery
Samir Abdul-Kader Hafez Jr.
Rebecca Bailey Heywood
Christopher E. Hodge
Savanah Nicole Armstrong Howe
Rosemary Carol Khoury
Sarah Sunhwang Kim

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Madeline Alice Barrett
Jayden Rose Barrington
Ashley Lauren Barton
Joe Camille Bsaiibes
Gabriella Teresa DiCaprio
Benjamin Daniel Gourley
Dennis Michael Grady Jr.
Michael I. Hopkins
Jessica Elizabeth Howard
Ashley Danielle Kearney
Alexia Maria Niebling
Daniel H. O'Connor
Ashton Lee O'Halloran
Lindsey Lee Pierce
Jacob P. Ragan

CUM LAUDE

Julieann Alvarado
Miguel Alejandro Alvarez
Brian Thomas Attard
Jessica R. Bade
Sachin Bhatmuley
Natasha Bode (LLM)
Amanda Nichole Alexandra Bray
Ashley E. Brown
Brian David Brown
Thomas E. Burke
Penn Landry Caine
Reina Marie Cruz
Trentan Alan Michael Cunningham
Nicole Davidov
Chloe Marie Delehanty
Ronald Nikko Ebbolle
Kristie M. Espiritu

Jordan K. Laub
Kyubok Lim (LLM)
Molly Patricia McBride
Nathaniel Liam Muir
Peter Gunston Nelson
David A. Orner (LLM)
Krysti Papadopoulos
Joseph Kelly Seipel
Samantha Marilyn Steed
Michael Hunter Terry Jr.
Sasha Vujcic
Kate Hannah Wachsman
Kyle Landon Wheeler (LLM)
Carson Clay Williams
Justin Pierce Wynne
Raquel Sophia Zilberman

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.

Madeline Alice Barrett
Jayden Rose Barrington
Ashley Lauren Barton
Joe Camille Bsaiibes
Gabriella Teresa DiCaprio
Noah Kai Gaarder-Feingold
Benjamin Daniel Gourley
Dennis Michael Grady Jr.

Michael I. Hopkins
Jessica Elizabeth Howard
Ashley Danielle Kearney
Alexia Maria Niebling
Daniel H. O'Connor
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Lindsey Lee Pierce
Jacob P. Ragan

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William Charles Shepherd IV
Alicia Margarita Gamez Umpierre
Sarah J. Vandervalk
Nicholaus H. Woltering

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Recipients of the Irvin J. Kahn; Dean's Comparative Law Award; Paul, Plevin, Sullivan & Connaughton; 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.

Sarah J. Vandervalk

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

Sarah J. Vandervalk

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

Alicia Margarita Gamez Umpierre

MASTER OF LAWS: DEAN'S TAX SCHOLAR AWARD

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

Bridget H. Balisy

MASTER OF LAWS: DEAN'S COMPARATIVE LAW AWARD

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

Alexander Hendrik Wilkens

JUDGE GERALD BROWN PROGRESS AWARD

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

Ashley Yeonji Reddy

IRVIN J. KAHN AWARD

For the outstanding student in real property courses.

William Charles Shepherd IV

PAUL, PLEVIN, SULLIVAN & CONNAUGHTON, LLP AWARD

For the highest cumulative grade point average in the employment and labor law concentration.

Kelly Elaine Kagan

VIRGINIA C. NELSON GRADUATION PRIZE IN ADVANCED ADOVCACY

For the outstanding graduating student in advanced advocacy courses.

Joseph Kelly Seipel

SERVICE AWARDS

USD ENHANCEMENT AWARD

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

Sarah Anne Early
Monet Jacqueline McCord
Carson Clay Williams

ALEC L. CORY PRO BONO AWARD

For contributions to *pro bono* causes during law school.

Helen M. Lockett

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.

Nathan Douglas Andersen
Madeline Alice Barrett
Ashley Lauren Barton
Mason William Bettencourt
Daniel Alexander Blasingame
Shawn Matthew Burgh
Thomas E. Burke
Kelsey Collins Burns
Diane Yoon-Hye Byun
Reed Patrick Carroll
Joseph Timothy Cheng
Matthew Paul Coderre
Sonia Concepción
Jennifer Kathryn Conklin
Douglas Richard Cullins
Alanna Rose D'Alessandro
Cassandra Rose Dougherty
Sarah Anne Early
Caitlyn Brooke Emery
Christopher R. Engelmann

Kaitlyn Taylor Enticknap
Stephanie Barone Erhardt
Diane Nicole Gerstenfeld
Deborshi Ghosh
Rebecca Bailey Heywood
Savanah Nicole Armstrong Howe
Sarah Elizabeth Plog Huff
Molly Elizabeth Humphreys
Tamie Jane Humphreys
Jilliane Ann Jackson
Sara Ann Keane
Kimberly M. Keen
Charles Martin Kreuzberger
Alexis Paige Ledlow
Helen M. Lockett
Monet Jacqueline McCord
Benjamin Amin Mettias
Noel J. Meza III
Mina Mahine Moghaddam Jafary
Madeleine Michelle Nadeau

Linda Annette Nelte
Thomas Michael Olson
Krysti Papadopoulos
Jennifer Amelia Pardue
Ileane Basil Polis
Kelly Ann Reis
Clarence O. Reyes Jr.
Melanie Kaitlyn Ryan
Claire Ann Savage
Stefan Lee Seper
Sarah Elizabeth Shankel
Christopher Aaron Shelton
Francesca Jane Sparaco
Samantha Marilyn Steed
Michael Hunter Terry Jr.
Sarah J. Vandervalk
Kate Hannah Wachsman
Alexandra Wallin
Carson Clay Williams
Samuel Wolf Wilson

CLINIC AWARDS

OUTSTANDING APPELLATE CLINIC INTERN

Aude Ruffing

OUTSTANDING CIVIL CLINIC INTERN

Lauren K. Adjeff

Reed Patrick Carroll

OUTSTANDING EDUCATION & DISABILITY CLINIC INTERN

Monet Jacqueline McCord

OUTSTANDING ENTREPRENEURSHIP CLINIC INTERN

Jacob A. Borton

OUTSTANDING FEDERAL TAX CLINIC INTERN

Peter Gunston Nelson

OUTSTANDING IMMIGRATION CLINIC INTERN

Jessica R. Bade

OUTSTANDING STATE INCOME TAX CLINIC INTERN

Christopher R. Engelmann

OUTSTANDING STATE SALES & USE TAX CLINIC INTERN

Jessica Margueite-Mayo Gronna (LLM)

OUTSTANDING VETERANS CLINIC INTERN

Alexandra Wallin

OUTSTANDING WORKERS' RIGHTS CLINIC INTERN

Rosemary Carol Khoury

ADVOCACY AWARDS

CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEREST LAW'S OUTSTANDING PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCATE AWARD

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

Kelsey Collins Burns

CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEREST LAW'S OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTOR TO THE CALIFORNIA REGULATORY LAW REPORTER

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

John Zamora LaCrosse

Monet Jaqueline McCord

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.

Reina Marie Cruz

Molly Elizabeth Humphreys

John Zamora LaCrosse

Helen M. Lockett

Helene Marie Mayer

Heather E. Morse

Melanie Kaitlyn Ryan

Francesca Jane Sparaco

Carson Clay Williams

COMMUNITY DEFENDERS AWARD

For commitment to constitutional protections in indigent criminal defense.

Claire Ann Savage

ORDER OF BARRISTERS

For demonstrated excellence in appellate and/or trial advocacy.

Ashley Lauren Barton

Morgan Ashlyn Chase

Sarah Anne Early

Caitlyn Brooke Emery

Alexandra Lynn Heins

Kayla Huynh

Raquel Sophia Zilberman

Statue of Justice: *Kayla Huynh*

MICHAEL T. THORSNES TRIAL ADVOCACY AWARD

For the outstanding National Mock Trial team member.

Sarah Elizabeth Plog Huff