

2022-23 School of Law
Academic Honors & Awards



JULY 2023

This program recognizes recipients of academic honors and awards, and various service, clinic and advocacy awards for 2022-23. 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

Jack Whitaker
Taylor Ann Halby
Brenton Nelson Gutkowski
Teresa Regina Morin
Kara Renae Watkins
Jake Elijah Posnock (LLM)

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Andrea Kelley Lavelle
Mariam Mickael
Brooke Ann Clarke
Julian Piroli
Maggie G. Baruffi
Emily A. Stowe
Brandon Buck
Andrew Dallas Kent
Sophia Bryce Wagener
Melody Lilazy
Kyu Bin Kang
Justin G. Oetting
Erik Hansen

Morgan Haley Wahler
Emma Grace York
Lilly Claire Walker
Connor Alexander Hume
Benjamin Andre Won Koh

CUM LAUDE

James E. Lanham
Jacob C. Wade
Hailey Elizabeth Trawick
Christopher R. Dorsett
Amanda Jane Sharp
Nicholas Michael Dea
Kelly Margaret Johnson
Skeet B. Frazee
Kerstyn Elyse Keenan
Melissa Alexandra Padilla
Jessica Brittnei Russell
Carson Alexis Dudick
Christopher M. Jones
Nicolas Charles Golda
Lauren E. Holappa

Chase W. Turnbull
Frederick Stickney Smyth
Jack Ryan Doti
Luke Bennett Fishman
Alexis Rose Herskowitz
Blake A. Madone
Megan Elizabeth Bagley Smith
Stella Diane Gerson
Brody Allen Zaugg
Erin I. Hudak
Rebecca Nuojia Xu
Nicholas Aaron Zalkow
Dillon D. Denio
Anoush A. Khatchatrian
Briana Nicole Peters
Cody Clark Sanders
Estella Marie Massey
Logan Rand
Jackson Alexander Sullivan
Jiaye Zhou
Emily Jade Kawahara
Traci Lynn Campbell (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.

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Mariam Mickael
Brooke Ann Clarke

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Maggie G. Baruffi
Emily A. Stowe
Brandon Buck
Andrew Dallas Kent
Sophia Bryce Wagener
Melody Lilazy
Kyu Bin Kang

Justin G. Oetting
Erik Hansen
Morgan Haley Wahler
Emma Grace York
Lilly Claire Walker
Connor Alexander Hume
Benjamin Andre Won Koh

ACADEMIC AWARDS

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

Jack Whitaker

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

Jack Whitaker

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

Nicolas Charles Golda

MASTER OF LAWS: DEAN'S TAX SCHOLAR AWARD

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

Jake Elijah Posnock

MASTER OF LAWS: DEAN'S COMPARATIVE LAW AWARD

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

Romina Alessandra Brogini

JUDGE GERALD BROWN PROGRESS AWARD

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

Jared Robert Garfield

IRVIN J. KAHN AWARD

For the outstanding student in real property courses.

Andrew Dallas Kent

PAUL PLEVIN QUARLES LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW AWARD

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

Amanda Jane Sharp

VIRGINIA C. NELSON GRADUATION PRIZE IN ADVANCED ADVOCACY

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

Yusra Serhan

SERVICE AWARDS

USD ENHANCEMENT AWARD

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

Emily Jade Kawahara
Janine Williams Parchment

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.

Stella Diane Gerson

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.

<i>Summer Meldal Bosse</i>	<i>Kerstyn Elyse Keenan</i>	<i>Melody Lilazy</i>
<i>Joanna Burstedt</i>	<i>Martha Dominika Klak</i>	<i>Connor Edward McGettigan</i>
<i>Lauren Donohue</i>	<i>Carolyn Anne Klier</i>	<i>Christine Jeeyoung Noh</i>
<i>Courtney Amanda Gray</i>	<i>James E. Lanham</i>	<i>Amanda Jane Sharp</i>
<i>Brenton Nelson Gutkowski</i>	<i>Marty R. Levers</i>	<i>Emily A. Stowe</i>
<i>Connor Alexander Hume</i>	<i>Kerah Michele Lewis</i>	
<i>Zubaidah A. Kadhim</i>	<i>Pouch Ching Hsuan Liang</i>	

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.

<i>Matthew K. Bowen</i>	<i>Evan Hawkins Harris</i>	<i>Yusra Serhan</i>
<i>Natalie Clagett</i>	<i>Madison L. Henry</i>	<i>Kendall Smith</i>
<i>Hunter Wesley Collins</i>	<i>Tala Rose Hughes</i>	<i>Megan Elizabeth Bagley Smith</i>
<i>Dimitri Alan Davis</i>	<i>Alexandra N. Loyo-Rodriguez</i>	<i>Frederick Stickney Smyth</i>
<i>Michael DeBonis</i>	<i>Mariam Mickael</i>	<i>Isabella Francesca Sobalvarro</i>
<i>Roy H. Ezell III</i>	<i>Melissa Alexandra Padilla</i>	<i>Jackson Alexander Sullivan</i>
<i>Ashley Alexandra Fan</i>	<i>Jessica Nazanin Panahi</i>	<i>Hailey Elizabeth Trawick</i>
<i>Steven A. Funk</i>	<i>Jadwyn Nicole Parrish</i>	<i>Lauren Kylee Trinrud</i>
<i>Stella Diane Gerson</i>	<i>Jessica Ellen Robertson</i>	<i>Emma Grace York</i>
<i>Bridget Hannah Gramling</i>	<i>Ian D. Ross</i>	<i>Jiaye Zhou</i>
<i>Taylor Ann Halby</i>	<i>Justin Michael Sanchez</i>	

CLINIC AWARDS

OUTSTANDING APPELLATE CLINIC INTERN

Vinh Phu To

OUTSTANDING CIVIL CLINIC INTERN

Martha Dominika Klak

OUTSTANDING EDUCATION & DISABILITY CLINIC INTERN

Peter James Cuevas

OUTSTANDING ENTREPRENEURSHIP CLINIC INTERN

Shahrzad Borna

OUTSTANDING FEDERAL TAX CLINIC INTERN

Siena M. Martinez

OUTSTANDING HOUSING RIGHTS CLINIC INTERN

Derek G. Thompson

OUTSTANDING IMMIGRATION CLINIC INTERN

Jennifer Bejar Cobarruvias

OUTSTANDING STATE INCOME TAX CLINIC INTERN

Bryan Riley Nuxoll

OUTSTANDING STATE SALES & USE TAX CLINIC INTERN

Sarah Amouzandeh

OUTSTANDING VETERANS CLINIC INTERN

James Michael Spradley

OUTSTANDING WOMEN'S CLINIC INTERN

Heritage Landolyn Liboon Ganasi

OUTSTANDING WORKERS' RIGHTS CLINIC INTERN

Isabella Francesca Sobalvarro

ADVOCACY AWARDS

CONSUMER PROTECTION POLICY CENTER’S OUTSTANDING PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCATE AWARD

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

Summer Meldal Bosse

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.

Dimitri Alan Davis

ENERGY LAW AND POLICY CLINIC OUTSTANDING LAW CLERK AWARD

Erin Hudak

ENERGY POLICY INITIATIVES CENTER’S OUTSTANDING STUDENT LEADER AWARD

Hunter Collins

Alexandra Cumberland

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.

Stella Diane Gerson

Jadwyn Nicole Parrish

Mackenzie Marie McCoy

ORDER OF BARRISTERS

For demonstrated excellence in appellate and/or trial advocacy.

Trevor Mathew Dorne

Devon Mariah Esguerra

Samantha H. Hasiewicz

Madison L. Henry

Connor Alexander Hume

Caelle Maureen McKaveney

Teresa Regina Morin

Jessica Ellen Robertson

Emily A. Stowe

Emma Grace York

ORDER OF BARRISTERS STATUE OF JUSTICE

Jessica Ellen Robertson

COMMUNITY DEFENDERS AWARD

For commitment to constitutional protections in indigent criminal defense.

Bridget Hannah Gramling

Samatha H. Hasiewicz

Carolyn Anne Klier

MICHAEL T. THORSNES TRIAL ADVOCACY AWARD

For the outstanding National Mock Trial team member.

Samatha H. Hasiewicz