

2023-24 School of Law
Academic Honors & Awards



JULY 2024

This program recognizes recipients of academic honors and awards, and various service, clinic and advocacy awards for 2023-24. 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

Ryan Ylitalo
Jeffrey Matthew Mihalik
Zachary Connor Kobayashi
Jake O. Moreno
Kelsey Sinclair Hutchinson
Tara N. Giery (LLM)

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Alec T. Towse
Sarina Simone Rogers
Carlisle Victoria Olsen
Madison Delaney Montague
Matthew Scott Gordon
Kelsey Coleen Beaman
Lauren Elizabeth Cahill
Jacob A. Mendes
Riley Erin Jacobs
William James Meron
Emily M. Shingle
Kristen Elizabeth VandeVoort
William D. Doodokyan
Samantha Frances Casey
Elizabeth Ann Marshall
John Philip Riley

Daniel J. Birmingham
Kelsey Ann Tidgewell
Erica L. Halaszynski
Michael Rothberg

CUM LAUDE

Eitan Matti Peled
Avery Ann Drury
Bailey Megan Webster
Kina Jing-Yee Wong
Derek Sturhann
Nicole Marie Gaston
Lucy Jane Peritz
Malia Margaret Taylor
Kenzie Sicily Chrudimsky
Hector M. Lozada Jr.
Remy J. Mathews
Yichao Gu
Grady Guziak Jensen
Gianna Tirrell
Alexa V. Arnold
Sophia Jimenez
Samuel Paul Noble
Tess Raine O'Hanrahan
Emily N.M. Powers

Katelyn Nicole Sauve
Cole Martinez
Baylee Ela Swidler
Kelsey R. Castanho
Carter J. Cordura
Kyle James Johnson
Chelsea Kanzler
Augusta Leslee McCain
John Michael Vierra
Geoffrey Thompson Willis
Kathryn Bosman Cote
Kristen Diana Goodhart
Helen Ruby Curry Lister
Riley Jordan Minkoff
Alexa Koo-ai-ai Smith
Novak Topalović
Rachel C. Braby
Chase Raymond Booth
Hannah Isabel Lutz
Olivia Joy Totten
Mathilda Anna Elisabeth Schmidt (LLM)
Shoma Sakaguchi (LLM)
Jared Robert Garfield (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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Michael Rothberg

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.

Ryan Ylitalo

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

Ryan Ylitalo

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

Kelsey Sinclair Hutchinson

MASTER OF LAWS: DEAN'S TAX SCHOLAR AWARD

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

Tara N. Giery

MASTER OF LAWS: DEAN'S COMPARATIVE LAW AWARD

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

Shoma Sakaguchi

JUDGE GERALD BROWN PROGRESS AWARD

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

Awarded - Anonymous

IRVIN J. KAHN AWARD

For the outstanding student in real property courses.

Kelsey Ann Tidgewell

PAUL PLEVIN QUARLES LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW AWARD

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

Alec T. Towse

VIRGINIA C. NELSON GRADUATION PRIZE IN ADVANCED ADVOCACY

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

William Taylor Duke

SERVICE AWARDS

USD ENHANCEMENT AWARD

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

Mona Layla Masha
Alec Z. Drachenberg

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.

Lucius Martin Giannini

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>Sara Hicham Badrani</i>	<i>Kyle James Johnson</i>	<i>Michael Rothberg</i>
<i>Kathryn Bosman Cote</i>	<i>Summer Zahra Jubran</i>	<i>Arif M. Salam</i>
<i>Alexandra Grayce Fetter</i>	<i>Sarvenaz Karbasi</i>	<i>Nathan Edwin Sawkins</i>
<i>Augusto Donahue Gabriel</i>	<i>Miranda Alejandra Kuehn</i>	<i>Alexa Koo-ai ai Smith</i>
<i>Lauren E. Hacker</i>	<i>Helen Ruby Curry Lister</i>	<i>Jasir Ahmed Soomro</i>
<i>Garik Adam Lee Hauer</i>	<i>Allison Nicole Maggart</i>	<i>Anthony Thurgood Walker</i>
<i>Kasey Marie Helms</i>	<i>Camryn Lauren Melanson</i>	<i>Kina Jing-Yee Wong</i>
<i>Julia Ann Hwang</i>	<i>Emily N.M. Powers</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>Miranda Jean Batdorf</i>	<i>Jessie M. Keppler</i>	<i>Haley Lynn Savage</i>
<i>Joseph Russell Blair</i>	<i>Anabel Christine King</i>	<i>Anne Elizabeth Seeley</i>
<i>Noah Andrew Brassard</i>	<i>Brandee McGee</i>	<i>Said Abdullahi Shaba</i>
<i>Kelsey R. Castanho</i>	<i>Riley Jordan Minkoff</i>	<i>Ghazal Seyyedi</i>
<i>Alec Z Drachenberg</i>	<i>Maria E. Miramontes</i>	<i>Alexa Koo-ai ai Smith</i>
<i>Michelle Irine Uma Dutta</i>	<i>Grace Anne Nielsen</i>	<i>Elena M. Spaccarelli</i>
<i>Ethan Galaif</i>	<i>Harley Marie Obsitnik</i>	<i>Derek Sturhann</i>
<i>Lucius Martin Giannini</i>	<i>Eitan Matti Peled</i>	<i>Baylee Ela Swidler</i>
<i>Jasreen Kaur Gill</i>	<i>Serena Alexis Pendleton</i>	<i>Lindsay Sophia Thompson</i>
<i>Maura Fang Hui Healy</i>	<i>Elizabeth Harvey Peterson</i>	<i>Raneen M. Zubeideh</i>
<i>Nawar F. Jabbo</i>	<i>Raynier Dylan Ramos</i>	
<i>Alaina C. Kahre</i>	<i>Robert Tompkins Roselle III</i>	

CLINIC AWARDS

OUTSTANDING APPELLATE CLINIC INTERN

Eitan Matti Peled

OUTSTANDING CIVIL CLINIC INTERN

Ethan Galaiif

OUTSTANDING EDUCATION & DISABILITY CLINIC INTERN

Raynier Dylan Ramos

OUTSTANDING ENTREPRENEURSHIP CLINIC INTERN

Novak Topalović

OUTSTANDING FEDERAL TAX CLINIC INTERN

Sydney Cheng-Mei Bott

OUTSTANDING HOUSING RIGHTS CLINIC INTERN

Allison Nicole Maggart

OUTSTANDING IMMIGRATION CLINIC INTERN

Lucius Martin Giannini

OUTSTANDING STATE INCOME TAX CLINIC INTERN

Asia Nicole Smith

OUTSTANDING STATE SALES & USE TAX CLINIC INTERN

Joseph Wilhardt

OUTSTANDING VETERANS CLINIC INTERN

Matthew David Walters

OUTSTANDING WOMEN'S CLINIC INTERN

Dana Tsurì-Etzioni

OUTSTANDING WORKERS' RIGHTS CLINIC INTERN

Rebecca Victoria Kuttschreuter

ADVOCACY AWARDS

CONSUMER PROTECTION POLICY CENTER'S OUTSTANDING PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCATE AWARD

For outstanding external advocacy in the legislature, courts, or before administrative agencies.
Emily N.M. Powers

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.
Erol I. Kilic
Lindsay Sophia Thompson

ENERGY POLICY INITIATIVES CENTER'S OUTSTANDING STUDENT LEADER AWARD

Allison Nicole Maggart *Madison Delaney Montague* *Bailey Megan Webster*

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.

Alyssa Rae Daskas *Grady Guziak Jensen* *Emily N.M. Powers*
Amanda Renee Hawkins *Eden N. Levinson* *Alexa Koo-aiai Smith*

ORDER OF BARRISTERS

For demonstrated excellence in appellate and/or trial advocacy.

Daniel J. Birmingham *Alaina C. Kahre* *Jasir Ahmed Soomro*
Chase Raymond Booth *Helen Ruby Curry Lister* *Malia Margaret Taylor*
Samantha Frances Casey *Eitan Matti Peled*
Matthew Scott Gordon *Said Abdullahi Shaba*

ORDER OF BARRISTERS STATUE OF JUSTICE

Malia Margaret Taylor

COMMUNITY DEFENDERS AWARD

For commitment to constitutional protections in indigent criminal defense.

Miranda Jean Batdorf *Alaina C. Kahre* *Eitan Matti Peled*
Noah Andrew Brassard *Helen Ruby Curry Lister* *Said Abdullahi Shaba*
Nawar F. Jabbo *Delaney Reese Wolkov*

MICHAEL T. THORSNES TRIAL ADVOCACY AWARD

For the outstanding National Mock Trial team member.
Helen Ruby Curry Lister

BAR PREP AWARDS

PUBLIC INTEREST BAR PREP SCHOLARSHIP

Brandee McGee

LA RAZA STUDENT BAR PREP AWARD

Derek Sturhann
Omar Ernesto Peña

HOPE SCHOLARSHIP BAR PREPARATION AWARD

Banna Esaias

KAI LEON SCHOLARSHIP BAR PREPARATION AWARD

Robert Tompkins Roselle III

MELSA 3L BAR PREP AWARD

Awarded - Anonymous