

CALIFORNIA
LAWYERS
FOUNDATION

CALIFORNIA
LEGAL PATHWAYS
COLLABORATIVE

*“Imagine a legal profession that reflects the richness
of California’s diverse population.”*

(Our Vision: California Legal Pathways Collaborative)

Welcome to the 2026 California Legal Pathways Collaborative Law Academy Symposium. Join us as we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and focus on constitutional rights and activism, as well as the importance of civic engagement, ethics and civility in the legal profession.

Where: University of California, Irvine School of Law
401 E. Peltason Drive, Suite 1000, Irvine, CA 92697-8000

When: Saturday, June 13, 2026
Programming: 8:45 am to 5:00 pm
Reception: 5:00 to 7:30 pm

8:00 - 8:45 REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST
(ATTORNEYS also sign up for MCLE .5 Ethics Credit for 11:15 Civic Engagement Session)

FEATURING THE ABA TRAVELING EXHIBIT:

The American Bar Association (ABA) is launching a yearlong campaign and a two-year traveling exhibit to mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The traveling exhibit, “250 Years of Independence: Fortifying America’s Commitment to Democracy for All,” explores the evolving meaning of independence and the role of the rule of law.

MORNING PLENARY SESSION (ROOM 1111)

8:45 - 8:50 WELCOME: Patricia Lee, CLPC Chair
Acknowledging Sponsors
Introduction of Austen Parrish, Dean, UCI School of Law

8:50 - 9:00 “WE ARE UCI LAW”
Welcome Remarks from **Dean Austen Parrish**

9:00 - 9:30 “FROM STUDENT TO BAR TO BENCH”: MEET JUSTICE THOMAS DELANEY
Introduction: **Frances Prizzia**, CLPC Vice Chair

9:30 to 9:40 BREAK (technical set up and room reorganization)

9:40 -11:00 “**DOSS V. BERNAL & MENDEZ V. WESTMINSTER: Timeless Lessons of Civil Rights and Activism**”

Follow up to pre-symposium film viewing and discussion of constitutional law implications and attorney roles raised in the re-enactment of *Doss v. Bernal* and *Mendez v. Westminster*.

Facilitator: Emily Quinlan, CLPC Board Member

Speakers:

Justice Thomas Delaney, 4th Appellate District, California Court of Appeal

Judge Frederick Aguirre (Ret.), Orange County Superior Court

11:00 -11:15 “**MORNING RECESS**”

(Photo op with Justice Delaney and Judge Aguirre)

11:15 -11:45 “**CIVICS ENGAGEMENT, CIVILITY AND PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**”

MCLE Credit (.5 Ethics) **Speaker: Jerri Malana**, President, California Lawyers Foundation

11:45 -12:30 “**LUNCH RECESS**”

CLPC Program Announcements, networking and opportunity for students to mingle with Admissions Officers, Judges and Attorneys

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12:30 - 2:00 **MULTIPLE TRACKS (STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND ADVISORY BOARDS**

(ROOM 1111) Student Session: “CURRENT CONSTITUTIONAL LAW ISSUES”

Facilitator: Emily Quinlan, CLPC Board Member

12:30 to 1:15: “Mock Law Class”

This session is built around immigration issues and practice, 14th Amendment and possible ruling on currently pending 14th Amendment case with SCOTUS (surrounding birthright citizenship).

Speakers:

- **Justice Thomas Delaney**, 4th Appellate District, California Court of Appeals
- **Marisa Cianciarulo**, Dean and Professor of Law, Western State College of Law

1:15 to 2:00: “Addressing Issues through Civic Engagement”

This session will provide guidance for student civic engagement projects and will feature Teach Democracy and its Civic Action Project Youth Board

Speakers:

- **Laura Wesley**, Teach Democracy, Director of Programs
- **Samuel Avendano**, Teach Democracy, Civic Action Project Youth Board
- **Brianna Camacho**, Teach Democracy, Civic Action Project Youth Board
- **Haylee Gardner-Moore**, Teach Democracy, Civic Action Project Youth Board
- **Kynnedi Johnson**, Teach Democracy, Civic Action Project Youth Board
- **Angelica Ruiz**, Teach Democracy, Civic Action Project Youth Board

Note: Following this session we are honored that Justice Delaney will join the following sessions to emphasize the importance of the law academies and pathway to the legal profession and to acknowledge the role of the academy educators, administrators and volunteers engaging students with civic education and engagement and preparing them for their future roles as successful, ethical advocates in the legal profession.

(ROOM 1121) Teacher Session:

“RAISING THE BAR: SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN 2027 AND BEYOND”

Providing the opportunity for our teachers to address professional development topics identified through teacher roundtables and surveys during the year to engage students around curriculum, civic engagement, job preparation, post-secondary pathway and the practice of law.

Moderator: Carlos Garcia, CLPC Board Member

Speakers:

- **Laura Wesley**, Teach Democracy, Director of Programs
- **Samuel Avendano**, Teach Democracy, Civic Action Project Youth Board
- **Brianna Camacho**, Teach Democracy, Civic Action Project Youth Board
- **Haylee Gardner-Moore**, Teach Democracy, Civic Action Project Youth Board
- **Kynnedi Johnson**, Teach Democracy, Civic Action Project Youth Board
- **Angelica Ruiz**, Teach Democracy, Civic Action Project Youth Board
- **Carol Ross-Burnett Penn**: CLPC Board Member
- **Scott Newman**, CLPC Board Member

(ROOM 1131) Advisory Board Session:

“KEEPING YOUR ADVISORY COUNCIL ENGAGED & THRIVING”

For new and continuing Advisory Boards: sharing tips for successful Advisor Boards; reviewing CPA requirements and academy structure focusing on the preparation of students for successful law related careers including coordination with teachers/ and administrators, mentoring programs, internships, classroom presentations, field trips, funding options, and more.

Moderator: Ruthe Ashley, CLPC Chair Emeritus and Board Member

Panel:

- **Hon. Dan Healy**, Chair, Jesse Bethel Advisory Council
- **Hon. Judy Johnson (Ret.)**, Chair DeAnza Advisory Council
- **Hon. Elizabeth Macias**, Co-Chair, Santa Ana EGM Advisory Council
- **Herman Mitchell**, Law Coordinator, Santa Ana EGM Legal Studies Academy
- **Kristen Robinson**, Co-Chair, Santa Ana EGM Advisory Council, Professor Santa Ana College

2:00 to 2:15 “AFTERNOON RECESS” -- Break with afternoon snacks/beverages

2:15 to 3:30 – MULTIPLE TRACKS (STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND ADVISORY BOARDS)

(ROOM 1121) Student Session: “WALKING THE WALK + A DAY IN THE LIFE”

(After the break students assemble in the lobby for tours and then return to Room 1121)

Walking and talking tour of the UCI undergraduate and law school campuses with current students. Students will receive tips for a successful post-secondary journey and law school experience.

Facilitator: Scott Newman, CLPC Board Member

Tour Guides/Speakers:

- **Mia Alvarez, UCI School of Law, Student**
- **Sophie Lewczuk, UCI School of Law, Student**

(ROOM 1111) Teachers and Advisory Boards Combined Roundtable:

“PARTNERSHIPS THAT WORK”

What makes a great partnership and why is this important? Hear from collaborative partnerships that are working and share in their successful practices. Also, share some of your own experiences that have worked.

Moderator: Ruthe Ashley (CLPC Chair Emeritus and Board Member)

Special Guest: Justice Thomas Delaney, California Court of Appeals, 4th Appellate District

Speakers:

- **Ray Beattie and Judge Selena Epley**, Crawford Law Academy and Advisory Council
- **Carlos Garcia and Alana Mathews**, Florin Law & the World (LAW) Academy and Advisory Council
- **Ralph Vasquez and Judge Pahua Lor**, Bullard Law & Social Justice Academy and Regional Advisory Council
- **Dr. Reashon Villery**, Principal, Crawford High School, Academy of Law and Justice

******* THE REMAINING SESSIONS WILL BE IN ROOM 1111 *******

3:30 to 4:30: “CLPC ALUMNI PROUD” (ROOM 1111)

Law Academy Alumni sharing insight and feedback on the law academy experience and providing advice on navigating a successful post-secondary pathway and professional responsibility in the practice of law.

Moderator: Hon. Anthony Colbert, CLPC Board Member

Panel:

- **Joseph Acevedo**, Attorney, Elder Law Rights Center, Santa Ana (*Santa Ana Law Academy - 2016*)
- **Dominique Brown**, Public Defender, Los Angeles, (*Florin Law and the World (LAW) Academy - 2012*)
- **Alison Hwang**, Rising Junior, UC San Diego, CLPC Intern (*El Dorado Law Academy - 2023*)
- **Ashley Menguito**, UC Davis School of Law Graduate 2026 (*Jesse Bethel Law Academy - 2017*)

4:30 to 5:00 “CLOSING ARGUMENTS: INSIGHTS AND IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE” (ROOM 1111)

A candid session focusing on Symposium feedback, law academy challenges/what works, CLPC support and next steps to ensure student preparation as successful/informed members of the legal profession and other law-related careers.

Facilitators:

Hon. Fumiko Wasserman (Ret.) (CLPC Board Member)

Dr. Carol Ross-Burnett Penn (CLPC Board Member)

5:00: CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT (Patricia Lee, CLPC Chair)

5:00 to 7:30 RECEPTION – “Celebrating RCA Scholarship Recipients and CLPC Honorees”

The Reception Venue is a 5-minute walk from the Law School in the Continuing Education Building, Upper Courtyard, 2nd Floor

See the building floor plan (Upper Courtyard is on page 2, 2nd floor):

<https://ce.uci.edu/uci/media/Documents/dce-floor-plan-buildingCE1.pdf>

Also see the interactive map showing the Law School (building 4) and the Continuing Education Building (Building 8) <https://map.uci.edu/?id=463#!ct/92249,95177,95129,95130,95176?m/1117448?s/continuing%20education>

Address:

UC Irvine Division of Continuing Education

Upper Courtyard, 2nd Floor

510 E Peltason Dr, Irvine CA 92697

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Address:

**UC Irvine Division of Continuing Education
Upper Courtyard, 2nd Floor
510 E Peltason Dr, Irvine CA 92697**

5:00 to 7:30 Reception

“CELEBRATING RCA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS AND CLPC HONOREES”

5:00: Networking and Refreshments

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5:30 to 6:15: Welcome and Presentations, Frances Prizzia, CLPC Vice Chair

HONORING CLPC CHAMPIONS

- **Teacher Award– Ray Beattie**, Coordinator, Crawford High School Law Academy,
Presented by Jerri Malana, President, California Lawyers Foundation
- **Law Academy Award – Santa Ana High School, EGM Legal Studies Academy**,
Presented by Diego Arp, CLPC Board Member and Fundraising Chair
- **Leadership Award– Ann Park**, Advisory Council Chair and Mentoring Chair,
Woodrow Wilson High School Law Magnet,
Presented by Hon. Fumiko Wasserman (Ret.), CLPC Board Member
- **Judicial Inspiration Award – Justice Thomas Delaney**,
Presented by Emily Quinlan, CLPC Board Member

PRESENTING CLPC UNSUNG HERO

This is a new award and opportunity for our CLPC Chair to acknowledge CLPC members who have made significant contributions toward the implementation of CLPC's mission and goals.

Recipient: **Carlos Garcia**, Coordinator Florin High School Law and the World (LAW) Academy, Founding CLPC Board Member and Student Programming Committee Chair

Presented by **Patricia Lee**, CLPC Chair

RECOGNIZING AND THANKING CLPC TEACHER RETIREE

Recipient: **Chris Voisin**, McClatchy High School, Coordinator, Law and Public Policy Academy

Presented by: **Ruthe Ashley**, CLPC Chair Emeritus and Board Member

ACKNOWLEDGING ATTORNEY LAW ACADEMY GRADUATES

Presented by **Ruthe Ashley**, CLPC Chair Emeritus and **Frances Prizzia**, CLPC Vice Chair

- **Joseph Acevedo**, Elder Law Rights Center, Santa Ana (*EGM Legal Studies Academy 2016*)
- **Dominique Brown**, Public Defender, Los Angeles (*Florin Law and the World (LAW) Academy 2012*)
- **Kiara Chatman** Bastine Law Group, Houston (*Deer Valley Law & Justice Academy 2016*)
- **Manjinder Kaur**, Redkey Gordon, Stockton (*De Anza Law Academy 2014*)
- **Jafar Khalfani-Bey** Ropes & Gray, Palo Alto (*Deer Valley Law & Justice Academy 2017*)
- **Deepak Kumar**, Splitero, San Diego (*Florin Law and the World (LAW) Academy 2015*)
- **Brandon Rizotto** Boutin Jones, Sacramento (*Deer Valley Law & Justice Academy 2017*)
- **Asia Thompson**, Public Defender, Los Angeles (*De Anza Law Academy 2014*)
- **Isis Thomas (née Isis Willis)** Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy, Indiana (*Jesse Bethel Law Academy 2017*)

CONGRATULATING AND PRESENTING RCA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

- **Julissa Amparo, Bullard High School, Fresno**
Sponsored by Law School Admissions Council (LSAC)
Presented by: Video by **Angela Winfield**, Chief Impact Officer, Law School Admissions Council
- **Ian De La Cruz, Luther Burbank High School, Sacramento**
Sponsored by Jay Elliott, Law Offices of John D. Elliott
Presented by: Video by **Attorney Jay Elliott**, CLPC Leadership Council
- **Journey French, Jesse Bethel High School, Vallejo**
Sponsored by: vLex Fastcase
Presented by: **Ruthe Ashley**, CLPC Founder, on behalf of **Phil Rosenthal**, Founder of Fastcase
- **Elen Israelyan, Bullard High School, Fresno**
Presented by: **Toni Jaramillo**, CLPC Board Member
- **Charmaine Little, Luther Burbank High School, Sacramento**
Presented by: **Chris Nguyen**, CEO California Lawyers Foundation and California Lawyers Association
- **Sibraim Marin, Jr., Roosevelt High School, Los Angeles**
Presented by: **Ruthe Ashley**, CLPC Founder

6:15: Enjoy More Networking/Refreshments

7:30: Closing Remarks (Frances Prizzia)

2026 CLPC Annual Symposium Bios



Patricia Lee

California Legal Pathways Collaborative - Chair

Patricia Lee is a retired attorney who continues to focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the legal profession through involvement with California Legal Pathway Collaborative (CLPC), California LAW and the American Bar Association (ABA). She currently chairs the ABA Council on Diversity in the Educational Pipeline (Pipeline Council) and serves on the Advisory Commission to the newly created ABA Task Force for American Democracy. She has served as past chair for various ABA entities including the Standing Committee on Public Education, Advisory Commission on Public Education, Diversity and Inclusion Center and Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council.

She was Special Assistant for Diversity & Bar Relations at the State Bar of California, serving as liaison to the Council on Access & Fairness and was instrumental in the formation of the California High School Law Academies and California LAW Pathways. She served as Director of the State Bar's Office of Legal Services, Access & Fairness Programs focusing on equal access to justice, diversity, and elimination of bias initiatives. Also, she served as the Director of the State Bar Voluntary Legal Services Program and later was tasked with overseeing the implementation of the Legal Services Trust Fund Program.

She began her career as a VISTA attorney for the San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation (SFNLAF), now Bay Area Legal Aid. She was Managing Attorney at both the Mission and Chinatown/North Beach Offices at SFNLAF, Executive Director and CAO for the Legal Aid Society of Santa Clara County and founding Director of Santa Clara County's Office of Women's Advocacy where she coordinated the creation of community transition programs for women in the county jail and worked with a broad network of community organizations to empower girls and young women through the implementation of social change projects impacting their own neighborhoods. She was a co-founder of the Pro Bono Project of Silicon Valley and is a recipient of various professional and community awards including the prestigious ABA Spirit of Excellence Award, For People of Color Community Service Award, Santa Clara County Bar Unsung Hero Award, and the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame. She received her BA from UC Berkeley and JD from UC Law San Francisco College of the Law (formerly Hastings College of the Law) and was admitted to practice in February 1972.



Austen Parrish

Dean and Chancellor's Professor of Law

Austen Parrish joined University of California, Irvine School of Law in August 2022 as its third dean and as a Chancellor's Professor of Law. He recently concluded his term as the 2025-26 President of the Association of American Law Schools and assumed the role of Immediate Past President. Dean Parrish is a long-standing member of the board of directors of the AccessLex Institute and serves as co-editor of the *Journal of Legal Education*. He is an elected member of the American Law Institute, a fellow with the American Bar Foundation, and a fellow with the Association of American Law Schools.

Parrish's research and teaching interests focus on international law, transnational litigation, and the role that national courts and domestic institutions play in solving global challenges. He has particular expertise in legal and policy issues related to the extraterritorial application of domestic law. He is the author of dozens of scholarly articles published in leading law reviews and is the co-author of three books. Over his career, he has taught a variety of courses, including Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Federal Courts, Transnational Law, International Environmental Law, and Public International Law.

Before joining University of California, Irvine, Parrish was the sixteenth Dean and James H. Rudy Professor of Law at Indiana University Maurer School of Law (2014-2022). In 2018 and again in 2021, he was named a Wells Scholars Professor for his work with Indiana University's prestigious Wells Scholars program. In 2019, he was bestowed with IU's Bicentennial Medal and, in 2022, he was awarded the Provost's Medal, the highest honor bestowed by the Office of the Provost, recognizing outstanding and transformative contributions to Indiana University Bloomington.

Before joining Indiana University Bloomington, Parrish served as interim dean and CEO (2012-2013), vice dean (2008-2012), and the Irwin R. Buchalter Professor of Law (2007-2008) at Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles. From 2003 to 2010, he directed Southwestern's international and comparative summer law program in Vancouver, Canada, hosted by the University of British Columbia Faculty of Law in collaboration with the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy, a United Nations affiliate. In 2015, he received an honorary doctor of laws degree from Southwestern Law School during its 100th year graduation ceremony, and in 2014 was honored by Southwestern's Alumni Board with its Outstanding Friend Award.

Parrish is active in a variety of national organizations focused on legal education. Since 2015, he has served as a member of the board of directors of AccessLex Institute, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the betterment of legal education with a focus on issues of access and affordability. From 2020-2023, and again from 2024 onwards, he has served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Association of American Law Schools and a member of the AALS Deans Steering Committee. He is an officer of the Association, is currently serving as president (2025), was president-elect (2024) and will serve as past president in 2026. From 2015-2020, he served as a member, and then chair, of the AALS Membership Review Committee. He served as a member of the faculty/programming committee for the 2019 ABA New Deans

Workshop, and that same year the Indiana Supreme Court appointed him to the Study Commission on the Future of the Indiana Bar Examination.

Prior to entering academia, Dean Parrish was an attorney with O'Melveny & Myers LLP in Los Angeles, where he litigated in state and federal trial and appellate courts. Dean Parrish received his bachelor's degree from the University of Washington and his law degree from Columbia University, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone scholar.



Frances Prizzia
California Legal Pathways Collaborative – Vice Chair

Frances grew up in the Philippines during the time of martial law when Ferdinand Marcos ruled as the country's dictator. Many people who opposed him were killed under his unjust regime. Frances witnessed the assassination of Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, Marcos' biggest critic, on live television. This action banded people together in the EDSA movement, which overthrew Marcos's reign. At a young age, Frances saw the helplessness of the Filipino people against an unjust and lawless dictator, but she also observed the power and hope that the People's Power movement created. This movement saw the success of a bloodless revolution, helping Cory Aquino become the first woman President of the Philippines in 1986.

When she moved to Los Angeles, Frances again witnessed injustice when she saw the Rodney King beating and the ensuing unrest. She became an activist in high school and was inspired to enter a career that helped people understand that their voices and existences matter.

Frances's compassion drove her commitment to making a difference and defending those in need. This drive is what convinced her to apply for law school. She was accepted into the Santa Clara University School of Law, where she also received her undergraduate degree. Frances chose this school because of its emphasis on public interest and public service.

While in law school, Frances interned at the Northern California Innocence Project and later worked as a Certified Law Clerk at the Santa Cruz Public Defender's office. She successfully argued and won a motion to suppress evidence due to the investigating police officers' unlawful violations of the Fourth Amendment. She also researched and wrote motions asking the court to order the disclosure of confidential information regarding informants and police personnel files.

In addition to extensive trial advocacy training, the school is also home to the Death Penalty College, Northern California Innocence Project, and Center for Social Justice and Public Service. While in law school, Frances worked at the Katharine and George Alexander Community Law Center, where she wrote two successful political asylum briefs and won a U-visa (victim of violence) application for her client. This allowed the client to obtain their permanent residency ("green card") and a work permit in the United States. Frances also participated in an externship at the Northern California Innocence Project.

For the past 19 years, Frances has dedicated herself to the practice of law. Years before opening this firm, Frances worked as an Orange County Public Defender and in the Los Angeles County Alternate Defender's Office. While working as a trial attorney, she obtained many dismissals, and she won more jury trials than any other attorney within her unit.

Outside of her career, Frances continues to fiercely stick to her roots in activism. She previously served as the President of the Filipino-American Lawyers of Orange County (FLOC), a preeminent organization for Filipino-American legal professionals. The organization provides support and celebration for community members' advancement in the legal world. They sponsor events such as Mock Interview Programs, Elimination of Bias MCLE, networking mixers, Adopt a Family, and many more beneficial fundraisers. Ms. Prizzia is fluent in Tagalog and a single mother of two.



Justice Thomas Delaney
4th Appellate District, California Court of Appeal

Thomas A. Delaney was nominated to the California Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division Three, by Governor Gavin Newsom on August 8, 2022, and was confirmed by unanimous vote of the Commission on Judicial Appointments on October 11, 2022. Prior to his confirmation, Justice Delaney served as a judge of the Superior Court in Orange County since 2014. At the time of his nomination, he served as Supervising Judge of the Collaborate Courts, where he presided over the Veterans Courts, among others. He previously served on the Unlimited Civil Panel at the Central Justice Center and the Limited Criminal Panel at the Harbor Justice Center.

Justice Delaney is President of the California Latino Judges Association where he previously served on the Executive Board as Secretary and as a Member At-Large. Between 2020 and 2021, Justice Delaney served as the 89th President of the California Judges Association, which represents more than 2200 active and retired judicial officers and appellate court justices from all 58 California counties. During that same time, he also served as an Advisory Member of the Judicial Council of California.

In Orange County, Justice Delaney serves on Governor Gavin Newsom's Judicial Selection Advisory Committee, the Board of Directors of the Masters Division of the Orange County Bar Association, and the Judicial Advisory Board of the Constitutional Rights Foundation of Orange County. He also is a Past President of the William P. Gray Legion Lex Inn of Court.



Professor Emily Quinlan
California Legal Pathways Collaborative – Board Member

Emily Quinlan is an attorney and professor of business and political science at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo, California.

She received her Juris Doctor degree from Western State University College of Law in December 1987 and has focused her law practice on business litigation.

In her role faculty role at Saddleback College, Ms. Quinlan teaches classes in law and American government. She was honored as Saddleback College Outstanding Professor of the Year, 2020 as well as Orange County Department of Education Teacher of the Year, 2021. Ms. Quinlan supports students as the campus Pathway to Law School Faculty Champion and pre-law advisor.

Ms. Quinlan is a native of Southern California where she currently resides.



Hon. Frederick Aguirre (Ret)
Orange County Superior Court

Judge Fredrick Aguirre (Ret.) has served the legal community as an attorney and judge with passion, pride, and dignity for over 50 years. In 2017, after 15 years on the bench, he retired from the Orange County Superior Court where he presided over civil trials, law and motion, and settlements regarding government liability, business, personal injury, and medical malpractice cases. He also sat in the Family Law department for 4 years. Before he was a judge he founded a 92-unit assisted living retirement community and for 17 years managed the facility. In his 28 years of private practice, he dealt with personal injury, real estate, employment, construction, licensing, and insurance issues. This experience gives him an “in the trenches” view of what all parties go through in a dispute.

Judge Aguirre’s family emigrated from Mexico and set down roots in the United States starting in the 1890s. He has been instrumental in studying, recording, and preserving the history of the contributions of the Latino community in civil rights activism, military service, establishing legal precedent, and social, academic, and professional achievement. Judge Aguirre is married to Linda Castro Martinez, a teacher and author, and they have 3 children and 4 grandchildren.



Jerrilyn Malana
California Lawyers Foundation, President

Jerrilyn Malana is a Chief Deputy District Attorney with the San Diego County District Attorney’s Office, where she serves as chief of human resources and special counsel. Prior to the DA’s Office, Jerri was an employment law attorney and shareholder with the global law firm of Littler

Mendelson. Jerri is a dynamic public speaker and an effective and engaging trainer. She regularly speaks on leadership strategies, the elimination of bias in the workplace, and the importance of civic engagement. Jerri is passionate about community service and civics education and helping the next generation to succeed.

Jerri is President of the California Lawyers Foundation. She was the inaugural Chair of the Civic Engagement & Outreach (CEO) Committee for the California Lawyers Association, and she remains active with the Civic Learning Partnership for San Diego County. Jerri was a founding advisory board member for the Academy of Law at Crawford High School in San Diego. She was the first Asian Pacific American attorney to serve as President of the San Diego County Bar Association. Jerri presently serves as on the Board of the Public Policy Institute of California, which is a nonprofit and nonpartisan think tank. She also serves as a Trustee on the University of California San Diego Foundation Board. Jerri was inducted into the San Diego County Women's Hall of Fame as a "Trailblazer." She has been recognized by many organizations for her work in the community, including being named a "Trailblazer" by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association.



Marisa S. Cianciarulo

Dean and Professor of Law, Western State College of Law

Marisa S. Cianciarulo is the Dean of Western State College of Law. Prior to joining Western State in 2023, Dean Cianciarulo was a tenured professor of law at Chapman University Dale E. Fowler School of Law, where she served as Interim Dean (2021-2023) and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (2017-2021), and taught Civil Procedure, Gender and Sexual Orientation and the Law, Refugee Law, and Remedies. An expert in immigration and refugee law, Dean Cianciarulo practiced immigration law in the Washington, D.C. area, served as a staff attorney with the American Bar Association's Commission on Immigration in Washington, D.C., and served as the Reuschlein Clinical Teaching Fellow in the Villanova Law School Clinic for Asylum, Refugee and Emigrant Services from 2003 until 2006. Dean Cianciarulo's research focuses on reproductive freedom, vulnerable immigrant populations, and the intersection of gender and immigration.

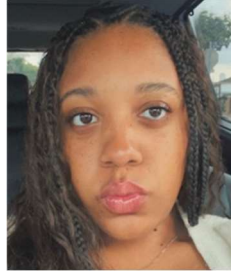


Laura Wesley

Teach Democracy, Director of Programs

Laura joined Teach Democracy in 2001 and serves as the director of programs. She works closely with all Teach Democracy programs focusing on program design and implementation, national partnerships, and leading local, state, and national professional development. Laura also teaches Street Law at Southwestern Law School where she prepares

law students to work with young people in the dependency and delinquency systems. Laura has served on the California State Bar Council on Access and Fairness and the National High School Mock Trial Board. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology and social behavior, and criminology law and society from the University of California, Irvine, and her JD from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Before joining Teach Democracy, Laura taught at a Los Angeles middle school, practiced law at the Colorado Department of Education, and worked as an in-house transactional attorney.



Kynnedi Johnson
Teach Democracy, Civic Action Project Youth Board

My name is Kynnedi Johnson and I'm a high school student. I enjoy learning about social issues and ways to positively impact my community. Through my CAP I was not only able to develop more social skills, I also developed skills in leadership and communication. I am very excited to share my experience and encourage other students to get involved.



Haylee Gardne-Moore
Teach Democracy, Civic Action Project Youth Board

Hi my name is Haylee Gardner-Moore and I am a high school student. I enjoy culinary and working in a kitchen and would like to go to a culinary school for college. Another things about myself is that I enjoy watching all types of film, I want to get into drawing and crocheting, and I like to hang out with my friends and family.



Samuel Avendano

Teach Democracy, Civic Action Project Youth Board

Samuel is a rising college student who is interested in studying Political Science and Psychology. Beyond his educational journey, Samuel is actively involved within his Los Angeles community as he leads a student run organization named CLIP Citizenship, aimed to provide accessible ways towards naturalization and immigration through youth advocacy. Through EHI, Samuel completed his CAP project, focusing on state funding for education, while also interning at Munger, Tolles, and Olson. Samuel aspires to enter a legal career as a litigator and down the line as a Judge.



Brianna Camacho

Teach Democracy, Civic Action Project Youth Board

Brianna Camacho is a rising senior who excels on her high school's varsity soccer and track teams. She is deeply committed to amplifying youth voices and holds several leadership roles within her school and community. For her Civic Action Project, she addressed the lack of affordable health care. Brianna is also interested in law and last interned at Sheppard Mullin's Los Angeles office.



Angelica Ruiz, a recent high school graduate who will be attending CSUN in the fall to study Political Science. I am deeply passionate about civil rights and public policy and hope to pursue a career in advocacy focused on immigration and women's rights.



Dr. Carol Ross-Burnett Penn

California Legal Pathways Collaborative – Board Member

Dr. Carol Ross-Burnett Penn brings her unique lived experience, expertise, scholarship and spirit to her professional and creative endeavors through her company, CRB Global LLC. She has helped organizations identify and overcome behavioral and systemic bias for over thirty years and is widely known in the legal profession for this work. Her doctorate is in organizational change and leadership from the University of Southern California.

Dr. Ross-Burnett Penn held long tenures in law firm and law school senior administrative roles and has also consulted with prominent clients in entertainment, education, non-profit, business and other settings. Her resume includes decades of volunteer leadership in legal organizations, publications in law-related print and on-line media, and chapters in two best-selling books with stories highlighting African Americans and African American women.

A dynamic speaker, Dr. Ross-Burnett Penn holds the highest designation of DTM (Distinguished Toastmaster) from Toastmasters International. She is a singer and songwriter who performs regularly with the music outreach of Billy Davis, Jr. and Marilyn McCoo of Fifth Dimension fame, and is the founder of a support group for prominent women in the creative and performing arts.



Scott Newman

Lead/Law Teacher, Cabrillo Academy of Law & Justice

California Legal Pathways Collaborative – Board Member

Scott Newman is a proud graduate of UC, Berkeley and Indiana University Maurer School of Law. He worked as a civil litigation attorney for 10 years before transitioning into a career in education. After earning his teaching credential from Cal State University, Long Beach, he was hired to teach in the Cabrillo Academy of Law and Justice (CAL-J) at Cabrillo High School in Long Beach, California. During his career at Cabrillo, Scott has taught numerous classes within the pathway and had the opportunity to impact the lives of hundreds of students. For the last three years, he has also had the pleasure of being the lead teacher for CAL-J, working with other pathway teachers, administrators and the community to improve the pathway and provide opportunities for students. During this time, CAL-J created a Summer Forensic Institute for students, strengthened its advisory board, and grew its mentoring program, while giving students opportunities to attend field trips throughout Southern California and hear from guest speakers in a variety of legal fields as part of its CAL-J Guest Speaker Series.



Ruthe Catolico Ashley

California Legal Pathways Collaborative – Immediate Past Chair

Ruthe Catolico Ashley is Immediate Past Chair of the newly created California Legal Pathways Collaborative (CLPC), which focuses on expanding resources for the high school law academies project started by Ashley in 2010. This new project is housed with the California Lawyers Foundation, bringing the high school academies back to its roots in a legal organization. Ashley is also founder of California LAW Pathways, created in 2015 to support the California LAW Pathway with a mission to diversify California’s legal profession through the educational pipeline.

Ashley is considered the Diversity Pipeline Guru for the legal profession in California. As a member of the State Bar of California’s Board of Governors, she chaired the Diversity Pipeline Task Force in 2007, which jump-started the pipeline work in this state. Ashley founded and created the Council on Access and Fairness with the State Bar of California – now a leader in legal diversity across the nation. She was also the first President/CEO of California ALL, and the Founder/Executive Director of California LAW, two non-profit organizations with a mission to diversify the legal profession through the educational pipeline.

Ashley’s first career was as a nurse and nursing professor. She became a lawyer at the age of 40 and was a litigator for 15 years before returning to her alma mater as the Assistant Dean for Career Services. She was the first Division Chief Diversity Officer for CalPERS. Ashley has had numerous leadership roles including being past president of the Asian Pacific Bar of Sacramento, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, and Legal Services of Northern California. She was a member of the American Bar Association’s Board of Governors and chaired the Public Service and Diversity Committee of the BOG. She led the restructuring of the Goal III Diversity entities. She also chaired the Women of Color Committee for the Commission on Women and the chaired the Council on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Educational Pipeline. She chaired the ABA’s Public Education Committee with programs including the National Civics and Law Academy, Law Day, Silver Gavel Awards and other projects for teachers and students. Currently, she is a member of the ABA’s Fund for Justice and Education, Retirement Fund Board, and the Law Library of Congress. She remains as a liaison to Public Ed from the Civil Rights and Social Justice Committee.

Ashley worked with the California Legislature in inserting diversity and inclusion language in the State Bar’s 2018 Fee Bill. The recipient of numerous awards including the ABA’s prestigious Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement award in 2020. A NAPABA Trailblazer recipient, she received the inaugural Excellence in Civics Engagement Award from the California Lawyers Association. Now retired, she devotes her time to diversity in the legal profession and world travel. Three grandchildren make life rich and active.



Hon. Dan Healy
Superior Court Judge of the Vallejo (Solano County)
Jesse Bethel Law Academy Advisory Council Chair

Judge Dan Healy is a Superior Court Judge of the Vallejo (Solano County) courthouse and presides over a felony criminal calendar as well as Mental Health Court and Veterans Court calendars. He is a board member of the California Association of Collaborative Courts and several judicial committees involved with efforts to improve justice system responses for persons struggling with substance use, mental health, and other health challenges. He also regularly teaches on these topics. He was co-founder of the Jesse Bethel Law and Justice Academy in 2014.

Prior to joining the bench in 2010 Dan Healy was an attorney in private practice in Solano County for 24 years where he enjoyed a successful trial practice in criminal, juvenile, civil and real estate / land use areas, having tried nearly 100 cases to verdict. He was named a Northern California “Superlawyer” in criminal law from 2004-2009 and was honored as “Attorney of the Year” by the Solano County Bar Assn. in 2005. He was certified by the State Bar of California as a criminal law specialist.

Dan Healy earned his *Juris Doctor* in June 1986 from *UOP McGeorge School of Law* and his B.A. from *UC Davis* in 1982. He was born and raised in Vallejo



Hon. Judy Johnson (Ret)
California Legal Pathways Collaborative – Board Member
Chair DeAnza Law Academy Advisory Council

Judge Judy Johnson grew up the youngest of four daughters born to working class parents who fled indignity and limitation in the South to seek opportunity in California in the 1940’s. Her parents instilled a sense of boundless opportunity for those who worked hard, excelled in school and played by the rules. That her family’s race precluded even a chance at higher education in Texas made college an achievable expectation for all the girls in California. Excel indeed, Judge Johnson earned academic honors in the public schools she attended in Richmond, CA and a full scholarship to Stanford University in 1967. In 1976, she graduated from King Hall Law School of Law at the University of California, Davis and was admitted to the bar.

While at Oakland Legal Aid attorney, Judge Johnson helped indigent citizens with their legal problems and joined other women lawyers to sue the Oakland Police Department for failing to respond to the calls of battered women seeking police protection and intervention. That

litigation not only changed domestic violence policies in Oakland but contributed to a national recognition that battered women were “crime victims” deserving of police protection.

In 1977, Judge Johnson was appointed Assistant District Attorney for the City and County of San Francisco, where she specialized in prosecuting complex civil and criminal prosecution of major frauds, white collar crime, violations of California's consumer protection.

As a lawyer Judge Johnson was a pioneer, achieving many “first” of its kind accomplishments. She served as the first woman president of the Charles Houston Bar Association, northern California's oldest Black bar association and in 1990 she was the first woman of color elected to serve on the governing board of the State Bar of California. A champion of equal rights, Judge Johnson has always fought to promote diversity and secure equality of opportunity within the legal profession.

In 1994, Judge Johnson was also the first woman and attorney of color to be chosen as the State Bar's chief ethics prosecutor and the only person to date twice nominated and confirmed by the State Senate of California to serve in that position.

When the State Bar was again in crisis, Judge Johnson again answered its call to become its Executive Director in May 2000, becoming the first woman and lawyer of color to serve in that capacity, responsible for administering an annual budget of approximately \$140 million and a staff of 550. With a tenure of eleven years, Judge Johnson is to date the longest serving State Bar Executive Director in California history.

In addition to her bar association activities, Judge Johnson has been extensively involved in community affairs, including serving as President of the Board of Directors of the California Consumer Protection Foundation, which since its establishment in 1991 efficiently distributed more than \$30 million in *cy pres* funds to California's underserved communities.

In 2011, *The Recorder*, the Bay Area's legal newspaper, recognized Judge Johnson as one of twenty Women Leaders in the Law, admitted to practice for over 35 years, for their trailblazing contribution to the practice of law.

Judge Johnson came out of retirement to accept an appointment by California Governor Jerry Brown to the Contra Costa County Superior Court in 2012, serving approximately 8 years until her retirement in 2021. She now spends her time gardening, traveling, and supporting law-themed academies in California's high schools. Started as a pilot project, there are now 26 law-themed academies promoting student education about our legal system and encouraging diverse students to aspire to careers as lawyers and judges. In 2022, now retired California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye appointed Judge Johnson as Chair of the Trustees Nominating Committee which evaluates and recommends candidates for appointment to the State Bar of California's Board of Trustees, the governing board of the nation's largest state bar.



Hon. Elizabeth Macias
California Superior Court, Orange County
Co-Chair, Santa Ana EGM Advisory Council

Judge Elizabeth Guerrero Macias is the first in her family to graduate from high school, and a first-generation Mexican American. She was born to teenage parents who spoke limited English and had an elementary school education, but an extraordinary work ethic. Although her father is now retired, she proudly calls herself the daughter of a gardener because it demonstrates what is possible with hard work, support, and opportunities.

After law school, Judge Macias worked at the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Central District of California for 14 years. In December 2012, Governor Brown appointed Judge Macias to the California Superior Court in Orange County. She was the third Latina to be appointed to serve Orange County. Within three years, she was the supervising judge of the Central Justice Misdemeanor Criminal Panel. In 2018, she became the first Latina assigned to serve on the court's felony trial panel, where she sits today.

In addition to her responsibilities as a trial judge, Judge Macias engages in significant public service. She serves as faculty for the Center for Judicial Education and Research, teaching judicial officers, is a founding member and chair of the California Affinity Judges Association Coalition (CAJAC), and is a founding member and President of the Orange County Association of Affinity Judicial Officers (OCAAJO), in addition to serving on numerous other boards and committees.

In 2017, Judge Macias was honored as Latina Judge of the Year by the Hispanic National Bar Association, Judge of the Year by the Orange County Hispanic Bar Association and Be the Change Award recipient by the Orange County affinity bar associations. On June 3, 2017, Santa Ana High School, her alma mater, named their Legal Studies Academy the Elizabeth G. Macias Legal Studies Academy. In February 2019, California State University Fullerton recognized her with the Vision and Visionaries Award. In September 2019, the Mexican Government presented her a prestigious award recognizing her work advancing Mexican citizens in the United States. In October 2019, the Orange County Women Lawyers Association recognized her as Judge of the Year. In March 2021, the California Judges Association recognized her with the Bernard S. Jefferson Award for her distinguished service in judicial education. In September 2021, the Constitutional Rights Foundation, Orange County, recognized her as Judge of the Year. In September 2024, the California Women Lawyers recognized Judge Macias with the Joan Dempsey Klein Distinguished Jurist Award. In 2024, the California Lawyers Foundation, Legal Pathways Collaborative recognized her with the Excellence in Leadership Award. In 2025, the Orange County Hispanic Bar Association recognized her with the Guardian of Justice Award.



Herman Mitchell
Lead CTE Teacher, Santa Ana EGM Legal Studies Academy

Born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1950—four years before the landmark Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* and three years before the end of the Korean War—I was raised in Columbus, Georgia, by my grandparents from the age of eight months. Although they had limited formal education, they instilled in me the values of perseverance, hard work, and determination.

I graduated from George Washington Carver High School in 1968 during one of the most turbulent periods in American history. As a young person, I faced significant academic struggles and personal challenges, including societal prejudice based on my complexion, a lack of positive mentorship, and deep self-doubt. Searching for purpose and direction, I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in October 1968.

After completing my first tour of duty in 1970, I returned to the Marine Corps in 1974, where I found not only a career but also a sense of belonging and purpose. Over the next 25 years, my military service took me around the world, providing invaluable experiences, life lessons, and opportunities for personal growth. In 1998, I retired with the rank of Master Sergeant after a distinguished career dedicated to service and leadership.

Retirement marked the beginning of a new challenge. Having spent nearly 30 years believing I was not capable of succeeding in higher education, I made the courageous decision to pursue a college degree. Beginning in 1999, I embarked on an academic journey that transformed my life. I earned an Associate Degree from Irvine Valley College, followed by both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Public Administration from California State University, Fullerton. In 2007, I completed my educational journey by earning a Career Technical Education (CTE) Credential from California State University, Long Beach.

In 2008, I joined the Santa Ana Unified School District, where I found a new calling in education. By 2020, I was given the tremendous opportunity to teach my favorite subject and contribute to the development of future leaders. Today, I am proud to serve as an educator dedicated to elevating the Elizabeth G. Macias Legal Academy. My greatest reward is witnessing the growth, achievements, and success of my students.

Throughout every chapter of my life, two guiding principles have shaped my path: *Semper Fidelis*—"Always Faithful"—and *Carpe Diem*—"Seize the Day." Together, they reflect a philosophy that has sustained me through every challenge and triumph: "You are too blessed to be stressed."



Kristen Robinson, Esq.
Co-Chair, Santa Ana EGM Advisory Council
Professor Santa Ana College

Kristen Robinson is a department chair and faculty member at Santa Ana College in the Legal Studies Department. She teaches courses in Law and Paralegal; in 2022, she was recognized with the college's highest teaching honor as Distinguished Faculty. Prior to teaching, she worked in complex corporate civil litigation in Washington, DC and Los Angeles, CA.

At Santa Ana College, she developed the school's Pathway to Law School certificate program and currently serves as program director. She is dedicated to providing her students quality legal education to help them enter the workforce as interpreters, paralegals and even future lawyers.

One of Kristen's favorite things to do in class is offer her lecture entitled: "Zombies in the Law: The Legal Implications of the Undead." She is certain that if zombies were real, they would want to take her class and become a lawyer.



Mia Alvarez
UCI Law School - Student

Mia Alvarez is a J.D. candidate at the University of California, Irvine School of Law with a strong foundation in litigation, judicial analysis, and community-centered advocacy. She currently serves as an Advanced Clinical Student in the Workers, Tenants Law and Organizing Clinic, where she collaborates with community partners to support immigrant and low-wage workers through client representation, legal research, and the drafting of discovery and motion practice. Mia previously served as a Judicial Extern to Associate Justice Maurice Sanchez at the California Court of Appeal, District Four, Division Three, where she analyzed trial records, conducted legal research, and drafted a proposed opinion and legal memorandum.

Prior to law school, Mia worked as a legal assistant and paralegal, managing complex case files, preparing discovery and motions, and supporting attorneys in litigation and client consultations. Her extensive pro bono service includes work with Bet Tzedek Legal Services, the Public Law Center, and Legal Aid at Work, assisting underserved communities with critical legal needs. Mia will join Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP as a Summer Associate in the firm's Labor and Employment practice.



Sophie Lewczuk
UCI Law School - Student

Sophie is a rising 2L student at UC Irvine School of Law who graduated from the University of Missouri. As a first-gen law student, she took gap years before pursuing her legal education to work as a probate court clerk.

Growing up in St. Louis, Missouri, Sophie worked in her community doing activism and direct action, which catalyzed her interest in social justice through the legal system. Eager to gain practical experience and remain engaged with her community, Sophie selected UC Irvine specifically for its practical and holistic approach to legal education and its 1L pro bono program. During her 1L Fall semester, she volunteered with Saturday Academy of Law and the Social Security Income Clinic, which handles appeals when SSI funds are stopped. In this past semester, Sophie participated in the SSI Clinic again and the SoCal Chinese Lawyers Association Legal Clinic, working on everything from bankruptcy cases to divorces. Currently, she is working as a legal extern with the United States Postal Service in employment and labor law.

Outside of studying, Sophie enjoys birding, nature photography, film photography, and playing piano.



Ray Beattie
Coordinator, Crawford Law Academy

Ray began his journey to become a teacher at Point Loma College in San Diego, earning his B.S. degree in Physical Education. After graduating from PLNU in 1983, Ray became a San Diego Police officer and later a field training officer for graduates from the police academy. After getting off duty from his midnight patrol shifts, Ray completed his education classes and student teaching for his teaching credential.

After the SDPD, Ray became the Director of Security/Public Safety for Point Loma Nazarene University, with a student staff of 25-30 college students as security officers, welcome center greeters, office receptionist, and shuttle van drivers. Ray and his department received recognition as a model for other universities and colleges in using students in security/public safety departments at colleges and universities. While the Director of Security/Public Safety, Ray finished the History-Social Science requirements for his teaching credential.

At the age of fifty, Ray became a teacher with San Diego Unified School District, at Lincoln High School, Center for Public Safety, and later with Crawford High School, Academy of Law. In 2019, Ray became the Academy coordinator, and the program has grown from averaging 100 students to currently at 160 students (sophomores, juniors, seniors).

In October of 2024, Ray completed a twelve-month project that started with research, bids and proposals for a new courtroom to be installed in the new law classroom. The courtroom is used in our law classes and by the mock trial team. In 2024, Ray and the Crawford Academy of Law received the Trail Blazer Award, along with five other original six Law Academies in California.



Hon. Selena D. Epley
Superior Court of San Diego County
Crawford Law Academy Advisory Council Chair

The Hon. Selena D. Epley is a judge for the Superior Court of San Diego in California. She was appointed to the bench by former governor Jerry Brown on July 16, 2014, filling a vacancy created by the retirement of the Hon. William H. McAdam, Jr.

Judge Epley earned a B.A. from the University of Washington. She then received a J.D. from Stanford Law School.

Judge Epley began her legal career as a law clerk for the Office of the Primary Public Defender of San Diego County in 1985. She then joined the Office of the Primary Public Defender as a deputy public defender, eventually rising to Assistant Supervising Attorney for the central felony team in 2012. She stayed with the Office of the Primary Public Defender until her appointment to the bench.



Carlos Garcia
Chair, CLPC Student Programming
Coordinator, Florin Law and the World Academy
California Legal Pathways Collaborative – Board Member

Carlos Garcia grew up in south Sacramento and attended Elk Grove schools. At an early age he was inspired by committed and passionate teachers. Carlos took an interest in history and stories his uncle told him of marching with Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers. As the first person in his family to attend college, Carlos came to believe that the greatest endeavor

one could undertake is to inspire young people to live up to their greatest potential, just as his teachers had inspired him.

In 2006 and chose to a work at Florin High School due to its diverse student population. In 2008 a group of teachers and administrators began work on a grant proposal to create a Law Academy at Florin High School, and Mr. Garcia was chosen to lead the program. The concept behind the Law Academy is to increase diversity in the legal profession by empowering young people with the skills and opportunity to pursue legal careers, and in turn, become advocates for their underrepresented communities.

Since its inception, the Florin High Law Academy has produced several successful attorneys with more in the pipeline. To help prepare students for law school and their future legal careers, Mr. Garcia runs a highly successful regional high school mock trial program in partnership with McGeorge School of Law and the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California. Mr. Garcia continues to teach and coordinate the Law Academy and is inspired by the opportunity to continue to grow and develop the program.



Alana Mathews

**Deputy Secretary for Law Enforcement and General Counsel
Florin Law and the World Academy Advisory Council Chair
California Legal Pathways Collaborative – Board Member**

Alana Mathews was appointed Deputy Secretary of Law Enforcement and General Counsel at the California Environmental Protection Agency to serve as the chief legal advisor to the Secretary in implementing the agency's mission to restore, protect and enhance the environment. In this role, Mathews provides oversight and direction on all legal matters and guides enforcement efforts across all environmental programs.

Mathews previously served on the executive team for the Contra Costa District Attorney's Office where she supervised various units and coordinated trainings and special projects. She also served as the director of policy, membership and training for the Prosecutors Alliance; chief consultant for the Climate Change Committee with the California State Assembly; and public advisor for the California Energy Commission, where she led implementation for SB 350 and developed the multi-agency Disadvantaged Advisory Group. Mathews began her legal career as a deputy district attorney with the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office, trying more than 50 cases to verdict. She is an adjunct professor at University of Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.

Mathews earned a Juris Doctor degree and a Master of Laws in government affairs and public policy from University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, and a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy from Spelman College.



Ralph Vasquez
Coordinator, Bullard Law & Social Justice Academy

Ralph Vasquez is a dynamic educational leader dedicated to expanding student opportunity through innovative college and career readiness programs. As the CTE Coordinator at Bullard High School in Fresno Unified School District, he has established himself as a driving force behind the growth of Career Technical Education (CTE), transforming programs to serve more than 1,100 students.

Vasquez is widely recognized for building systems that connect academics to real-world experiences. He has developed rigorous, A–G approved courses, expanded dual enrollment opportunities, and cultivated partnerships with industry and community organizations. His leadership emphasizes student voice and ownership, exemplified through initiatives like the CTE Ambassador program, which empowers students to lead, plan events, and strengthen program quality while building professional skills.

A hallmark of his work is the continued expansion of Bullard’s Law and Social Justice Pathway. Through a partnership with the California Lawyers Foundation, Vasquez helped launch a law pathway that provides students with mentorship from attorneys, judges, and legal professionals, as well as access to scholarships and hands-on experiences such as court visits and job shadows. This initiative reflects his commitment to creating authentic career pathways and increasing access to high-demand professions for all students.

With a background as an English teacher and instructional leader, Vasquez combines classroom expertise with strategic vision. He holds a Master’s degree in Education and an administrative credential from California State University, Fresno. Passionate, collaborative, and student-centered, Ralph Vasquez continues to shape programs that prepare students for success in college, career, and civic life.



Hon. Pahoua C. Lor
Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Fresno
Bullard Law & Social Justice Academy and Regional Advisory Council Chair

Judge Pahoua C. Lor was born in Des Moines, Iowa, and raised in Fresno, California. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Davis, and received her Juris Doctor from San Joaquin College of Law.

In August 2022, Judge Lor was appointed to the Fresno County Superior Court by Governor Gavin Newsom. Her appointment marked a historic milestone as she became the first Hmong

American woman appointed to the judiciary in California and the first Asian American woman to serve on the Fresno County bench.

Prior to her appointment, Judge Lor served as a staff attorney at Central California Legal Services from 2010 to 2013. She then entered private practice, where she also served the community as an immigration attorney with the Fresno Center and as a contract attorney for the City of Fresno.

Judge Lor is deeply committed to community service, including working with underprivileged youth and participating in numerous speaking engagements that inspire and guide the next generation. She is a strong advocate for higher education and believes in expanding opportunities for all, particularly for those from underserved communities.

In recognition of her dedication to justice and her advocacy on behalf of women in the legal profession, Judge Lor was honored with the 2023 Hanson Award by Fresno County Women Lawyers. The award, named in memory of the late Justice Pauline Hanson, celebrates individuals who have significantly advanced the status of women in the legal community. In 2026, Judge Lor was inducted into the San Joaquin College of Law Alumni Hall of Fame, recognizing her outstanding achievements, leadership, and enduring commitment to service. Through her work on and off the bench, Judge Lor remains dedicated to lifting others and ensuring that future generations are given the opportunity to succeed.



**Dr. Reashon Villery, Principal
Crawford High School, Academy of Law and Justice**

Dr. Reashon Villery has dedicated 29 years to education in the San Diego Unified School District, serving as a teacher, district resource teacher, vice principal, principal and mentor principal. Her experience spans elementary, middle, and high school settings, where she has led school improvement efforts, strengthened instructional leadership, and fostered meaningful family and community engagement. Under her leadership, schools have been recognized for gains in student achievement and increased family engagement.

Dr. Villery earned her Bachelor's Degree in Communicative Disorders, Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, and Doctorate in Educational Leadership from San Diego State University. Her doctoral research focused on leadership practices that improve the achievement of African American students in urban schools. This work is particularly meaningful in her leadership at Crawford High School, which serves the largest population of Black and African students in San Diego County. Dr. Villery is passionate about applying the findings from her research to her leadership practices and has seen positive academic and social emotional outcomes for students.

A passionate advocate for educational equity and student opportunity, Dr. Villery looks forward to continuing her partnership with the California Lawyers Foundation and supporting the growth and success of Crawford High School's Law Academy pathway. She is committed to expanding access to career-connected learning experiences that empower students to become informed, engaged, and successful future leaders, who aspire to careers in law and public service.

Outside of her professional work, Dr. Villery enjoys spending time with family and friends, walking her dog, and traveling.



Hon. W. Anthony Colbert

**Assistant Chief Administrative Law Judge at California Public Utilities Commission
California Legal Pathways Collaborative – Board Member**

Judge W. Anthony Colbert has served as an Assistant Chief Administrative Law Judge with the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) since May of 2018. Judge Colbert joined the Commission in September 2010, as an Administrative Law Judge. Assistant Chief Colbert oversees the Administrative Law Judge Division's (ALJ) Adjudicatory (Complaints and Investigations), Transportation (Uber, Lyft, Autonomous Vehicles, Rail & Ferries) Tribal and Broad Band proceedings, as well as, the ALJ Division's Internship and ADR/Mediation Programs. Prior to his service with the Commission, Judge Colbert was a Supervising Counsel and Hearing Officer at the California Department of Corporations (now Department of Business Oversight). There he presided over a variety of high profile hearings including Google's acquisition of YouTube, the dissolution of the Pacific Stock Exchange as well as hearings approving acquisitions by Apple, Cisco and Yahoo.

Judge Colbert received his J.D. from the University of Virginia, School of Law, and did his undergraduate work at the University of California, Santa Barbara and the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Judge Colbert is currently a member of the Board of the National Association of Administrative Law Judiciary. He has been a panelist/presenter for various continuing education courses and events including the California State Bar convention and the Conference of California Public Utilities Counsel, as well as, a speaker on Fairness Hearings and California Securities Law before the Santa Clara Bar Association, San Francisco Bar Association, and Los Angeles Bar Association. The California Business Law Practitioner published an article by Judge Colbert on Fairness Hearings in its spring 2010 edition. He has served as an expert witness in Criminal, Civil and Administrative Hearings. Judge Colbert has been a mentor at the De Anza High School Law Academy since 2013 and currently serves on the Academy's Advisory Board. He is a past mentor at the Balboa High School Law Academy in San Francisco. Judge Colbert is married with two adult children.



Joseph Acevedo

California Legal Pathways Collaborative – Alumni

Attorney, Elder Law Rights Center, Santa Ana (*Santa Ana Law Academy - 2016*)

I was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1950—four years before *Brown v. Board of Education* and three years before the end of the Korean Conflict—I was raised in Columbus, Georgia, from the age of eight months by my grandparents, who had barely received an education themselves. I graduated from George Washington Carver High School in 1968 during a turbulent era in America. As a youth, I struggled academically and faced profound challenges, including societal prejudice based on my complexion, a lack of mentorship, and deep self-doubt.

Seeking to find myself, I joined the U.S. Marine Corps in October 1968. After completing my first tour of duty in 1970, I returned to the Marines in 1974, finding a safe haven and a place where I truly thrived. My military career allowed me to travel the world and experience life's many lessons before retiring as a Master Sergeant in 1998 after 25 years of dedicated service. Unsure of my next steps and overcoming a 30-year belief that I was not smart enough for higher education, I courageously began my academic journey in 1999. I earned an associate's degree from Irvine Valley College, followed by a Bachelor's and Master's in Public Administration from



Dominique Brown

California Legal Pathways Collaborative – Alumni

Public Defender, Los Angeles, *Florin Law and the World (LAW) Academy - 2012*

Dominique Brown graduated from the Florin High School Law Academy program in 2012. Since then, she has received a Sociology B.A. and minor in Film and Television from UCLA. Her Juris Doctor was obtained from UCI Law. In her time there she dedicated herself to indigent defense. As a Public Service Law Fellow, she interned and externed at the Los Angeles Public Defenders Office, The Bronx Defenders and NAACP Legal and Educational Defense Fund. Through the UCI Criminal Justice Clinic, she assisted homeless, low-income and non-citizen clients with misdemeanor cases and post-conviction relief. In her free time, she served the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA) at the local, regional and national levels. While in law school, she completed over 120 hours of pro bono work.

Now Ms. Brown is an attorney at the Los Angeles Public Defenders Office. In her current capacity she represents youth accused of misdemeanors and felonies. Her proudest moment is achieving the dismissal of murder charges for a wrongfully accused youth. In her spare time, she designs and upcycles clothes. Ms. Brown is a native of Sacramento, CA, a member of Zeta

Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and the current vice president of the Black Public Defenders Association of Los Angeles.



Alison Hwang

California Legal Pathways Collaborative – Intern

Rising Junior, UC San Diego, CLPC Intern (*El Dorado Law Academy - 2023*)

Alison Hwang is a rising third-year undergraduate student at the University of California, San Diego, where she is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science with a concentration in Public Law. During her time at El Dorado High School in Placentia, California, Alison discovered her passion for law and advocacy through her involvement with the El Dorado Law Academy, an experience she credits as the foundation of her path to law.

Driven by a commitment to community service and equal access to justice, Alison currently serves as a JusticeCorps Legal Access Intern at the Legal Aid Society of San Diego, where she provides direct legal assistance to low-income, self-represented litigants navigating complex court procedures. She also interns at the Law Offices of Frances Prizzia, gaining hands-on experience alongside a dedicated legal team. Additionally, Alison produces the newsletter for the California Legal Pathways Collaborative, contributing to the growing initiative to advance diversity and accessibility within the legal profession.

At UC San Diego, Alison competes on both the Moot Court and Mock Trial teams. She serves as Director of Logistics for Moot Court and previously held the role of Tournament Director for Mock Trial, reflecting her leadership and dedication both inside and outside the courtroom.

The oldest of three, Alison is deeply devoted to her family, friends, and community. She plans to attend law school following her undergraduate studies, with aspirations of becoming a practicing attorney.



Ashley Menguito

California Legal Pathways Collaborative – Alumni

UC Davis School of Law Graduate 2026 (*Jesse Bethel Law Academy - 2017*)

Ashley is an alumna of the Jesse Bethel High School Law Academy, class of 2017. She came from the Philippines at 7-years-old and experienced events in her childhood that inspired her to pursue becoming an attorney when she was 13-years-old. Ashley went to UC San Diego for undergrad, where she received a Bachelor's of Arts in Sociology - Law and Society and minored

in Political Science. After graduating from UCSD in 2020, she pursued a Masters in Legal Studies and a Masters in Dispute Resolution from Pepperdine University Caruso School of Law & Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution. Prior to law school, Ashley gained experience working in the corporate field, higher education, the California Department of Justice, and the National Alliance on Mental Illnesses (NAMI), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Ashley is a recent graduate of the UC Davis School of Law (King Hall) with Public Service and Tax Law concentrations! In law school, Ashley interned at two private firms and at a nonprofit. She also served as a research editor for the Social Justice Law Review, a research assistant for the UC Davis Medical School Violence Prevention Research Program and for a professor, served as a student ambassador and pre-law advisor, was a teaching assistant for the UC Davis Department of Sociology, and sat on the board of the King Hall Legal Foundation and the Filipinx Law Student Association. Her experience in the law academy introduced her to the legal system and provided her the stepping stones to pursuing her career.



Hon. Fumiko Wasserman (Ret)
Superior Court of Los Angeles County
California Legal Pathways Collaborative – Board Member

Hon. Fumiko Wasserman graduated from Narbonne High School at the age of 16 and went on to obtain her B.A. and teaching credential from UCLA. After teaching in the South Bay, she obtained her J.D. from Loyola Law School, where she was on Law Review and the Dean's List. After clerking for the Honorable Terry J. Hatter, Jr., Judge Wasserman became the first Asian American woman appointed Assistant United States Attorney in the United States. She was appointed to the Municipal Court in 1986 and elevated to the Los Angeles Superior Court in 1989 by Governor George Deukmejian. She served on the California Commission on Judicial Performance, the Judicial Council's Access and Fairness Committee, and as Chair of the Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER). Her many awards include the Joan Dempsey Klein Distinguished Jurist Award from California Women Lawyers (for the advancement of women), the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association's Trailblazer Award, and the Constitutional Rights Foundation Judge of the Year. Judge Wasserman mentors new judges, lawyers, and at-risk youth. She has taught at USC and Loyola Law School and judicial colleges.