Educational Policy Committee Meeting

University of California College of the Law, San Francisco
333 Golden Gate, San Francisco, CA 94102, 501 Deb Colloquium Rm.
2026-02-19 12:30 - 14:00 PST

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Educational Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

University of California College of the Law, San Francisco
November 14, 2025

University of California College of the Law, San Francisco, Cotchett Law Center, 333 Golden Gate, San Francisco, CA 94102, 501 Deb Colloquium Room. Participants and members of the public were also able to join the open session via the web link or dial-in numbers listed in the public notice of this meeting linked here: https://www.uclawsf.edu/our-story/board-of-directors/board-meeting-notices-agendas-and-materials/.

1. Roll Call

   The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:41 a.m. and the Secretary called the roll.

   Committee Members Present
   Director Shashi Deb, Chair
   Director Simona Agnolucci
   Director Albert Zecher
   Director Courtney Greene Power, Ex Officio

   Committee Members Absent
   Director Andrew Giacomini
   Director C. Don Clay

   Other Directors Present
   Director Andrew Houston
   Director Claes Lewenhaupt

   Staff Participating
   Chancellor & Dean David Faigman
   Chief Operating Officer Rhiannon Bailard
   General Counsel & Secretary John DiPaolo
   Legal & Executive Assistant Yleana Escalante
   Dean of Students Tiffany Gabrielson
   Director of Bar Passage Support Margaret Greer
   Chief Advancement Officer Julia Jordan
   Chief Communications Officer John Kepley
   Assistant Chancellor & Dean/Chief of Staff to the Chancellor & Dean Jenny Kwon
   Provost & Academic Dean Morris Ratner
   Chief Operating Officer David Seward

2. Public Comment Period

The Chair invited public comment. No member of the public offered comment.

3.   Action Item: Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Motion:
The Chair moved to approve the August 21, 2025 meeting minutes.
Motion made and seconded. Motion carried. Director Agnolucci abstained.

4.   Report of Provost and Academic Dean Morris Ratner

4.1.   Bar Success

Dean Ratner reported strong preliminary results for the July 2025 California Bar Exam. The average first-time pass rate for ABA-accredited California law schools was approximately 84 percent, and UC Law's first-time pass rate was at least approximately 85 percent. These numbers are preliminary, as the school currently only knows who passed and does not yet have official data on who failed, meaning the final pass rate is expected to increase slightly once complete data are available. These results predate the most recent faculty-approved reforms now being implemented. The data continue to show a strong relationship between post-graduation commercial bar course completion and bar passage. Students admitted through the Legal Education Opportunity Program who also received exam accommodations while in law school had pass rates approximately 15 percent below the class average. First-quartile students achieved a 100 percent pass rate, while fourth-quartile students had significantly lower pass rates, with the sharpest drop in the bottom 10 percent of the class. Students finishing their first year with a GPA of 2.8 or below had a first-time pass rate of approximately 40 percent.

Dean Ratner highlighted long-term improvement: from 2014 to 2018, the College's average first-time July pass rate was 62 percent on average, and since 2019 the average first time pass rate on each July administration of the California Bar Exam has risen to 81 percent.

Directors Agnolucci, Zecher, and Lewenhaupt congratulated Dean Ratner and the team on the great work and strong bar results.

4.2.   Employment

Dean Ratner rested on written report.

4.3.   Student Health Services

Dean Ratner introduced Dean Gabrielson, whom he described as an exceptional Dean of Students and someone he greatly appreciates. He noted that she oversees Student Health Services and has developed significant

expertise regarding student health services. Noting that there has been some student feedback and complaints related to health services, he said that she would build on her written report to provide context for student feedback.

Dean Gabrielson noted that she is in regular communication with all vendors involved in student health services, including Carbon Health, UC SHIP and Anthem. She explained that student concerns generally fall into two categories: challenges inherent to the U.S. healthcare system, which are largely beyond the College's control, and issues where the College can take action. A common frustration is the requirement built into UC SHIP that students obtain a referral before seeking outside care. As a small part of the larger UC SHIP system, the College benefits from affordable access to higher standards of healthcare but must adhere to rules like the referral process. In the most recent month, out of 378 students who accessed care through Carbon Health, five received care without a valid referral. Dean Gabrielson said these metrics show that students are generally receiving the care they need, and the administration continues to address exceptions as they arise.

Dean Gabrielson said that the current contract with Carbon Health runs through August 2027. When the College issues a future request for proposals, other providers will be evaluated alongside Carbon Health. Although she is not currently convinced there is a better healthcare solution that fits the law school's needs, she said she remains open to options that are fiscally viable and provide strong health services for students and confirmed that a request for proposals will be part of that future process.

Director Power noted that student health access has significantly improved since she and Director Agnolucci joined the Board, including access for students not physically on campus. She acknowledged the challenges of working within a flawed healthcare system and that many students may be encountering these challenges for the first time as young adults. She thanked the team for keeping the Board informed.

Chair Deb thanked Dean Gabrielson for her work and for putting mechanisms in place to capture student concerns. She noted that similar issues exist across higher education institutions. Chair Deb asked what percentage of students are experiencing issues with referrals or appointments. Dean Gabrielson responded that no student has been unable to get an appointment, though some may not receive one at their preferred time or location.

Chair Deb asked specifically about referrals and how long it takes for students to obtain them. Dean Gabrielson explained that students can receive proactive referrals through Carbon Health, including via virtual care. If a student seeks outside care without a referral, Carbon Health works with the College to

arrange retroactive referrals when appropriate. She noted that some frustration arises when practitioners must conduct their own assessment before issuing a referral. However, she is not aware of any student being denied access to care or unable to obtain a referral when one was sought.

Director Houston observed that these challenges reflect what everyone experiences in the broader healthcare system.

Director Power noted that even with strong health coverage, she frequently spends significant time securing referrals. She suggested there may be an opportunity for additional student education on navigating healthcare systems.

Dean Gabrielson agreed, noting this is a pain point tied to adapting to adult life. When parents reach out on behalf of students, the College cannot provide them with student health information or manage these processes for them,but supports connecting students with staff who can help guide them.

4.4.   First Generation Program

Dean Ratner said that Mr. Hammond, who oversees the First Gen program, will be present at the full Board meeting to provide more information about the program's relaunch.

4.5.   Artificial Intelligence

Dean Ratner rested on written report.

5.   Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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John K. DiPaolo, Secretary

Report 4.1 – Legal Education Landscape: Opportunities and Challenges

By Chancellor & Dean David Faigman and Provost & Academic Dean Morris Ratner

At the February 19, 2026 Educational Policy Committee meeting, we will briefly describe the legal education landscape to identify opportunities and challenges that are most relevant to the design of the UC Law SF educational program. The oral presentation will explain the following:

- How we identified core goals of the 2020 Operational Strategic Plan ("2020 Plan"),[1] including student success, scholarly excellence, the Academic Village, fiscal health, and community cohesion.[2] (Those goals surfaced in part because of a SWOT analysis undertaken in 2018, which was grounded in community surveys.)
- The focus of more recent and targeted supplemental strategic planning[3] and plan implementation reporting on matters pertaining to bar passage, artificial intelligence, and changes in federal policy.
- The new supplemental planning priorities we know we need to tackle in the next 18 months, including pivoting to a new California Bar Exam and addressing recent changes in law firm hiring practices.[4]
- Additional questions we should proactively ask and answer – collectively, as a community – to ensure that our program of legal education is structured to deliver a public good (well-educated graduates, relevant scholarship, and other public service) that best meets the needs of future students and of the State of California and society in the next 5-10 years.

We are providing this legal education landscape report at the suggestion of the Chair of the Educational Policy Committee as a framing device for continuing presentations and deliberations at the committee level. Because this report is for the Educational Policy Committee, we will focus on matters of special relevance to the academic division of the law school.

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[1] *See* https://uclawsf.app.box.com/s/9jg7kvzi3iict4la000ug3s6k6bm56p5.
[2] *See* 2020 Plan Implementation Report (10.13.25) (available at https://uclawsf--simpplr.vf.force.com/apex/simpplr__app?u=/site/a0i4100000GHc9aAAD/dashboard).
[3] *See* https://uclawsf--simpplr.vf.force.com/apex/simpplr__app?u=/site/a0i4100000GHc9aAAD/dashboard.
[4] These topics are addressed in reports submitted for the February 19, 2026 Educational Policy Committee meeting. Report 4.3 addresses recent delays in the California State Bar's decision-making regarding the new bar exam. Report 4.4 describes recent changes in law firm hiring and recent interventions to support students experiencing those changes.

Report 4.2 – Faculty Hiring
By Provost & Academic Dean Morris Ratner

At this time, the College is mostly hiring new full-time faculty to address attrition. In recent months, we have made two new significant hires, described below. We currently have three open lines: for a transactional clinical faculty member, a new lecturer to run Startup Legal Garage, and a Center for Racial and Economic Justice Visiting Assistant Professor. Our faculty hiring page that lists openings is publicly posted [here](#).[1]

I.   Tenure-Track: Mary Hoopes

Associate Professor of Law (Ladder Faculty, in our lexicon) at Pepperdine Caruso School of Law Mary Hoopes joins our faculty on July 1, 2026 as our newest pre-tenure Ladder Faculty member, filling the line opened by Rick Marcus's recent retirement.[2] According to her [Pepperdine profile page](#):

> Professor Hoopes's research examines how legal and political institutions serve marginalized populations in two strands of research. One focuses on noncitizens and studies the impact of laws and policies on asylum seekers and low-wage immigrant workers, including farmworkers. Drawing on her experience at the Federal Judicial Center and the Berkeley Judicial Institute, the other focuses on the federal courts and has examined diversity in law clerk hiring, implicit bias in judicial decisionmaking, and the impact of the pandemic on the courts….

> At Pepperdine, Professor Hoopes has taught administrative law, remedies, contracts, and ethical lawyering. She also directs the Wm. Matthew Byrne, Jr. Judicial Clerkship Institute.

> Professor Hoopes joined the Pepperdine law faculty in 2022 from the UC Berkeley School of Law, where she was the Director of Research at the Berkeley Judicial Institute. She previously served as a United States Supreme Court Fellow at the Federal Judicial Center in Washington, D.C. Prior to the fellowship, she clerked for the Honorable John T. Noonan of the Ninth Circuit, and was a litigation associate at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP. Professor Hoopes earned a Ph.D. from the Jurisprudence and Social Policy program at UC Berkeley, and graduated magna cum laude from Cornell Law School, where she was an editor of the Cornell Law Review. She earned her Bachelor's of Science magna cum laude from the University of Notre Dame.

You can find her full CV [here](#). Professor Hoopes will teach Civil Procedure, Legal Ethics, Remedies, and/or other courses at UC Law SF.

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[1] https://www.uclawsf.edu/offices-and-services/provost-academic-dean/faculty-employment-opportunities/.
[2] Special thanks to this year's Appointments Committee: Abe Cable (chair), Robin Feldman, Dave Owen, Kate Weisburd, and Manoj Viswanathan.

II.   Director of Moot Court: Nicholas Conway

Nick Conway joined the law school to take over as Director of Moot Court and a Professor of Practice. As indicated on his profile page:

> Before joining UC Law SF's faculty, Professor Conway served as an Associate Professor of Political Science at San Francisco State University, where he taught courses on U.S. constitutional law, national judicial politics, moot court and judicial process. Before that, he practiced as a lawyer specializing in constitutional litigation and civil rights. Professor Conway's research includes topics such as the U.S. Supreme Court and public opinion, the Shadow Docket, constitutional litigation, media attention to judicial decisions, and political methodology. Professor Conway obtained his Ph.D. from Texas A&M University and a J.D. from Indiana University—Maurer School of Law. Previously, he practiced as a lawyer specializing in constitutional litigation and civil rights.

Report 4.3 – Bar Exam
By Provost & Academic Dean Morris Ratner, Director of Bar Passage Support Margaret Greer, Associate Director Dan Martin

Section I of this report provides an update regarding anticipated changes to the California Bar Exam. Section II provides deeper insight into the July 2025 bar outcomes, now that we have comparative data and statistical analyses.

I.   California Bar Exam Changes

The short version of this section is that we do not yet know the contours of the new California Bar Exam being administered starting July 2028. The California Bar must notify us about the content and format of the exam by July 2026—two years before the July 2028 exam—and is considering two general options at this point: (1) adoption of the National Conference of Bar Examiners' (NCBE's) NextGen Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) or (2) adoption of a California-specific exam along the lines of the Supreme Court's October 2024 order (see below). The California Committee of Bar Examiners and Board of Trustees have been discussing and will continue to discuss these options at public meetings over the course of the next several months. We hope that, even short of a final decision, actions coming from these meetings over the coming months will identify the Bar's preferred and likely approach (i.e., NextGen or not). (We had hoped to get a similar indication late last month but the CBE and Trustees punted making decisions.) We expect the Bar's final decision to be made in the month or two before July, at which point it must submit a recommendation for the California Supreme Court for approval.

This means that the date by which we'll know information relevant to education program design is likely to come this summer, after we see the Bar's final recommendation and the Court's resulting order. If intermediate, general decisions are made in the interim (i.e., NextGen or not) we will update faculty accordingly.

The remainder of this section provides refresher background and details ongoing and next steps.

A. The New Timeline

Due to statutory exam change notice requirements, we are confident the Bar Exam taken by the Classes of 2026 and 2027 in those calendar years will look very much like the current exam. The question is: what will the 2028 exam look like, and when will we know enough to make more concrete program design changes than we have already made in anticipation of it?

The California Supreme Court issued an [Administrative Order](#) on October 10, 2024 requiring a new bar exam and adopting certain recommendations of a Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC). New features include the following, among others:

- ***Different subjects***. Added subjects include Admin Law, Employment Law, and Family Law. (Business Association is slated to drop out of the mix as of July 2028. Community Property is slated to drop out, but until we see an issues list, it may be that it is just folded into Family Law. Remedies is slated to drop out of the mix as of July 2028, but based on [current subject matter outlines,](#) remedies issues such as damages/specific performance/injunctive relief are folded into Contracts and Torts.
- ***CA law***. The Court emphasized California over federal law, but did not say exactly how that would be accomplished.
- ***New skills***. The new exam is supposed to focus less on testing memorization and more on testing lawyering skills. The listed skills to be tested include, drafting and writing, research and investigation, issue-spotting and fact-gathering, counsel/advice, litigation, communication and client relations, and negotiation and dispute resolution.

The required changes generally align with NCBE's NextGen. (For a detailed comparison, see Appendix A, which is a table prepared by Associate Director of Bar Passage Support and Professor of Practice Dan Martin.) However, since October 2024, the Bar has not provided information such as: whether it would adopt the NCBE's NextGen or create its own exam or pursue a hybrid approach (e.g., NextGen + additional CA-specific questions).[1]

On January 23, 2026, the CA State Bar Board of Trustees voted to delay a final decision on the July 2028 exam format, and to instead continue to study the two main options (NCBE or proprietary California exam). Part of the Bar's deliberations is that the State Bar is still under a five-year $8.25m contract with Kaplan to create proprietary questions, even after the disastrous effort in February 2025 to administer an exam on a new platform using Kaplan questions.

According to a State Bar [press release](#) dated January 24:

> At its joint meeting on Friday, January 23, 2026, the Board of Trustees and the Committee of Bar Examiners (CBE) voted to explore a plan that could have the State Bar, beginning in 2028, administer the National Conference of Bar Examiners' NextGen Uniform Bar Examination (NextGen UBE), without a California-specific component. The Board also approved the possibility of a return to using questions developed by Kaplan Exam Services. The CBE's and Board's actions do not limit the final recommendation that they may make to the California Supreme Court based on their final review and evaluation of the many competing interests.

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[1] The NextGen UBE, like the current UBE, allows jurisdictions to administer local-law exam components. California could, therefore, add additional questions to test any California-specific law or different skills. California could, alternatively, use a separate California-specific exam similar to the "New York Law Exam," an exam that supplements the UBE and tests "New York specific law." *See* [NYLC & NYLE Course Materials & Sample Questions](#).

The deliberations to make a recommendation to the Supreme Court were prompted by challenges and criticisms surrounding the February 2025 California Bar Examination. Friday's decisions also underscore the need to transition away from the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE), which will be phased out as a standalone option by July 2028.

The Trustees and committee members have discussed future exam possibilities in multiple meetings since August 2025. Given the current 18-month to two-year notice requirements prior to moving to a different exam or vendor, they must finalize their recommendation to the Supreme Court with sufficient time for the Court to make its decision in July.

We thus still do **not know**:

- What subjects will be tested. (For example, if CA adopts NCBE, then BA is still tested on the exam; if it adopts a CA-specific exam consistent with the Supreme Court's October 2024 order, BA is not on the exam.)
- What law will be tested (federal or CA) or what the mix will be between federal and CA law.
- What issues within subjects will be tested.
- How the new listed skills will be tested.

But we **do know** enough to justify our continuing efforts to take advance action before the dust settles. For example, we know the following:

- Current 1Ls – i.e., Class of 2028 graduates – will take a new exam in 2028.
- The exam will incorporate practice documents to test new skills.
- Most of the subjects currently tested will be tested on the new exam.
- The skills tested on the new exam are nearly identical to those now tested on the NextGen bar exam.

The California ABA deans have advised the CA State Bar that the ABA law schools strongly prefer NCBE NextGen to a California-proprietary exam given the faith the deans have in NCBE's exam design capacity, the experience our graduates had on a California-proprietary exam in February 2025, and the possibility of score portability across jurisdictions if California adopts NCBE's NextGen.

Our JD program is designed as a three-year arc. We build certain baseline skills in the 1L year, in Sack and regular 1L doctrinal classes and LRW1/2. We reinforce those skills and add new ones in the upper division years, including via upper division courses we now require of students because they are so heavily tested on the current Bar Exam (Con Law 2, Crim Pro, and Evidence), plus Legal Ethics, and via specialized 2L courses like Advanced Sack and Law & Process versions of bar classes. We also require academically at-risk students to take certain bar prep courses in their 3L year, and we offer all other students the option to take those courses.

Our academic advising considers the preparation needed for the current exam as well as the preparation that may be needed for the new exam. For example, we currently advise students to consider taking Admin Law, Employment Law, and Family Law—subjects identified in the CA Supreme Court's October 2024 order—but enrollments in those courses remains relatively low compared to existing bar subjects.

Once we know more about the new exam, questions we will consider include whether we should change any of the following:

- The impact of exam changes on JD program learning outcomes or course-level student outcomes.
- The courses we require.
- The sequencing of those courses (1L and upper division).
- Our teaching methods/pedagogy.
- Our assessment methods (formative and summative).
- Our academic advising strategies and content.
- Our exam administration platform (currently, ExamSoft, which has been used on the Bar Exam for several years).
- Our 3L bar prep curriculum (Critical Studies 1-4).[2]

B. Intermediate Steps

On the current timeline and trajectory, the College will not have time to redesign our entire academic program to immediately replicate the current three-year arc's ability to prepare students for the new exam. But we can take additional actions now (beyond the faculty colloquia/trainings, student advising, and curricular reforms we have already adopted, including a new section of Critical Studies 3 focused on NextGen jurisdictions) to make the pivot less jarring. For example, we are doing and can continue to do the following:

- In anticipation of a more practice and skills orientation in the exam (whether NextGen or CA proprietary), and considering how NCBE is testing those skills, provide faculty with resources for converting standard essay questions into something short of a performance test but still grounded in practice documents.
- Reinforce performance test-taking skills because we know that performance tests will remain an element of the new exam.
- Stay abreast of how the commercial bar companies, with which we partner in Critical Studies 2-4, and quickly pivot to NextGen materials. (We have already

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[2] Critical Studies 1 teaches bar exam and general exam writing skills. Critical Studies 2 teaches MBE multiple-choice test-taking skills and is taught by Adjunct Professor Chris Fromm, from Themis. Critical Studies 3 teaches holistic exam-taking skills and is taught by Adjunct Professors and BarBri faculty Sam Farkas (traditional) and Marta Young (NextGen). Critical Studies 4 is a one-credit early start course that teaches students how to study during the 10 week commercial bar course preparation window post-graduation, and allows them to start the summer course early; it is taught by Professors of Practice Margaret Greer and Dan Martin and others, and it uses the commercial bar materials students are expected to use immediately after graduating.

started doing this by having a NextGen track in Critical Studies 3 starting this year.)

Associate Dean for the Office of Academic Skills Instruction and Support Jennifer Freeland has been coordinating with other members of the existing Bar Pivot Working Group and, as a result of those conversations, developed guidance for faculty to help them incorporate practice documents in assessment. Dean Freeland has offered to consult individually with faculty who are redesigning assessments.

C. Anticipated Pivot

Once we have more information about the new CA Bar Exam, we will take the following steps all at once:

- Refer proposed changes to our Academic Regulations to the Academic Standards Committee if our current requirements appear to be misaligned with the new exam.
- Revamp our Sack, Advanced Sack, and Law & Process course outcomes, pedagogy, and assessment.
- Revamp Critical Studies, so Class of 2028 students take bar prep courses in their 3L year that align with the new exam.
- Focus our continuing conversations on pedagogy and assessment among faculty members more broadly to ensure we are reinforcing core skills pervasively.

If the California Bar ultimately decides to adopt a proprietary exam, the changes may be mostly at the margins (additional subjects as to which we can offer condensed courses, tweaks to multiple choice or essay formats, etc.). If the California Bar ultimately adopts NCBE, the pivot will be sharper and harder in the short run.

We currently have a Bar Pivot Working Group.[3] Due to time constraints caused by delays in California State Bar decision-making, we will likely move much of the action directly to Academic Standards next year.

II.   Comparative and Statistical Data re Class of 2025 Outcomes

We previously reported that the Class of 2025 had an 86% first-time pass rate on the July 2025 administration of the California Bar Exam. This section (1) places our results in context of bar outcomes for peer CA ABA law schools and (2) shares the results of our statistician's rigorous statistical analysis of the determinants of positive bar outcomes for the Class of 2025; and (3) shares Bar Success Analyst Stefano Moscato's analysis of reporting from the State Bar regarding the students who did not pass the July 2025 exam.

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[3] The Bar Pivot Working Group includes: Provost & Academic Dean Morris Ratner (chair), Associate Dean for OASIS, Jennifer Freeland, Director of Legal Research & Writing Angie Gius, Director of Bar Passage Support Margaret Greer, Associate Director Dan Martin, Bar Success Analyst Stefano Moscato, Professor of Law Emily Murphy, Associate Dean for Experiential Learning Gail Silverstein, and Clinical Professor Linh Spencer.

A. Comparative Outcomes Data

The California State Bar's reporting for all law schools is here. The following table is adapted from a post on Paul Caron's TaxProf Blog on the AALS website. UC Law SF is arguably "punching above its weight" compared to most metric peers.[4] For example, UC Law SF's FA22 entering class had lower metrics than did Loyola-LA's FA22 entering class, but our pass rate was about 5% higher. Whereas, UC Davis had a first-time pass rate that, at 92.9%, was 7.4% above ours; but UC Davis's 25th percentile LSAT score was the same as our 75th percentile score, meaning that Davis's most at-risk students as measured by LSAT were equivalent to our strongest students based on LSAT admission metrics. The admissions metrics line up less neatly this year than they have in prior years, with USF, Santa Clara, and Western State all having much higher pass rates than we might expect based on the way metrics and outcomes have lined up in recent years and metric peers Chapman and Loyola-LA having lower pass rates than we might expect to see in a more typical year.

Bar Pass Rank (Rate)	Law School	U.S. News Rank CA (Overall) + [FA22 Admission Metrics]
1 (100%)	Stanford	1 (1) [170/173/176; 3.84/3.92/3.99]
2 (96.4%)	UCLA	2 (12) [166/171/172; 3.66/3.90/3.97]
3 (92.93%)	USC	4 (26) [165/168/169; 3.76/3.87/3.94]
3 (92.90%)	UC-Davis	6 (50) [163/165/166; 3.45/3.70/3.84]
5 (92.8%)	UC-Berkeley	3 (13) [167/170/172; 3.74/3.83/3.90]
6 (90.7%)	Pepperdine	7 (55) [159/164/166; 3.54/3.85/3.93]
7 (90.3%)	UC-Irvine	5 (38) [162/167/168; 3.51/3.72/3.83]
8 (86.0%)	San Diego	8 (57) [157/161/163; 3.45/3.74/3.86]

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[4] But see recent analyses suggesting that in general the LSAT is less predictive of law school success than it was in prior years. Derek Muller's posts here and here are representative. Our own studies continue to suggest that LSAT has predictive value, though it is imperfect as a predictor of academic and bar success.

Bar Pass Rank (Rate)	Law School	U.S. News Rank CA (Overall) + [FA22 Admission Metrics]
9 (85.5%)[5]	UC Law SF	10 (88) [157/160/163; 3.39/3.59/3.75]
84.4%	Statewide Average (CA ABA-Accredited)	
10 (82.1%)	USF	15 (166) [152/155/158; 3.04/3.42/3.64]
11 (81.5%)	Santa Clara	13 (156) [155/158/160; 3.16/3.42/3.57]
12 (80.4%)	Loyola-L.A.	9 (71) [157/161/163; 3.46/3.69/3.81]
13 (80.0%)	Chapman	11 (104) [155/161/163; 3.20/3.63/3.78]
14 (78.1%)	Western State	Rank Not Published [150/151/154; 2.99/3.23/3.53]
15 (70.8%)	Southwestern	12 (154) [152/154/157; 3.10/3.36/3.58]
16 (69.1%)	McGeorge	14 (163) [152/155/157; 3.04/3.47/3.72]
17 (68.6%)	Cal-Western	Rank Not Published [151/153/156; 3.04/3.35/3.57]
18 (42.1%)	Golden Gate	Rank Not Published [152/154/156; 2.92/3.15/3.45]

B. Analysis of 2025 Outcomes

We have previously shared this omnibus study of the determinants of bar success at UC Law SF in the period 2010-2023, and have since updated those findings as we get new data each year. Our statistician, Dr. Stephen Goggin, has updated the analysis again this year, both for the period covering the graduating classes of 2019-2025 in the aggregate

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[5] This is the reported first-time pass rate for all UC Law SF first-time test takers, regardless of graduating class year. We do assessment based on class year, so our reporting is about the first-time pass rate for Class of 2025 graduates, which was slightly higher.

and for the Class of 2025, alone. We use the larger data set starting with Class of 2019 for two reasons: (1) the Class of 2019 was the first graduating class to receive the benefits of a wide range of academic policy, programmatic, and teaching reforms adopted after the July 2016 nadir on bar passage; and (2) the larger data set has more statistical firepower and smooths out random fluctuations year over year.

Here are some key takeaways from Dr. Goggin's statistical analyses of the determinants of our recent bar outcomes:

- ***We have seen significant gains in first-time bar passage in the post-2018 period***. 2025 Goggin Report: "These gains have generally been shared across all four LGPA quartiles, with only a few small dips since 2022, the lowest overall pass rate since 2018. Quartile 1 has had near 100% pass rate since 2019, and a perfect pass rate since 2023. Quartile 2 dropped slightly from 2022 to 2023 but then rose markedly in 2024 and remained above 95% in 2025. Quartiles 3 and 4 have seen significant gains in pass rates since 2022, particularly quartile 3, rising 24 percentage points since 2022." Though Quartile 4 graduates continue to face the highest hurdles, we have seen significant progress from that cohort, from 33% in July 2022 to 58% for the Class of 2025; the Quartile 4 average first-time pass rate 2019-2025 is 46.2%.

- ***In 2025, the biggest gains were seen among DRP students who were not admitted through LEOP***. However, in the full study period 2019-2025, controlling for all other factors, LEOP admissions is associated with a 6.1% lower first-time bar pass rate and DRP status is associated with a 5% lower first-time bar pass rate.

- ***The predictive power of LSAT and UGPA dipped for Class of 2025.*** "LSAT and UGPA are positive predictors across the board, though their significance varies, and interestingly appears to be slightly smaller in magnitude in the 2025 class versus the overall2019-2025 time period."

- ***The number of upper division bar classes taken by students continues to correlate with increased probability of first-time bar passage, overall***. "[A]cross all groups, upper-division bar coursework is positive and significant (not for LEOP but still similar in magnitude and positive), with an estimated increase in passage probability of 3% for each additional bar course. Additionally, this appears to increase as one moves down the quartiles, with an increase in passage probability of 1.1% for Q1, 2.1% for Q2, 3.6% for Q3, and 4.9% for Q4." However, there's a point for Quartile 4 students at which additional bar classes do not correlate with increases in bar passage.

- ***Each unit of clinical fieldwork is associated with a 1% increase in bar passage***. This is consistent with prior reporting. Positive effects in the full study period 2019-2025 are concentrated in Q4.

- *Critical Studies 4 appears to show promise*. We adopted Critical Studies 4 (early bar start) to help students adapt to bar study and start post-grad bar study in the sixth semester of their 3L year. Most students took the Themis section because most of our students use Themis upon graduation. "With respect to Themis, students who completed more than 5% of the course almost exclusively passed the bar exam. Whether this preparatory work in Critical Studies 4 matters or whether it is simply measuring the type of student to complete more of the program is impossible to separate. As shown in later sections, however, it is extremely clear that more extensive completion of bar preparatory programs is highly predictive of bar passage on first attempt, whether that occurs in Critical Studies 4 or post-graduation."

- *Advanced Sack appears to show promise*. We expanded the Sack program (explicit skills instruction in bar courses) to the upper division and students who took Advanced Sack versions of upper division bar classes had better outcomes. Con Law 1: Advanced Sack appears to be particularly helpful. This information is exciting from a program design vantage point because we can reach many more students using the Advanced Sack model per class than we can using the Law & Process model. (In Advanced Sack, feedback on formative assessments primarily is delivered by TAs, whereas in Law & Process classes, which are smaller, the faculty member directly provides feedback.)

- *The full suite of Critical Studies classes (1-4) is most effective for Quartile 3 students*. We are still trying to figure out via statistical analysis what the "best" combination of upper division bar courses and Critical Studies classes is for students based on LGPA; so far, the water is too murky to let us see clearly. If we are advising students in Q3 who can take only one class in addition to the required Critical Studies 4 class, Critical Studies 3 shows the greatest efficacy, though we need more data to assess the interplay between taking both Critical Studies 3 and 4, given that there is some overlap. Also, advising needs to account for each student's needs. Students who struggle with organizing their writing should take Critical Studies 1. Students who have struggled disproportionately with MBE questions may wish to take Critical Studies 2.

- *Some interventions we would expect to increase bar pass rates do not, like LEOP practice exams, OASIS office hours, and specialized classes targeting lower-performing students*. We suspect that this may in part be the result of selection bias, i.e., that at-risk students generally struggle more on the bar exam so interventions targeting them may not show as effective when in fact they are helping. Also, the outcome of bar passage is binary, so we do not measure score gains that do not translate into first-time bar passage, which exacerbates the challenges of measuring gains associated with interventions that target the most at-risk students.

- *Use of Themis is associated with higher pass rates than use of BarBri*. "Completion of 100% of the Barbri program raises one's passage

probability by 38.4%, while Themis' raises it 48.3%. In the 2025 class alone, both have larger estimated effects, with 55.4% and 70.7%, respectively."

- ***Assessment is challenging in good years***. "A great irony is that the closer one gets to 0% or 100% passage, it becomes much harder statistically to understand what factors may have played important roles in predicting bar exam passage on first attempt. At the limit, because everyone in Q1 passed in 2025, it means we cannot estimate a model for these students." As noted above, that is one of the reasons we combine analysis of a longer study period (2019-2025) and analyses focused just on Class of 2025.

C. Fail Data Analysis

The State Bar shares score reports with UC Law SF for our graduates who failed on first attempt. (We do not get score data for grads who passed the exam.) Bar Success Analyst Stefano Moscato reviewed the score report data for non-passers and reported the following:

There isn't a ton to learn from the score reports that we don't already know, but it does reinforce the messaging we need to push out there:

- None of those who completed less than 50% of their bar review course came particularly close to passing — all were below 1300, most by a large margin.
- Other than a couple of unusual exceptions, almost everyone who completed above 75% of their bar review course finished at 1330 or above, suggesting a good likelihood of passing on the second try.

The supplemental data (which tells us how we weigh in on average compared to the ABA average) is quite promising, both in terms of absolute and comparative results:

Year	UC Law SF	ABA	+/-
2025	1513	1513	0
2024	1486	1496	-10
2023	1459	1476	-17
2022	1451	1478	-27
2021	1486	1496	-10
2020	1512	1532	-20
2019	1508	1499	+9
2018	1464	1483	-19
2017	1460	1501	-41
2016	1445	1482	-37

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You can see that other than July 2019, which looks more and more like a unicorn class, this is the best we've done in the 10-year period since we've been getting these reports. And arguably this year's results are more impressive than 2019, given that the Class of 2019 still had entering metrics well above the ABA average (159/3.45 vs. 156.7/3.37), whereas the Class of 2025 was just the opposite (160/3.59 vs. 161.7/3.63).

As an aside, I'd like to acknowledge Professor Moscato's regular contributions to data analysis of bar results.

Appendix A: Comparison of October 2024 Order and NCBE

Associate Director of Bar Passage Support and Professor of Practice Dan Martin prepared the table, below, comparing the Supreme Court's October 10 Order and the NextGen UBE with respect to (1) the topics tested, (2) the skills tested, and (3) the focus on skills and knowledge. The NextGen Exam's coverage substantially aligns with the Court's October 10 Order's vision of the next generation of California Bar Exam.

Topics Tested	
10/10/24 Order	**NextGen UBE**
Common Subjects:	**Common Subjects:**
Civil Procedure	Civil Procedure
Constitutional Law	Constitutional Law
Contracts	Contract Law
Criminal Law and Procedure	Criminal Law
Evidence	Evidence
Real Property	Real Property
Torts	Torts
Family Law	Family Law[6]
Estate Planning, Trusts, and Probate	Trusts and Estates[7]
Unique Subjects:	**Unique Subjects:**
Administrative Law and Procedure	Business Associations[8]
Professional Responsibility*	Professional Responsibility* (still heavily tested in connection with skills questions)
Employment Law	

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[6] Family Law will be tested as a "foundational concept[] and principle[]," like the others, beginning in July 2028. *See* https://www.ncbex.org/exams/nextgen/content-scope.

[7] Trusts and estates will be tested on the NextGen UBE, from at least July 2026 through February 2028, with the provision of "the necessary legal resources (e.g. statutes, regulations, and case law) to demonstrate the skills being tested"—"examinees are not expected or required to develop a base of knowledge in th[at] area[]." *See* https://www.ncbex.org/exams/nextgen/content-scope.

[8] Business Associations has long been and currently is tested on the California Bar Exam.

Skills Tested	
10/10/24 Order	**NextGen UBE**
Common Skills:	**Common Skills:**
Drafting and Writing	Legal Writing
Research and Investigation	Legal Research Investigation and Evaluation
Issue-spotting and Fact-gathering	Issue Spotting and Analysis
Counsel/Advice	Client Counseling and Advising
Communication and Client Relationship	Client Relationship and Management
Negotiation and Dispute Resolution	Negotiation and Dispute Resolution
Unique Skills:	**Unique Skills:**
Litigation[9]	None

Testing of Knowledge and Skills	
10/10/24 Order	**NextGen UBE FAQs**
"[T]here should be a significantly increased focus on assessment of skills along with the application of knowledge and performance of associated skills for entry-level practice, deemphasizing the need for memorization of doctrinal law."	"The intent is to make the exam more realistic and to reduce the amount of legal knowledge candidates must commit to memory for the exam, while emphasizing skills, such as interpreting and applying law."[10]

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[9] The BRC recommended the tested skills based on a report by the California Attorney Practice Analysis (CAPA) Working Group. *See* Report and Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on the Future of California Bar Exam ("BRC Report") (recommending "that CAPA's recommendations on skills are incorporated in the new exam"). The CAPA Report, in turn, identifies "tasks that attorneys perform when they work in one of the competency domains" (*e.g.*, the skills areas) and, for "litigation," identifies 26 "tasks." CAPA Report at A-27 – A-28. Many of these tasks are subsumed by other skills. *See, e.g., id.* ("[a]nalyze jurisdictional issues;" "[a]nalyze discovery needs" and "[d]evelop discovery plan;" "[i]nstruct the client regarding the preservation of evidence" and "regarding the produce of evidence pursuant to discovery requests"). Many can be tested in the performance-style questions of the NextGen UBE, which provide legal and factual resources. *See, e.g., id.* ("[c]omply with statutory notice and service requirements;" "[r]esearch local rules;" "[r]eview deposition transcripts"). Some could not realistically be tested on a written exam. *See, e.g., id.* ("[a]ttend depositions;" "[a]ppear at hearings," "at trial," and "at post-trial hearings"). In short, the "litigation" skill can, to the extent testable in a written exam, be adequately measured by a NextGen-centered exam.

[10] The full FAQ provides: "A closed universe of appropriate legal resources (e.g., statutes, cases, rules) will be provided to candidates on the NextGen bar exam for assessing Foundational Skills that are not being measured in the context of the eight Foundational Concepts & Principles, which applicants are expected to

know. For example, we anticipate that an MPT-type library, where resources specific to the task candidates are asked to complete, may be provided. The intent is to make the exam more realistic and to reduce the amount of legal knowledge candidates must commit to memory for the exam, while emphasizing skills, such as interpreting and applying law. NCBE is exploring options for testing legal research." NextGen UBE FAQs. It is unclear if the statement quoted in the table above is intended to describe the *entire* exam or portions of it. The idea, however, is consistent with the question types (some of which provide legal resources) and the content maps (which delineate between issues to be memorized and those that are testable only with the provision of resources).

Report 4.4 – Employment
By Provost & Academic Dean Morris Ratner and Assistant Dean for Career Development
Office Amy Kimmel

This report describes a handful of employment topics: (1) Big Law hiring timeline changes and their effects; (2) a snapshot of employment data for the Class of 2025 compared to recent prior years; and (3) a sampling of programs designed to support students' efforts to find jobs.

I.   Big Law Hiring Timeline and Effects; Guidance

Recent changes to Big Law hiring have had a dramatic impact on current 1Ls. This section provides some historical perspective and explains current challenges and our evolving thinking about student support solutions.

A. *History*

Since 2020, the Big Law hiring timeline has been pushed up and decentralized. Law school administered OCI programs are no longer the primary vehicle for securing summer or post-graduate jobs with these firms.

The National Association for Law Placement recently described changes to Big Law hiring:

> Recruiting is happening earlier, more rapidly, and increasingly outside traditional channels, according to NALP's annual Perspectives on 2025 Law Student Recruiting report released [January 26, 2026]. The data underscore the continued shift toward employer sponsored recruiting methods, including direct application alongside accelerated timelines. During the 2025 recruiting cycle for 2026 2L summer programs, 80% of offers resulted from employer sponsored recruiting, compared to just 20% through law school sponsored methods such as on-campus interviewing (OCI). As alternative pathways have gained traction, timelines have fast-tracked, with most offers (85%) made before July. Acceptance rates also hit record levels, with 52% of all summer program offers accepted.
>
> In her analysis on the timing of offers, NALP Executive Director, Nikia Gray, wrote, "The 2025 cycle not only reaffirmed the three-phase structure seen last year, but it also pulled the entire process materially forward." She added, "It should give us pause that, in a period already defined by significant institutional change and disruption, one of the forces exerting the most pressure on the structure of the first-year curriculum is not pedagogical reform or accreditation standards, but employer recruiting activity."

In a Bloomberg Law post commentator David Lat shared his take on these developments:

In September 1997, a few weeks into my second year of law school, I began the on-campus interview, or OCI, process. My classmates and I obtained positions as summer associates in Big Law through this process, often returning to the firms after law school as full-time associates.

The OCI process that I experienced in the late 1990s had existed in that form for decades. And then came Covid-19—which completely upended the traditional process of in-person, on-campus screening interviews. During the pandemic, interviews went virtual, and students and firms started to engage with each other directly instead of having their contact mediated by schools.

In each successive year since the pandemic, recruiting has grown more decentralized and started taking place earlier. Today, most summer offers are obtained through direct application by students, not a school-organized process.

As for timing, the recruiting process for 2027 summer programs is already underway. Yes, you read that right: Some firms are interviewing first-year, first-semester law students, who haven't yet taken their first final exams, for jobs set to start after the end of their 2L year.

The recruiting process has changed in other ways as well. Some firms are extending offers of employment for both the 1L and 2L summers—so-called jumbo offers. Other firms, including Davis Polk and Milbank, are hiring 2L summers—but will pay them $25,000 to do public-interest work in their 1L summer.

For a good discussion of why law schools and NALP cannot do much to address this challenging state of affairs, see this January 2025 NALP post re "The 'Cruel' Recruiting Timeline."

B. Observed Effects @ UC Law SF

Primary effects include:

- Heightened student focus on Big Law to the exclusion of other pathways to professional employment.
- Heightened student anxiety around academic performance and grades.
- Confusion about hiring processes, despite the significant advising efforts by the Career Development Office (CDO). (CDO counselors have held multiple in-person programs, offered expanded 1-1 advising, sent regular emails with information and advice, and created online advising pages.)
- Lower levels of engagement in classes, especially this spring, when some students who did not see themselves as eligible for Big Law suddenly realized based on fall 1L grades that they were competitive for these jobs.
- Greater demands on students to be self-regulating and self-directed in the job search, requiring time and project management skills and a level of initiative that the OCI process did not require to the same degree.

- Dean Amy Kimmel reports that students are accepting initial offers faster than they might have done in the past, even if they are competitive for other firms or if the first firm to make an offer is not necessarily the one the student would have selected without the pressures of the new timeline and fears around job search uncertainties.

C. Advising and Student Support

The UC Law SF CDO and Office for Academic Skills Instruction and Support (OASIS) have taken steps to help students manage this new hiring timeline and process. Dean Kimmel reports:

We remain attentive both to the changes in the accelerated Big Law hiring timeline as well as its impact on students. There is confusion surrounding who is currently hiring for Summer 2027 (still only Big Law), as well as challenges balancing school with two concurrent job searches (1L and 2L summer job searches are happening at the same time for many students). Assistant Dean Amy Kimmel and Associate Dean of Academic Skills Instruction & Support (OASIS) visited every 1L Sack class to clarify the timelines, offer advice on how to balance these obligations, and remind students that the job search should not be at the expense of their academics. CDO staff are also attending meetings and conferences both nationally and locally to ensure that the counselors (and by extension our students) have the most up-to-date information in a rapidly changing process. We are also assessing future programming to ensure that it is delivered at a time and in a manner most beneficial to our students. Of note, the CDO will be increasing pre-orientation touch points to students for the Class of 2029.

II.   Class of 2025 Employment (Year Over Year Data)

The UC Law SF Career Development Office (CDO) captures employment data for the graduating class at the start of every month on our graduate tracking sheet. Our graduate tracking sheet includes anyone who is unemployed or who has not given us all the information required for reporting. Year over year numbers are below.

- February 2, 2026: 57/354[1] (16% are unemployed and/or we do not have complete data on their employment status)
- February 1, 2025: 59/366 (16% are unemployed and/or we do not have complete data on their employment status)
- February 3, 2024: 85/345 (25% are unemployed and/or we do not have complete data on their employment status).
- February 1, 2023: 66/309 (21% unemployed and/or we do not have complete data on their employment status)

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[1] We expect this to be the final number of total students in this reporting cohort.

- February 15, 2022: 61/284 (21% unemployed and/or we do not have complete data on their employment status)

III.   Sampling of Job Search Support Programs

The CDO provides 1-1 counseling and well as a robust array of interview opportunities and information and training programs. This section briefly describes just a few of the resources CDO makes available to students navigating the job search.

A. PIPS Day

UC Law SF's annual Public Interest Public Sector (PIPS) Day program occurred on January 30 and 31. This program is in partnership with most other Northern California Schools and consists of an afternoon of informal virtual table talks and a day of formal interviews with non-profits and government agencies. Over 300 UC Law SF students submitted applications for formal interviews, and UC Law SF students had over 300 interviews. Approximately 190 employers registered for the program.

B. Boutique and Mid-Size Firm Week

Boutique and Mid-Size Firm Week will occur February 23-26. The week features three panels, and a networking table talk event with close to 30 firms. Panels will focus on the job search, plaintiff's side work, and impactful practices. This type of official programming introducing students to firms outside of Big Law is even more critical in the current recruiting season with its emphasis on Big Law.

C. Mock Interview Program

Through UC Law SF's January[2] Mock Interview Program, over 160 students (primarily 1Ls) matched with over 80 attorneys (predominately but not exclusively alumni) in all sectors.[3] In partnership with LEOP, the College also held the 6th annual Airbnb Mock Interview Program that matched 35 LEOP students with 25 Airbnb attorneys. For the fourth year, we will also partner with FGP and Apple for an interview program later in the spring.

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[2] We are examining this (and other programming) to ensure that the timing of the program is in line with changing recruiting needs.

[3] Feedback from both attorneys and students was again overwhelmingly positive for this program. Attorneys were impressed with the preparedness of the students and their backgrounds and experience. Students reported that the mock interviews were helpful to prepare for interviews and craft their own narratives, and it was helpful to connect with alumni.

Report 4.5 – AI Update
By Provost & Academic Dean Morris Ratner

Since the College adopted a [Supplemental Strategic Plan re Generative AI](#) in 2024, we have regularly updated the Educational Policy Committee regarding plan implementation. A faculty and staff AI Working Group recently met to discuss progress over the past three months.[1] This report highlights key takeaways from the Working Group's meeting. Developments include the following:

- The inaugural meeting of the College's AI Advisory Board.
- Weekly co-curricular programs hosted by LexLab for all students.
- The second iteration of a "1L Essentials" Academic Regulation 708 Professional Development Program session on AI.
- The launch this spring semester of an AI bootcamp for all students.
- The layering of AI instruction into Legal Research & Writing I and II this academic year.

I.   UC Law SF Advisory Board: Technological Transformation of Legal Practice and Legal Education

Director of Applied Innovation and Shashi & DJ Deb Professor of Practice for Emerging Technology & Law Tal Niv[2] and Director of LexLab Drew Amerson[3] created this [AI Advisory Board](#) to help the College better understand changes in practice and how they might impact legal education. The Advisory Board held its inaugural meeting in December. Discussion at this first meeting focused on, among other topics, the importance of teaching legal judgment necessary to effectively use new legal technology tools. The Advisory Board is poised to address another key question, i.e., the technology knowledge and skills that employers expect competitive law school graduates to have by the time they enter the job market. We are sharing information gleaned from Advisory Board meetings with the full faculty and with academic program deans and directors.

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[1] This academic year, the Working Group includes Drew Amerson, Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Negotiation & Dispute Resolution Hiro Aragaki, Professor of Practice Paul Belonick, LexLab Fellow Shashi Deb, Distinguished Professor and Faculty Director of the Center for Innovation and the AI Law & Innovation Institute Robin Feldman, Associate Dean for the Office of Academic Skills Instruction and Support Jennifer Freeland, Director of Legal Research & Writing Angie Gius, Clinical Professor and Co-Director of the Center for Social Justice Brittany Glidden, Associate Director of Legal Research & Writing and Professor of Practice Mimi Glumac, Library Director and Professor of Practice Hilary Hardcastle, Deb Visiting Professor Zac Henderson, Assistant Dean of the Career Development Office Amy Kimmel, Director Niv, Provost Ratner, Distinguished Professor Jodi Short, Associate Dean for Library & Technology Camilla Tubbs, and Assistant Dean of Student Services Miguel Zavala.

[2] https://www.uclawsf.edu/people/tal-niv/.

[3] https://www.uclawsf.edu/people/drew-amerson/.

II.   Academic Program Developments

A. LexLab: New AI Bootcamp for Students

Director Niv oversees our [Technology Law & Lawyering Concentration](#), and she and Director Amerson (and their team) offer a range of additional co-curricular programs for community members and training programs for practitioners. For more information, please visit [LexLab's website page](#). In addition to weekly talks open to all community members, on February 2, 2026 they held a second session of a special 1L Essentials program that is part of the Academic Regulation 708 Professional Development Requirement titled "Becoming an AI Lawyer."[4]

The most exciting development this spring semester is that Directors Niv and Amerson, aided by additional faculty, have launched a new AI bootcamp. As Director Niv described it in her email soliciting student applications: "Students who complete the bootcamp will receive a certificate of completion, reflecting structured, hands-on training in AI-enabled legal workflows, tool evaluation, and AI risk issues (useful for your resume, valuable for posting on LinkedIn, and, of course, for interviews)."

B. LRW1, LRW2, and AI

Director of LRW Angie Gius and Associate Director Mimi Glumac shared about developments this year in LRW1 and LRW2. Here are some highlights:

- LRW1: In Week 10 of the fall semester, LRW faculty devoted a class to allowing students to experiment using different AI tools at different points of intervention in the legal writing process. Students used Claude, ChatGPT, LEXIS, and Westlaw to learn how the different platforms helped (or did not help) with research, drafting a part of a memo, and editing their writing. Students then reflected on the outcomes.

- LRW2: Multiple additional AI-related assignments have been layered into the spring syllabus. For example, students will use AI to draft oral argument questions for practice before their oral arguments and will experiment with using AI for editing. LRW TAs will also use generative AI to create bench memos for the volunteer oral argument judges.

C. New Tech Tools for Community

The Library is sharing information about the rollout of and training for new tools, including Westlaw's and LEXIS's next generations of research tools, as well as Microsoft CoPilot. Associate Dean for Library and Technology Camilla Tubbs is also working to finalize a contract to make Harvey AI accessible to community members on an

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[4] *See* https://uclawsf.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=70e5e64a-a6b0-4272-a5b3-b3e20115f717&start=49.410021.

enterprise basis and to give the community access to training modules for Luminance, a contract analysis and negotiation tool. A full description of the tools we are onboarding is posted on this Sharknet page,[5] which Dean Tubbs is continuously updating.

D. Certificate in Legal Research

Starting this spring semester, the Library is adding AI research tools to the certificate program for students.

E. C4i/AI Law & Innovation Institute

Director of Center for Innovation and of the AI Law & Innovation Institute Robin Feldman and Deb VAP Zac Henderson discussed their research, including, among other projects, six scholarly works either in-flight or slated for near-term publication, including papers on AI, deliberation, and democracy; AI and misinformation; social media and sales in the AI era; and the philosophical ramifications of agentic AI. The Institute is connecting with legislators and contributing expertise in the policy sphere. Professor Feldman reported a surge since the AI Law & Innovation Institute was established in media inquiries about AI-related matters. She emphasized that she and C4i have been writing and advising government entities about AI for decades.

C4i Assistant Director Paul Belonick surveys his Startup Legal Garage students each year to see how they are using AI in their fieldwork. His survey results for 2025 are posted on our AI resources page, here. Professor Belonick shared this bottom line takeaway: students appear to be using AI mostly as a search engine to quickly get their arms around new areas of law before they research new issues and are appropriately worried that if they use it for drafting it may give unreliable results.

F. Office for Academic Skills Instruction and Support (OASIS)

Associate Dean Jennifer Freeland reported that her impression is that we are seeing an increase in the number of students who are using AI to create course outlines instead of making their own outlines, which deprives students of the benefit of synthesizing and in the process learning their course material. Another emerging challenge appears to be that some students are using AI to respond to cold calls in class. The Working Group discussed ways to integrate instruction and reflection regarding proper use of AI as a legal study aid into orientation and other 1L programming. OASIS faculty are still exploring whether and if so how AI may help students get formative assessment on their practice writing.[6] As a teaching tool, AI has proved helpful in the project of assisting faculty who are converting traditional essay questions into NextGen-style practice document-based questions.

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[5] https://uclawsf--simpplr.vf.force.com/apex/simpplr__app?u=/site/a0i41000006pcLMAAY/page/a0cKh00000HMYsxIAH.

[6] As previously reported, faculty who are not affiliated with OASIS have also explored having students evaluate their own legal analysis using AI as a cross-check.

III.   Post-Graduate Professional Development Programming

LexLab is hosting the second iteration of its Law & Artificial Intelligence Certificate program for working professionals on March 2-6, 2026. As noted on the LexLab website:[7]

> The UC Law SF Law & Artificial Intelligence Certificate (LAIC) offers a comprehensive, internationally focused training in this groundbreaking field, providing legal and compliance professionals with essential, globally relevant domain knowledge and practical skills. Upon completion of the course, you will receive the LAIC certificate of completion from UC Law SF. With this expertise, you'll be prepared to advise clients on navigating evolving, complex, and often ambiguous compliance requirements across international borders.

<div align="center">***</div>

Attached please find a slide deck prepared by Directors Niv and Amerson, who will give an oral presentation at the February 19, 2026 Educational Policy Committee meeting.

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[7] https://lexlab.uclawsf.edu/law-and-ai-certificate.

Updates from LexLab

Top tier in Tech law and lawyering

Tal Niv
Director of Applied Innovation
Shashi & DJ Deb Endowed Professor of Practice for
Emerging Technology and Law
Drew Amerson
Director of LexLab

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Agenda

LexLab mission, opportunity and goals

Key initiatives update

LexLab Mission Statement

To prepare technology lawyers who, out of the gate, provide outstanding counsel to clients navigating rapid technological evolution, contribute thoughtfully to global technology regulation efforts, and lead the legal profession forward through the ethical and forward–thinking adoption of new technologies
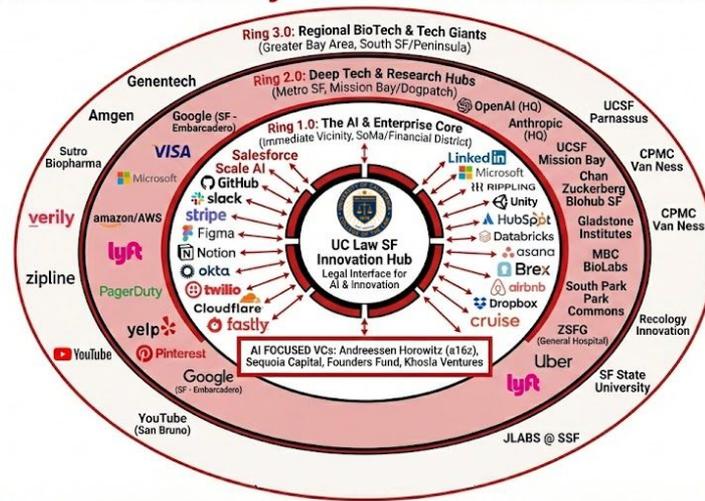
Goals

- Day-One tech counsel
- Profession-advancing innovators
- Judicious use of tools
- Built for rapid tech change

How we further these goals

1

Concentration Continuous Development

2

LexLab Fellows

3

Innovation in Education

4

Community Engagement Initiatives

5

LexLab Advisory Board

6

Continuing Legal Education

A few key initiatives

1. Brand new: AI-Enabled Lawyer Bootcamp

Train students like the future of legal practice is already here—because it is.

Students learn to:

- **Produce client–ready work with AI**—research, drafting, review, strategy
- **Exercise disciplined judgment over outputs**—shape, test, verify, and know when **not** to rely on AI
- **Build repeatable, high–quality workflows** with controls, documentation, and escalation paths
- **Choose tools wisely**—stress-test vendors for accuracy, security, confidentiality, and fit
- **Practice responsibly**—ethics, privacy, bias, competence, and accountability in AI–assisted work
- **Explain and defend AI–assisted work** clearly to supervisors and clients

How students learn:

- Real practice tasks + modern tools + real constraints
- Fast iteration, rigorous feedback, and measurable improvement

Outcome:

- **Certificate of Completion** recognizing demonstrated competence in AI-enabled legal practice

LEXLAB

Bootcamp Repository

2. Speaker series

Legal Tech Tea Time with Eudia

January 20, 2026, 12:30-1:30PM, In Person

Join us for refreshments and a demo of Eudia, an *Augmented Intelligence platform* that enhances legal operations by integrating AI-driven solutions with human expertise. Richard Lutkus, Eudia's Managing Director – Legal Strategy & Innovation will be joining us. This session will be held in the main LexLab space (198 McAllister, Room 240) from 12:30-1:30pm.

Register here.

TechLaw TeaTime
@ LexLab (198 Bldg Rm 240)
Tuesday, January 20
12:30 PM (1hr + Refreshments)

EUDIA

Richard Lutkus
Principal Advisor

AI in Legal Operations: What Law Students Should Know About the Future of Legal Work

Content Licensing in the Age of AI: *What Product Counsel Need to Know*

January 22, 2026, 12:30-1:30PM, In Person

Join us for lunch and a conversation with Jason Buttura, Senior Product Counsel at Stack Overflow, about content licensing in the age of AI.

This session will be held in the main LexLab space (198 McAllister, Room 240) from 12:30-1:30pm.

Register here.

Legal Tech Tea Time with GC AI

January 27, 2026, 12:30-1:30PM, In Person

Join us for refreshments and a demo of GC AI, an AI platform for in-house legal teams that allows them to draft contracts, review documents, and research legal issues in seconds. GC AI's CEO & Co-Foudner will be joining us.
This session will be held in the main LexLab space (198 McAllister, Room 240) from 12:30-1:30pm.
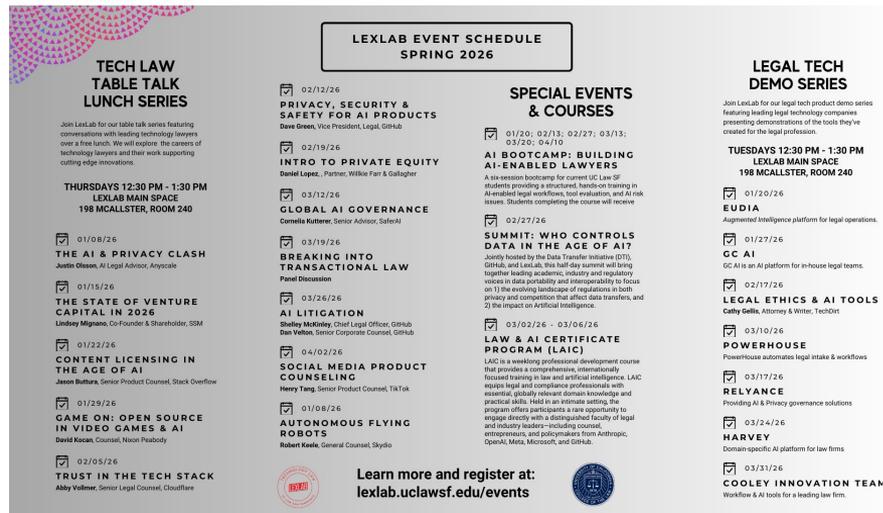
Register here.

TechLaw TeaTime
@ LexLab (198 Bldg Rm 240)
Tuesday, January 27
12:30 PM (1hr + Refreshments)

GC AI↵

Cecilia Ziniti
CEO & Co-Founder

Legal AI Built by Lawyers:
The Future of In-House Practice

LEXLAB EVENT SCHEDULE SPRING 2026

TECH LAW TABLE TALK LUNCH SERIES

Join LexLab for our table talk series featuring conversations with leading technology lawyers over a free lunch. We will explore the careers of technology lawyers and their work supporting cutting edge innovations.

THURSDAYS 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
LEXLAB MAIN SPACE
198 MCALLISTER, ROOM 240

☑ 01/08/26
THE AI & PRIVACY CLASH
Justin Olsson, AI Legal Advisor, Anyscale

☑ 01/15/26
THE STATE OF VENTURE CAPITAL IN 2026
Lindsey Mignano, Co-Founder & Shareholder, SSM

☑ 01/22/26
CONTENT LICENSING IN THE AGE OF AI
Jason Buttura, Senior Product Counsel, Stack Overflow

☑ 01/29/26
GAME ON: OPEN SOURCE IN VIDEO GAMES & AI
David Kocan, Counsel, Nixon Peabody

☑ 02/05/26
TRUST IN THE TECH STACK
Abby Vollmer, Senior Legal Counsel, Cloudflare

☑ 02/12/26
PRIVACY, SECURITY & SAFETY FOR AI PRODUCTS
Dave Green, Vice President, Legal, GitHub

☑ 02/19/26
INTRO TO PRIVATE EQUITY
Daniel Lopez , Partner, Willkie Farr & Gallagher

☑ 03/12/26
GLOBAL AI GOVERNANCE
Cornelia Kutterer, Senior Advisor, SaferAI

☑ 03/19/26
BREAKING INTO TRANSACTIONAL LAW
Panel Discussion

☑ 03/26/26
AI LITIGATION
Shelley McKinley, Chief Legal Officer, GitHub
Dan Velton, Senior Corporate Counsel, GitHub

☑ 04/02/26
SOCIAL MEDIA PRODUCT COUNSELING
Henry Tang, Senior Product Counsel, TikTok

☑ 01/08/26
AUTONOMOUS FLYING ROBOTS
Robert Keele, General Counsel, Skydio

SPECIAL EVENTS & COURSES

☑ 01/20; 02/13; 02/27; 03/13; 03/20; 04/10
AI BOOTCAMP: BUILDING AI-ENABLED LAWYERS
A six-session bootcamp for current UC Law SF students providing a structured, hands-on training in AI-enabled legal workflows, tool evaluation, and AI risk issues. Students completing the course will receive

☑ 02/27/26
SUMMIT: WHO CONTROLS DATA IN THE AGE OF AI?
Jointly hosted by the Data Transfer Initiative (DTI), GitHub, and LexLab, this half-day summit will bring together leading academic, industry and regulatory voices in data portability and interoperability to focus on 1) the evolving landscape of regulations in both privacy and competition that affect data transfers, and 2) the impact on Artificial Intelligence.

☑ 03/20/26 – 03/06/26
LAW & AI CERTIFICATE PROGRAM (LAIC)
LAIC is a weeklong professional development course that provides a comprehensive, internationally focused training in law and artificial intelligence. LAIC equips legal and compliance professionals with essential, globally relevant domain knowledge and practical skills. Held in an intimate setting, the program offers participants a rare opportunity to engage directly with a distinguished faculty of legal and industry leaders—including counsel, entrepreneurs, and policymakers from Anthropic, OpenAI, Meta, Microsoft, and GitHub.

Learn more and register at:
lexlab.uclawsf.edu/events

LEGAL TECH DEMO SERIES

Join LexLab for our legal tech tool demo series featuring leading legal technology companies presenting demonstrations of the tools they've created for the legal profession.

TUESDAYS 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
LEXLAB MAIN SPACE
198 MCALLISTER, ROOM 240

☑ 01/20/26
EUDIA
Augmented Intelligence platform for legal operations.

☑ 01/27/26
GC AI
GC AI is an AI platform for in-house legal teams.

☑ 02/17/26
LEGAL ETHICS & AI TOOLS
Cathy Gellis, Attorney & Writer, TechDirt

☑ 03/10/26
POWERHOUSE
PowerHouse automates legal intake & workflows

☑ 03/17/26
RELYANCE
Providing AI & Privacy governance solutions

☑ 03/24/26
HARVEY
Domain-specific AI platform for law firms.

☑ 03/31/26
COOLEY INNOVATION TEAM
Workflow & AI tools for a leading law firm.

https://lexlab.uclawsf.edu/events

3. LAIC - AI Law and Governance Program

LAIC session #2,
March 2 – March 6

4. Advisory Board on the Future of Legal Practice and Legal Education

UC Law SF Advisory Board:
Technological Transformation of Legal Practice and Legal Education

The Advisory Board helps UC Law SF clarify the roles and responsibilities that are evolving in legal work, the abilities they call for, and the preparation that allows graduates to enter those paths with maturity, knowledge and confidence.

Ashley Pantuliano
Deputy GC
Open AI

Alexandra Stathopoulos
Partner
Orrick

David Wang
Chief Innovation Officer
Cooley LLP

Iain Cunningham
VP & Deputy GC
NVIDIA

Jo Levy
Partner
The Norton Law Firm

Kerry McLean
Executive VP & GC
Intuit

Lee B. Shepard
Partner
Morrison & Foerster

Lindsay Llewellyn
Chief legal & Business Officer
Lyft

Luis Villa
VP, Legal
Sonar

Naveen Pai
Chief Knowledge Officer
Gunderson Dettmer

Paul Sieminski
Chief Legal Officer
Liquid AI

Scott Morgan
Former SVP & CLO
Splunk

Shannon Yavorksy
Partner
Orrick

Shashi Deb
LexLab Affiliate Scholar & Board Director
UC Law San Francisco

Shelley McKinley
Chief Legal Officer
GitHub

Svetlana Matt
Director, Public Policy
DISH Network

What it is

- A senior group of leaders from in-house legal teams, law firms, legal tech, and policy
- Built to keep UC Law SF at the frontier of how technology is reshaping lawyering

Why it exists

- Translate real-world practice change into curriculum, skills training, and institutional strategy
- Ensure our students graduate ready to deliver excellent counsel in tech-shaped environments, from day one

What the Board does

- Pressure-tests our priorities: AI, automation, data governance, legal operations, ethics, professional judgment
- Advises on programming, partnerships, and experiential learning opportunities
- Identifies emerging needs, blind spots, and high-impact opportunities for the school to lead

How it works

- Meets twice per academic year (Fall and Spring), hybrid
- Produces actionable outputs: agenda decisions, curriculum signals, speaker and partner pipelines, and a prioritized roadmap for next steps

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Ten standout scholars, thinkers, practitioners and builders who mentor students and keep our training anchored in real-world tech law practice

- 10 affiliates drawn from across the tech law ecosystem
- In-house leaders advising on AI, privacy, platforms, IP, and cybersecurity
- Law firm partners handling frontier transactions and disputes
- Builders and operators translating tools into reliable legal workflows
- Policy and governance contributors bringing a global, standards-aware lens
- Legal tech leaders stress-testing what works in practice

What affiliates do

- **Mentor students on judgment, craft, and professional identity**
- **Bring real tasks, real constraints, and rigorous feedback**
- **Work on projects to advance LexLab's mission**
- **Open pathways to projects, externships, and opportunities**
- **Opine on what we teach so it matches what the market demands**

—— LexLab Research Fellows ——

LexLab Research Fellows are leading practitioners and scholars affiliated with UC Law SF's LexLab, contributing expertise at the intersection of law, technology, and society.

Harry Borovick
General Counsel & AI Governance Officer, Luminance

Pamela Chestek
Principal, Chestek Legal

Shashi Deb
Adjunct Professor & Board Member
UC Law San Francisco

Cathy Gellis
Attorney & Writer
Techdirt

Paul Jurcys, PhD
Attorney & Co-Founder, Prifina

Eddan Katz
AI Product and Governance Leader Meta

Cornelia Kutterer
Adjunct Professor
UC Law San Francisco

Justin Olsson
AI Legal Advisor

Luis Villa
VP, Legal
Sonar

Kevin Xu
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