Dean’s Message

With a productive fall semester behind us and a busy spring semester just beginning, I wanted to take a moment to share with you some recent law school highlights.

In October, we hosted a special event to honor our Clinical Program’s founding faculty members. The day-long conference paid tribute to their contributions to the field and their impact on both their students and our law school. We welcomed our class of 2015 in August with a new, immersive five-day orientation. We also recently launched an LL.M. specialization in Law and Sexuality—the first LL.M. specialization of its kind in the nation.

Our centers and programs hosted numerous thought-provoking lectures, such as a talk on executive compensation sponsored by the Lowell Milken Institute and a discussion of capital punishment as part of the David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy speaker series.

I am delighted to share these brief stories with you and hope you enjoy reading them. Remember to save the date, June 1, 2013, for Reunions 2013! I hope to see you there, as well as at our upcoming events.

Warmly,
Rachel F. Moran
Dean and Michael J. Connell Distinguished Professor of Law

UCLA Law Welcomes Class of 2015

In August, the law school welcomed 308 stellar additions to the UCLA Law community during a new, innovative orientation. The law school launched an immersive orientation program to assist students in making the transition to law school and to help them gain foundational skills before the first day of class. Over the course of five days, students participated in lectures and practiced synthesizing and analyzing cases. Each student was provided with a copy of Cracking the Case Method: Legal Analysis for Law School Success, a new book by Professors Paul Bergman, Patrick Goodman and Thomas Holm, written to help foster legal analysis skills in new law students. The new orientation model was a great success, and will be repeated for the class of 2016.

Admission to the class of 2015 was competitive. In 2011, the law school had the fifth largest applicant pool among the top 20 law schools in the country. In addition, our median LSAT was tied for 6th best and our median GPA was the 9th highest among these schools. We were the 11th most selective law school in this elite group. The competition for qualified students has grown increasingly intense, but we maintained our record high median LSAT of 168 (96th percentile) and our record high median GPA of 3.78.

UCLA Law Honors Clinical "Pioneers"

During a one-day conference in October, UCLA Law paid tribute to the founding faculty members who have made UCLA School of Law’s Clinical Program one of the strongest in the nation. Former students, UCLA colleagues, scholars and practitioners working in the field gathered to honor Professors David Binder, Paul Bergman, Al Moore, Gary Blasi and Sue Gillig. Participants shared personal stories of their experience being taught by, hired by or working alongside these faculty members, and spoke about how they have been influenced and impacted by them.

The conference included reflections on the institutional and intellectual accomplishments of the program’s faculty, their substantive engagement, and the formative ideas and approaches that they pioneered. The event also included a talk in remembrance of former UCLA Law Professor Paul Boland and a keynote lunchtime talk by former law school dean Susan Westerberg Prager.
Business Law Breakfast
In September, the Lowell Milken Institute for Business Law and Policy hosted a Business Law Breakfast with Charles M. Elson, a leading expert on executive compensation and corporate governance. Elson, the Edgar S. Woolard, Jr. chair in corporate governance and the director of the John L. Weinberg Center for Corporate Governance at the University of Delaware, gave the talk "Executive Superstars, Peer Groups and Over-Compensation—Cause, Effect and Solution." He argued that the common practice of tying executive compensation to competitive benchmarks is misguided, and offered recommendations for refocusing the premise and process for establishing appropriate executive compensation levels in today’s corporate marketplace.

New LL.M. Specialization Launched
The law school launched an LL.M. specialization in Law and Sexuality—the first LL.M. specialization of its kind in the nation. The new specialty will provide rigorous training to emerging lawyers and scholars working in the field of sexual orientation and gender identity law, while enhancing the breadth and depth of legal scholarship related to LGBT issues. Building on UCLA Law’s reputation as a leader in the field, the new LL.M. specialization in Law and Sexuality will draw on the contributions of researchers at the internationally-recognized Williams Institute. Students will have the opportunity to take classes offered by faculty members and scholars associated with the Williams Institute, as well as participate in a range of Williams Institute activities.

Golden Reunion Celebration
The law school hosted the third annual Golden Reunion in November, a special event for alumni celebrating 50th or higher class reunions. More than 60 people attended the reunion luncheon, including representatives from each celebrating class. It was a festive event filled with shared stories and fond memories of law school. We are already looking forward to next year’s reunion!

Save the Date for Reunions 2013!
The law school is gearing up for Reunions 2013, which will be held on June 1. Melanie Cook ’78, a partner at Ziffren Brittenham LLP, has been named the National Reunion Challenge Chair. Now in its fourth year, the Reunion Challenge is an opportunity for alumni to honor their reunion class with a financial commitment to the law school. As national chair, Melanie will work with reunion classes with years ending in 3 and 8 to increase challenge participation and help to make the reunions a great success.

Barry Cappello ’65 Discusses the “Art of the Trial”
In October, the law school held the first event of the Cappello Courtroom Series: The Art of the Trial, which brings leading trial lawyers to the law school to discuss trial tactics and the skills needed to be a successful litigator. The event featured a discussion with Barry Cappello ’65 of Cappello & Noël LLP and Tom Nolan of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP who discussed Opal Jones, et. el v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., et. al., a lending discrimination class action. Cappello represented the class and Nolan represented Wells Fargo in the Los Angeles Superior Court case in which the jury returned a $3.5 million verdict against Wells Fargo. Cappello and Nolan took turns speaking about their side of the case and their own techniques, and shared their different approaches to shaping the case and persuading the jury to see their side. They also took questions from the audience and gave advice on becoming a trial attorney.
**Law School Events Focus on the Education of U.S. Latinos**

UCLA Law hosted the National Latino Law Student Association conference “Movimiento: The Movements of Latinos in Education and Advocacy” in October. The conference focused on historical and current movements including anti-discrimination, immigration, resegregation, economic justice, health care reform and juvenile and criminal justice. Participants considered the historical struggles and victories within the formal education and legal systems, as well as the possibilities for using education to make change through current and future advocacy. The event was hosted in conjunction with the Seventh Annual Latina/o Education Summit, co-sponsored by UCLA Law, which addressed the impact of legislation and litigation on Latino education. Participants included attorneys, legal scholars and social scientists who discussed areas where the law intersects with Latinos’ educational needs, including Latino resegregation, providing for Latino children who are both English Language Learners and students with disabilities, and the interface between immigration law, policy and education in light of new restrictive legislation enacted at the state level.

**Epstein Program Hosts Speaker Series**

The David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy hosted the first program of its 2012-13 speaker series in September, which addressed the future of capital punishment in California. The event focused on Proposition 34, which if it had been approved on Election Day would have replaced California’s death penalty with the sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole. The panelists presented both sides of the issue and confronted the fiscal, social and moral implications of capital punishment. The participants included: Gil Garcetti ’67, former Los Angeles County district attorney; Michele Hanisee, special assistant in the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office; Ellen Kreitzberg, professor of law at Santa Clara University School of Law; and Aqeela Sherrills, "Yes on 34" spokesperson. The event was moderated by Professor Stuart Banner.

Additional speaker series events have addressed: recent developments at the intersection of immigration law and higher education for undocumented students; efforts to address poverty in our country; steps to safeguard the U.S. Constitution; adoption of the Affordable Care Act and challenges to health care reform; and changes to ensure fairness in our criminal justice system.

**Annual Nimmer and Green Lectures**

In November, the law school hosted the 26th Annual Melville B. Nimmer Memorial Lecture and the 16th Annual Irving H. Green Memorial Lecture. The Nimmer Lecture commemorates the career of copyright authority and UCLA Law Professor Mel Nimmer with a discussion by a scholar advancing the field of copyright. This year’s lecturer was Neil Netanel, Pete Kameron Professor of Law at UCLA Law. In his talk titled “The Supreme Court Speaks Again: Copyright and the First Amendment after Golan v. Holder,” he addressed the relationship between copyright and the First Amendment. The Green Lecture honors the late attorney Irving Green by bringing outstanding trial lawyers to UCLA Law to inspire students. This year’s lecturer, Harland Braun ’67, engaged students and guests with stories from his long and distinguished career as a criminal defense attorney in Los Angeles. He talked about some of his famous clients, including Robert Blake, and the high-profile cases he has worked on, as well as how to manage publicity in well-watched cases.

**Bruins Hiring Bruins**

Help Build the Alumni Network!

The next time you are looking to hire on a full-time, part-time or contract basis, turn to the UCLA Law Office of Career Services to connect you to talented UCLA Law students and alumni. The Office of Career Services provides employers with an opportunity to post job listings or collect resumes, free of charge, for UCLA Law students and alumni. Jobs may be posted directly to the UCLA Law Career Services site by clicking law student posting or attorney job. For additional information, please contact Lisa Barash, alumni counselor, or Beth Moeller, assistant dean of career services, at (310) 206-1117.