RUTH BADER GINSBURG LECTURER

Bryant Garth is Chancellor’s Professor at the University California-Irvine School of Law, where he has been since 2012. He served as Dean of Southwestern Law School (2005-2012); Dean of the Indiana University-Bloomington School of Law (1986-90); and Director of the American Bar Foundation (1990-2004). His scholarship focuses on the legal profession, the sociology of law, and globalization. Two of his books, co-authored with Yves Dezalay, Dealing in Virtue (1996) and Asian Legal Revivals (2010), were given the Herbert Jacobs Award as the best books in the field of Law and Society published that year. He served as co-editor of the Journal of Legal Education from 2011-14. He is on the Executive Coordinating Committee of the “After the J.D.” project, the first longitudinal study of the legal profession, chairs the advisory committee of the Law School Survey of Student Engagement (LSSSE), and serves on the Board of the National Association of Law Placement Foundation (NALP).

SPEAKERS, MODERATORS, AND CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS

Toni G. Atkins has served in the California State Assembly since 2010, and was elevated to the top leadership post in 2014, when her colleagues unanimously elected her 69th Speaker of the California Assembly. Speaker Atkins represents the people of coastal San Diego, from Imperial Beach, along the Mexican border, north to Solana Beach, and most of central San Diego.

She previously served eight years on the San Diego City Council, and became a stabilizing force during a tumultuous period in 2005, stepping in as Acting Mayor after the resignation of the mayor. Speaker Atkins is a coalition-builder who believes government policies can improve people’s lives. She is a leading voice for affordable housing, a powerful advocate for women, and champion for veterans and homeless people.

Prior to her election as Speaker, she held the position of Majority Leader. She chaired the Assembly Select Committee on Homelessness, and served on committees on Agriculture, Housing and Community Development, Health, Judiciary, Veterans Affairs, Select Committee on Ports, Select Committee on Biotechnology as well as the Joint Legislative Audit Committee.

Speaker Atkins was born in Virginia, earned her bachelor’s degree in political science from Emory & Henry College, and completed the senior executive program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Her life of public service began in San Diego in the mid-1980s as director of clinic services at Womancare Health Center. She became a staff representative of then-City Councilmember Christine Kehoe, later winning her mentor’s council seat after Ms. Kehoe’s election to the Assembly. She represented the City of San Diego in the local chapter of the League of California Cities; on the board of the Metropolitan Transit System; on the San Diego Association of Governments; the Regional Housing Working Group; and the San Diego River Conservancy.
Susan Bisom-Rapp (BS, JD, LLM, JSD), Professor of Law at Thomas Jefferson School of Law, is a scholar of comparative workplace law, who writes about globalization, equal employment opportunity, precarious employment, and occupational safety and health.


A member of the American Law Institute since 2007, she serves on the Academic Advisory Board of the Doctoral Research School in Labour, Development and Innovation at the Marco Biagi Foundation, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy. She is a senior academic affiliate of the University of California, San Diego’s Center for Research on Gender in the Professions, and also serves on the Employee Rights and Employment Policy Journal’s Editorial Board. She is a member of Projét ZOGRIS, an international research group studying the rise of insecure employment, which is funded from an equality grant from the French government.

At the law school, she is faculty co-coordinator of the Employee Rights Self-Help Clinic. She teaches International and Comparative Employment Law, Public and Private Sector Labor Law, Employment Discrimination, Employment Law, and Torts.

Marisol Clark-Ibáñez is an Associate Professor in the Sociology Department at California State University San Marcos. She joined the faculty in 2003 and earned tenure in 2009. She is currently the Graduate Coordinator for the Master of Arts in Sociological Practice. Her research interests are Latinos in education, childhoods, immigration, and the law. Her new book, *Undocumented Latino Youth: Navigating Their Worlds*, focuses on the experiences of undocumented youth and adults across their educational journey and is based on a 7-year community project (Lynne Reinner 2015). She also publishes in the area of Teaching and Learning and was the inaugural e-Learning Faculty Fellow for CSUSM.

In 2014, she was awarded the CSUSM President’s Outstanding Faculty Award for Teaching Innovation & Excellence. Her service to the university echoes a commitment to social justice and diversity. She was Ethnic Studies Coordinator and is on the Chicano Studies Planning Leadership Team. She has been involved in mentoring programs, student clubs and collaborative research efforts with first generation students, Veterans, and students of color. As a Peruvian-American, she is dedicated to social justice issues in the community, especially as they relate to the diversity of experiences for Latinos in the United States. Dr. Clark-Ibáñez is a local leader in community efforts to bring awareness and training about undocumented students and families in North County San Diego.
Youlonda Copeland-Morgan was appointed Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in February 2012. In her role, she has primary responsibility for achieving UCLA’s undergraduate enrollment goals and oversees the Undergraduate Admission, Financial Aid and Scholarships, as well as outreach functions. She has been a recognized leader in higher education for more than 30 years. She served 9 years on the Board of Trustee of the College Board, including a two-year term (2008-2010) as chairman of the Board of Trustees. In 2009, she was appointed Vice Chair of the College Board’s Advocacy and Policy Center, which was established with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to help transform education in America. In 2010, Copeland-Morgan served as an expert witness in a Town Hall Meeting to Vice President Joe Biden on the White House Middleclass Task Force and is currently serving a second three-year term on the Gates Millennium Scholars Advisory Council.

She has received several distinguished service awards from state, regional and national associations in recognition of her contributions to higher education. Copeland-Morgan is a member of the College Board’s distinguished College Scholarship Service Hall of Fame, which honors 50 individuals who made significant contributions to the body of knowledge underpinning the financial aid profession since the College Boards inception. Prior to UCLA, Copeland-Morgan was at Syracuse University where she held the position of Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management.

Meera E. Deo, J.D., Ph.D., (Conference Organizer and Speaker). Professor Deo is an interdisciplinary scholar who utilizes empirical methods to interrogate trends in legal education, institutional diversity, and affirmative action. During the 2013-14 academic year, Professor Deo was a Visiting Scholar with Berkeley Law’s Center for the Study of Law & Society (Fall) and a Visiting Professor at UCLA School of Law (Spring). She is currently an Associate Professor at Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego, California. Professor Deo holds a B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School, and a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles.

While a law student and young attorney, Professor Deo was an Intervening Defendant in the landmark affirmative action case Grutter v. Bollinger. She went on to practice civil rights law with the ACLU National Legal Department in New York City, where she worked on impact litigation involving privacy and cyberspace law. She was later Staff Attorney for Women’s Health, and Director of the Breast Cancer Legal Project at the California Women’s Law Center, a statewide women’s advocacy nonprofit based in Los Angeles. The National Science Foundation (NSF), the Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship, and numerous University of California grants and awards supported her doctoral dissertation on social capital formation among members of law student organizations. Professor Deo currently serves on the Executive Committee for the AALS Section on Law and the Social Sciences and is an appointee to the California Commission on Access to Justice.

Professor Deo’s interdisciplinary and empirical research on institutional diversity has been cited in numerous amicus briefs filed in the U.S. Supreme Court in Fisher v. University of Texas, Austin (“Fisher I” and “Fisher II”) and Schuette v. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action. Her scholarship draws from original empirical research to investigate the law student and law faculty experience. She
Maurice R. Dyson (Moderator). Dyson is an Associate Professor of Law at Thomas Jefferson School of Law. Following graduation from Columbia Law School as a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, Professor Dyson practiced law with the firm of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett where he specialized in mergers and acquisitions, securities and leverage buyouts valued at approximately $166 billion. Professor Dyson has also participated in the landmark school finance litigation and in federal civil rights enforcement as the Special Projects team attorney for the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR) where he was recognized for his work in inter-district funding cases. A member of the Bar of the U.S Supreme Court, he has also served as the national chairperson of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Section on Education Law, the national executive board member of the AALS Section of Minority Groups, and a program coordinator of the Merrill Lynch Philanthropic Foundation recognized by the White House. In addition, he has served as educational policy adviser to the Texas State Legislature Joint Select Committee on Public School Finance, and has taught law on the faculties of Columbia University, the City University of New York, and Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law.

Professor Dyson is the recipient of numerous awards including the prestigious King’s Crown Award, the Kluge Award, the Albert Roothbert Endowment, the Lester A. and Stella Porter Russell Endowment, the Society of the Order of the Barristers, the Taft Samuel Carpenter Award for Teaching Excellence, and the 50 under 50 most influential law professors national list. Professor Dyson has also published Our Promise, a new book analyzing educational policy and numerous articles in education, civil rights, game theory, government, constitutional law, sociology and critical race theory among others. He is also the faculty co-founder of the Crawford Legal Institute Mentorship Bond (CLIMB) program, an educational pipeline mentorship initiative with Crawford High School that recently won the California State Bar Diversity Award for Excellence.

Rodney O. Fong is an assistant professor and co-director of academic support services, the Law+Plus, and the Bar+Plus programs at the University of San Francisco School of Law. Professor Fong helps students prepare for the study of law and enhances academic performance throughout law school, with a particular emphasis on bar preparation and success.

Professor Fong’s other area of focus is making the legal profession accessible to more students from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds. He has served as chair of the State Bar of California’s Council on Access and Fairness and continues to consult with the State Bar Council on issues involving the educational pipeline, law school diversity, implicit bias, and stereotype threat. He currently serves on the American Bar Association Council on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Educational Pipeline, is on the board of directors of For People of Color, Inc., and is on the Diversity Committee of the Law School Admission Council, where he chairs the DiscoverLaw.org PLUS Subcommittee.
Adrian Gonzales has served as the Palomar Community College’s Interim Superintendent and President since July 1, 2015. He joined Palomar College in July 2013 as the Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Student Services. In this capacity, he served as the District’s Chief Student Services Officer, developing annual goals and objectives for his Division. In his new role of Interim Superintendent/President, Gonzales is responsible for the oversight of one of the state’s largest community colleges, with over 26,000 students.

Prior to joining Palomar College, Gonzales served for two years as the Interim Vice President of Student Affairs at College of the Desert (COD) in Palm Desert, CA. His prior experience with COD spans nearly 15 years where he held several positions, including the Dean of Student Support Programs & Services and the Director of TRIO Programs. He began his career with the Ford Foundation in New York, where he served as a Program Associate for the Education, Media, Arts & Culture Program. His work with the Foundation was focused on supporting grant-making efforts geared toward strengthening K-16 educational partnerships in several cities throughout the US.

He is a graduate of UCLA, where he earned a B.A. in Political Science, and the University of Washington, where he earned a master’s degree in Public Administration with an emphasis on education and social policy.

Julie A. Greenberg (Conference Organizer and Moderator). Professor Greenberg is an internationally recognized expert on the legal issues relating to gender, sex, sexual identity and sexual orientation. Her path-breaking work on gender identity has been cited by a number of state and federal courts, as well as courts in other countries. Her work has been quoted in hundreds of books and articles and she has been invited to speak at dozens of national and international conferences on the subject. Her recent book, Intersexuality and the Law: Why Sex Matters provides an invaluable description, analysis, and critique of how people with an intersex condition are treated under existing legal regimes and was the recipient of the 2013 Bullough Book award for the most distinguished book written for the professional sexological community.

Professor Greenberg joined the TJSL faculty in 1990 and was the Associate Dean for Faculty Development from 2003-2005. She serves on a number of nonprofit organizations’ boards of directors and has also been involved in a variety of community service projects relating to the rights of women and sexual minorities. Professor Greenberg’s work on behalf of LGBTI rights was recognized by the Tom Homann Association in 2006 when it presented her with the “Friend of the Community” award. She also was voted by her peers as one of San Diego’s Top Attorneys in Academics for 2006, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015.

Vallera Johnson is a graduate of San Diego State University and Howard University School of Law and has been an administrative law judge for more than 25 years.

Judge Johnson is the founder and CEO of Women of Color in Law, Inc. and the person who originally developed the SDCBA/ACC – San Diego Diversity Fellowship Program. She has been active in assisting students and lawyers achieve their goals in the legal community. For her pursuits, she has received awards from numerous organizations of color, the San Diego County Bar Association and the State Bar of California.

Judge Johnson has five adult children and six grandchildren.
Catherine Lucey, M.D. is vice dean for education and UCSF. She directs the undergraduate, graduate and continuing medical education programs of the School of Medicine and the Office of Medical Education. Before joining UCSF, Dr. Lucey was the where she was Vice Dean for education for the College of Medicine and associate vice president for health sciences education for the Office of Health Sciences at Ohio State University. She is a member of the AAMC MR5 committee, charged with overseeing the revision of the Medical College Admission Test process. Dr. Lucey completed her residency in internal medicine, including service as chief resident, at the UCSF-affiliated San Francisco General Hospital, after earning her medical degree from the Northwestern University School of Medicine.

Mary Ann Mason is a professor and co-director of the Center, Economics & Family Security at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law. Professor Mason's scholarship spans children and family law, policy, and history. Recent works have focused on working families, in particular the issues faced by the surging numbers of professional women in law, medicine, science, and the academic world. Her most recent books are, “Do Babies Matter? Gender and Family in the Ivory Tower” (with Nicholas Wolfinger and Marc Goulden, 2013) and “Mothers on the Fast Track” (with daughter, Eve Mason Ekman, 2007).

From 2000 to 2007, she served as the first woman dean of the Graduate Division at UC Berkeley, with responsibility for nearly 10,000 students in more than 100 graduate programs. During her tenure, she championed diversity in the graduate student population, promoted equity for student parents, and pioneered measures to enhance the career-life balance for all faculty. Her research findings and advocacy have been central to ground-breaking policy initiatives, including the ten-campus “UC Faculty Family Friendly Edge” and the nationwide “Nine Presidents” summit on gender equity at major research universities.


Mason was a professor in the Graduate School of Social Welfare at UC Berkeley from 1989 to 2007. She received a B.A. cum laude from Vassar College, a Ph.D. in American History from the University of Rochester, and a J.D. from the University of San Francisco. She taught American history and practiced law for several years before joining the faculty at Berkeley in 1989, where she has taught children and family law and women’s issues in the law. She is considered a national expert on child custody issues and family law and policy, frequently addressing national and international media, conferences, and workshops on children and family issues.

Laura Padilla (Moderator). Padilla has been on the faculty at California Western School of Law since 1992. She graduated from Stanford University with a BS in Communication and a minor in Italian Studies. She went to Stanford Law School where she served as the Business Manager of the Journal of International Law, and was active in the Stanford Latino Law Students Association where she served as co-president. Padilla teaches property-
Linda Trinh Vo is a Professor in the Department of Asian American Studies and has affiliations with the Department of Sociology; Department of Planning, Policy & Design; and Department of Gender & Sexuality Studies at the UC Irvine. She received her Ph.D. from UC San Diego and was a UC Berkeley Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellow. She served as Chair of her department and as Equity Advisor to improve gender and ethnic diversity in the professoriate at UCI. In addition to contributing a chapter in Presumed Incompetent: The Intersections of Race and Class for Women in Academia, she is the author of Mobilizing an Asian American Community and co-edited three books: Contemporary Asian American Communities: Intersection and Divergences; Asian American Women: The “Frontiers” Reader; and Labor Versus Empire: Race, Gender, and Migration. She recently co-edited Keywords for Asian American Studies (New York University Press) and co-authored Vietnamese in Orange County (Arcadia). She serves as a series editor for the Asian American History and Culture series at Temple University Press; Director of the Vietnamese American Oral History Project; and President of the Association for Asian American Studies.

Shirley Nash Weber was elected in November of 2012 to the California Assembly to represent California’s 79th Assembly District, which includes the cities of Chula Vista, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City and San Diego.

Weber chairs the Assembly Committee on Budget, the Assembly Select Committee on Higher Education in San Diego County; and the Assembly Select Committee on Campus Climate. She also serves on the Assembly committees on Education, Higher Education and Appropriations.

Born to sharecroppers from Hope, Arkansas, Shirley Weber has lived in California since the age of 3. Her parents, and in particular her father, valued education and supported their daughter’s academic aspirations. She attended UCLA, where she received her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. by the age of 26. Prior to receiving her doctorate, she became a professor at San Diego State University at the age of 23. Dr. Weber also taught at California State University at Los Angeles and Los Angeles City College before coming to San Diego State University.

Weber has lived in the 79th Assembly District for over 30 years. Deeply committed to community service, she served on the boards of the NAACP, the YWCA, the YMCA
Scholarship Committee, Battered Women Services, United Way and the San Diego Consortium. She eventually made a successful run for a seat on the board of the San Diego Unified School District. As a trustee and subsequent school board president, she became known for her advocacy for closing the achievement gap and setting a higher standard of excellence for all children.

As an Assemblymember, Weber has translated her commitment to education into her ambitious legislative agenda. During her freshmen year in the California State Legislature, five of seven of her successful bills were related to education, including ACR 45 urging lawmakers and the governor to restore funding to early childhood education; AB 56 requiring standards for installing carbon monoxide devices in schools, and AB 899 linking English language. Bills signed in 2014 include legislation addressing civil rights, education, protections for person with disabilities, and voting rights.

Assemblymember Weber’s Select Committee on Campus Climate has been exploring some of the racial incidents on state university campuses, the responses from university officials, and possible policy changes to make the campuses safer and more welcoming for all students. She is also outspoken on the importance of investing in early childhood education as a means of preventing dropout rates, dependence on social services, incarceration and unemployment.

Assemblymember Weber is the mother of a daughter and son, and has two grandchildren. She is the widow of the late Honorable Daniel Weber, a California state judge.

Susan Westerberg Prager was appointed Dean and CEO of Southwestern Law School, Los Angeles’ second oldest law school, two years ago following five years as Executive Director and CEO of the Association of American Law Schools. She earned her A.B. and M.A. in history at Stanford and her J.D. from the UCLA School of Law, where she served as Editor-in-Chief of the UCLA Law Review. Prior to law school, she worked for three legislators in the U.S. Congress and the California Assembly. She practiced law briefly in Durham, North Carolina before joining the law faculty at UCLA, teaching community property, family law, wills and trusts, and historic preservation law. In 1982, she became the first female law dean in the UC system and one of only two women serving as Dean of an ABA approved law school at the time. Her 16 years as Dean remain the longest tenure of any law dean in UCLA history. Along the way, she became the second woman elected President of the AALS. Upon her departure from the deanship in 1998, the law school established a faculty chair in her name, and she was honored with the UCLA Law Alumni Association’s first Lifetime Achievement Award. In 1999, she left the legal academy to serve as Provost of Dartmouth College. Later, she became President of Occidental College. A Stanford trustee for 14 years, she became the first female Director of the Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company (later Pacific Life). Her 36 years in the role made her the longest serving outside member of the Board of Directors in the company’s history.

As an advocate for diversity of people and intellectual traditions, and as a woman who went to high school in the 1950’s, Susan believes that the champions in her life— from her father to her husband of 40 years and their two daughters, to her predecessor as Dean at UCLA as well as numerous colleagues—deserve much of the credit for her groundbreaking leadership roles. She feels privileged to champion successive generations of outstanding students of all races and see them contribute in so many wonderful ways. Susan feels so fortunate to have the opportunity to lead Southwestern, a place that since its founding more than a century ago has been the legal training ground for innumerable trailblazers of the bench, bar and civic leadership, and where to this day diversity and inclusion form the heart of its mission.