

# School of Law

*Advocating for Justice*

Leading  
Change™

THE CAMPAIGN FOR USD

## Research Centers: \$3 million

### Background

The School of Law is seeking \$3 million establish support its **research centers**. The school has long been recognized for the outstanding quality of its faculty members and the important contributions their scholarship and public service have made to law and policy locally, nationally and internationally. Supporting and maintaining the quality of the faculty is vital to reputation and rankings, the ability to recruit and retain students and the commitment to train students to be outstanding lawyers and leaders in the legal profession and in their communities.

The strong tradition of faculty scholarship and service distinguishes us among our competitors, and sets a standard of excellence for our students and graduates. The faculty-directed centers and institutes are important to our efforts to recruit and retain outstanding faculty. They also provide opportunities for faculty to engage our students in research, academic seminars and public programs that address some of the most complex legal issues of our times.

### Objectives

At a time of declining revenues from tuition, our centers increasingly must rely on funding from grants and the generosity of our donors. Support from the law school's alumni and friends are needed to sustain three centers that support the School of Law's strong commitment to academic excellence and impactful legal research and scholarship.

*Center for the Study of Constitutional Originalism:* Originalism is the view that the Constitution should be interpreted in accordance with the meaning it had at the time of its enactment. The Center for the Study of Constitutional Originalism (CSCO) studies all aspects of originalism by sponsoring visiting research fellows, holding conferences, hosting speakers, maintaining a blog and promoting originalist scholarship. The CSCO's annual conference brings leading originalist scholars from throughout the country and the world to San Diego to discuss current originalist issues.

*Institute for Law and Philosophy:* The mission of the Institute for Law and Philosophy (ILP) is to advance knowledge on legal topics of philosophical significance, particularly those implicating moral, political and philosophical issues. The ILP endeavors to educate law school faculty members and students on the philosophical implications of various legal topics, by introducing them to relevant literature and arguments and exposing them to major international scholars working on those topics. The institute supplies conference papers of major significance, written by internationally known scholars, to the law school's journals.

*Institute for Law and Religion:* The Institute for Law and Religion brings together noted experts in the field of law and religion, and outstanding scholars of diverse religious and secular perspectives, to address issues of great constitutional importance and public interest relating to religious freedom, the First Amendment and issues of religious expression. The institute hosts annual academic conferences, as well as public lectures and debates.

Funding opportunities include:

- **Student Support:** Fellowships assist our students with living and travel expenses while providing them opportunities for in-depth research and hands-on experience at or through our centers and institutes.
- **Faculty Support:** Support is needed to sustain the impactful research, academic debate and advocacy in which our centers and institutes engage. Endowments and multi-year gifts, with the potential for naming opportunities, fund our centers and institutes' directors and help bring visiting academics with specialized knowledge and experience to the School of Law.
- **Program Support:** Gifts to our centers and institutes help sponsor conferences and symposia that bring academic and thought leaders from around the world together to discuss and debate important policy issues affecting our communities. Endowed

and multi-year gifts provide naming opportunities to donors interested in supporting programs in specific policy areas.

## Impact

The centers and institutes at the School of Law help support and build its reputation by enabling the school to attract and retain top faculty and students, and to involve them in training and advocacy programs that impact law and policy at the local, state and national levels.

A key goal of the Leading Change Campaign is to make each of the School of Law's centers and institutes

financially self-sustaining, and to ensure they continue to be a vital part of how we train our students, serve our communities, and advance the understanding of important legal and policy issues.

## For More Information

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