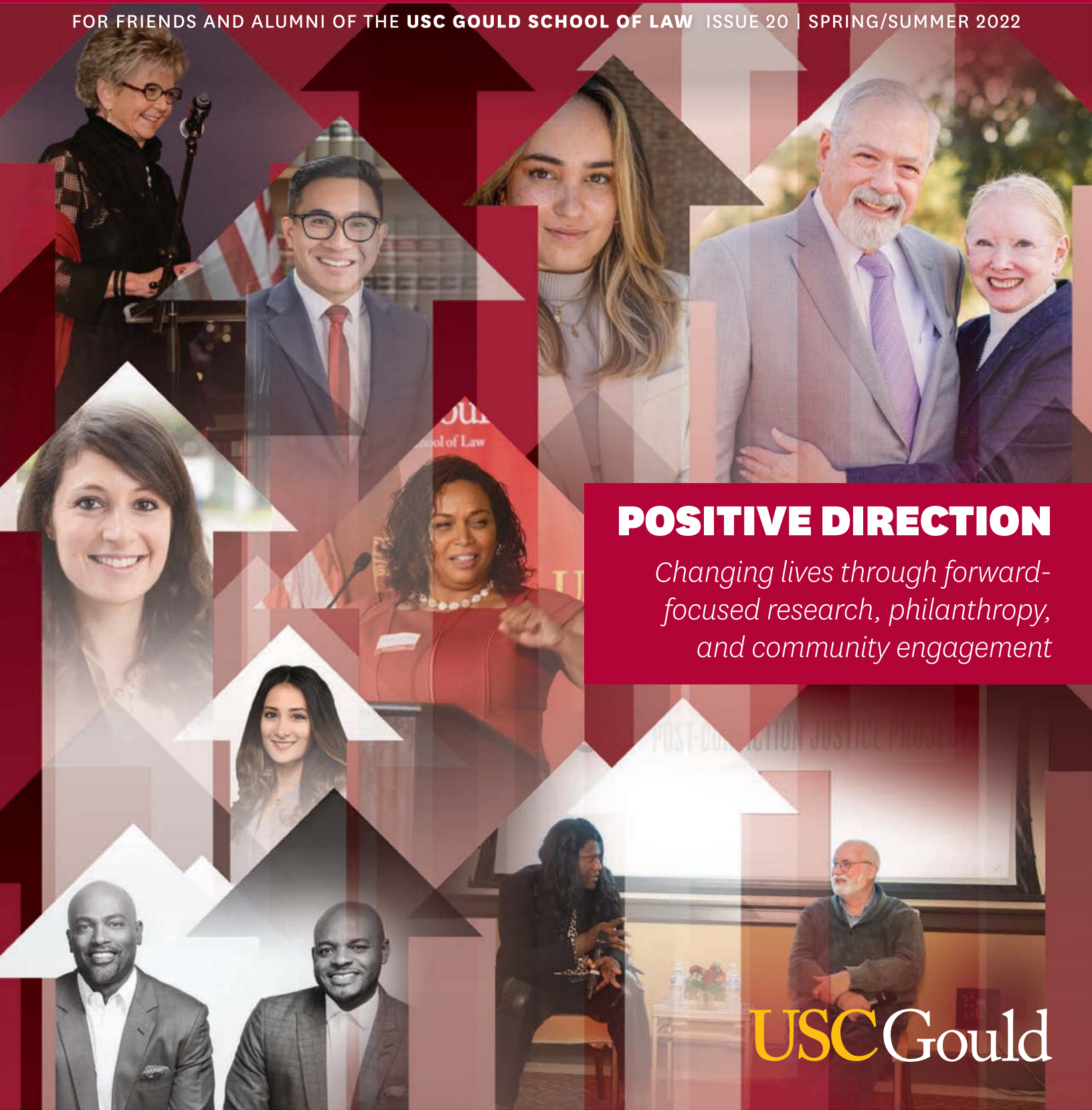


# USC MAGAZINE Law

FOR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF THE USC GOULD SCHOOL OF LAW | ISSUE 20 | SPRING/SUMMER 2022



## **POSITIVE DIRECTION**

*Changing lives through forward-focused research, philanthropy, and community engagement*

**USC** Gould



**It is often said that the only constant is change. I am grateful to be part of a law school whose members are *change-makers*, dedicated to helping move forward society and the legal field in a positive direction.**

As we turn the page on another successful academic year, capped off by a joyous on-campus commencement ceremony for the Class of 2022, I am delighted to share with you inspiring stories about our students, alumni, faculty and staff, who are making a meaningful change in our communities.

In this issue, we highlight the historic \$13 million gift — the largest single gift ever for the law school — from Richard and Karla Chernick. Richard is a trailblazer and noted leader in the field of alternative dispute resolution, and has played an instrumental role in shaping Gould's ADR program.

Our opening section also includes stories about the success of recent clerkships; photos from the naming celebration at the historic L.A. Memorial Coliseum to honor Barbara F. Bice's \$2 million estate gift to support our Public Interest Law Foundation; and a scholarship fund for law students from underrepresented communities recently initiated by alumni Justin Sanders (JD 2000) and Reginald Roberts Jr. (JD 2000).

We also cover the launch of a new partnership with India's O.P. Jindal Global University; the *Southern California Law Review's* annual symposium, which focused on the legacy of environmental law pioneer Christopher Stone; a Post-Conviction Justice Project event featuring Father Gregory Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries; and a new anti-trafficking report by the International Human Rights Clinic which gained national attention.

Further, we focus on the C. David Molina First Generation Professionals Program, which recently celebrated five years of impact; an outstanding student project that centered on helping WWII Nisei Trojans; a new biography commemorating community leader and civil rights activist Sei Fujii (JD 1911); and we spotlight recent grads who earned the prestigious Equal Justice Fellowship and Irmas Fellowship in public interest law.

**“In this issue, we highlight the historic \$13 million gift — the largest single gift ever for the law school — from Richard and Karla Chernick. Richard is a trailblazer and noted leader in the field of alternative dispute resolution, and has played an instrumental role in shaping Gould's ADR program.”**

In our *Faculty Focus* section, the magazine shines a light on faculty accomplishments and thought leadership, including the cutting-edge research on corporate governance and finance from Professor Dorothy Lund which is being published in the nation's top legal journals; Professor Robin Craig's work to educate judges and lawmakers as part of the Environmental Law Institute's Climate Judiciary Project; Professor Nomi Stolzenberg's new book and Professor Ariela Gross' Order of the Coif book award.

In addition, this issue includes a special section on *Clinical Perspectives*, featuring the life-changing work of our clinics. Notably, our Immigration Clinic successfully resolved one of its oldest cases, dating back to 2004; the Post-Conviction Justice Project set precedent in a case for a client serving life without parole for a crime he committed at age 16 (*In re Deandre Moore*); the International Human Rights Clinic is working to obtain humanitarian parole for Afghans; along with other inspirational articles.

In closing, I thank you for being part of the Gould community, and I wish you and your loved ones a safe and refreshing summer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AGS'.

Andrew T. Guzman  
*Dean and Carl Mason Franklin Chair in Law,  
Professor of Law and Political Science*





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## COVER FEATURE

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USC Gould shaped alumnus Richard Chernick's career, and in return he helped build a home for ADR at the law school



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# USC MAGAZINE Law

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Gould School of Law



# *Investing in law students' success*

Two longtime friends pair up to create scholarship for future lawyers following their dreams at USC Gould





By Julie Riggott

**Before becoming law partners at Sanders Roberts LLP, longtime friends Justin Sanders (JD 2000) and Reginald Roberts Jr. (JD 2000) found their profession in different ways.**

Roberts, a first-generation college student, discovered he had a natural ease with words, which steered him to law. Sanders' father was a Yale School of Law graduate and corporate lawyer with deep ties to the civil rights movement. Both Los Angeles natives, the future partners met at Morehouse College undergraduates before studying at the USC Gould School of Law.

Today, the two USC alumni focus on business litigation, employee litigation and general liability defense, with clients including Ford Motor Company and Facebook. The firm has grown to 26 lawyers, and in 2016 and 2020, *Daily Journal* named it among California's top 20 boutique firms. Despite their success, they haven't forgotten the journey to get there.

"We had many mentors and men and women we looked up to who bent over backwards to say 'yes.' They did a lot for us to help put us in the position that we're in now," says Sanders, who was both a Southern California Super Lawyer and USC Black Law Students Association Alumnus of the Year in 2019. "It's very important to us that we do the same for people who are coming up behind us."

His law partner agrees. "USC Gould changed my life," says Roberts, who was named one of the top 40 lawyers



pretrial advocacy class. Sanders and Roberts also recently initiated the Clarence Thompson Memorial Scholarship Fund for USC law students from underrepresented communities, and encourage others to add to the fund.

"If students of color who want to attend USC's law school are attending other schools instead because money is an obstacle," Sanders says, "then we were going to help bridge that gap."

Roberts could only attend a top-tier school like USC because of a scholarship. For Sanders, receiving the Crispus Wright Scholarship was the determining factor in becoming a Trojan. In selecting the name of the fund, they gave a nod to Clarence Thompson, USC Gould's first Black alumnus, who graduated in 1900 at age 18.

Today, African Americans represent over 13% of the U.S. population but only 5% of the nation's lawyers. The partners

**"If students of color who want to attend USC's law school are attending other schools instead because money is an obstacle... then we were going to help bridge that gap." — Justin Sanders (JD 2000)**

under age 40 by the National Bar Association in 2013. "When I'd walk down the hallways, the dean knew my name. It made me feel really invited, like I wasn't the only person that was invested in my success. Because of that, we're still giving back today."

**GIVING BACK THROUGH NEW SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

In addition to being active members of the USC Gould Alumni Association and the school's Law Leadership Society, Sanders and Roberts mentor students and teach a

agree that diversity at law schools is critical. "If you have a society that is governed by rules created by a homogenous segment of that society," Roberts says, "over time there will be discord."

Sanders adds: "At USC, I met people that had completely different political, legal and social views, and we became friends — we're still friends. We sat through lectures from people on the far left, people in the middle and people on the far right. That causes students to challenge, or maybe strengthen, their own views." 