

# Informational Packet for the 28th Annual Alumni Awards Gala Fundraiser

March 9, 2017  
California Science Center  
Endeavour Pavilion  
700 Exposition Park Drive  
Los Angeles



**SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL**

Los Angeles, California ▪ [www.swlaw.edu](http://www.swlaw.edu)

## Southwestern Law School

With a long-standing emphasis on diversity, public service and innovative programs, Southwestern Law School's mission, since its founding in 1911, has been to provide a progressive legal education that prepares students with diverse backgrounds to earn positions of responsibility and trust within the legal profession and the community.

## Southwestern Law School Alumni

Southwestern alumni have always been trailblazers and continue to have tremendous influence in the legal profession as well as in the civic and business sectors. The law school's first graduate was Betty Trier Berry, who became the first woman lawyer to work for a public defender's office in the United States. The next year, among Southwestern graduates was B. Rey Schauer who went on to serve as a distinguished member of the California Supreme Court.

There are over 8,000 alumni in the greater Los Angeles area and they include prominent attorneys and business leaders such as Wayne Levin, Chief Strategic Officer & General Counsel, Lionsgate Entertainment Corp.; Lauren Leichtman, Chief Executive Officer, Levine Leichtman Capital Partners; and Daniel Petrocelli, O'Melveny & Myers.

## 28th Annual Alumni Awards Gala

The annual Alumni Awards Gala is designed to recognize individuals for their extraordinary service to the law school, the community and the legal profession. Past honorees include Marcia Clark '79, U.S. Senator Gordon Smith '79, Hon. Tom Bradley '56, California Supreme Court Justice Hon. Stanley Mosk '35 among many others.

## Fundraising

This year proceeds from the event will benefit the Southwestern Alumni Association Domestic Violence Advocacy Initiative to provide financial stipends to law students and alumni who work or provide pro bono legal services to victims of domestic violence. Read more about the initiative on page 5. We invite you to view the sponsorship levels and ticket prices on page 4, and please give generously.

# 20,000+

Number of **volunteer pro bono hours** performed by Southwestern students each year in the local community

**3** Southwestern graduates have served on the **California Supreme Court**

# 10,000+

alumni in **California**

# 8,000+

alumni in the greater Los Angeles area

# 1<sup>ST</sup>

- **Female public defender** in the nation
  - **Female African-American judge** in California
  - **Female African-American appellate justice** in the nation
  - **Latina trial court judge** in the nation
  - **Chinese-American federal district court judge** in the continental US
  - **Native American judge** in California
- ...all Southwestern graduates

**ONLY** law school to receive the National Higher Education **Excellence in Diversity Award** 5 years in a row  
*(INSIGHT Into Diversity)*

**IN THE TOP** of *The Hollywood Reporter's* roster of "**America's Top Entertainment Law Schools**" five years in a row

# 10

Southwestern Law School Alumni Association presents

# The 28th Annual Alumni Awards *Gala*

March 9, 2017

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## Honorees

### ***Alumni of the Year:***

George '75 & Katrina '02 Woolverton  
Stockwell Harris Woolverton & Helphrey

### ***Outstanding Judicial Officer:***

The Hon. Socrates P. Manoukian '77  
Superior Court of California  
County of Santa Clara

### ***Outstanding Gov. Public Interest:***

Sharon Petrosino '84  
Orange County Public Defender

### ***Outstanding Friend:***

Julie Xanders  
Executive Vice President, General Counsel  
tronc, Inc.

### ***Outstanding Litigator:***

Robert Morgenstern '80  
Maranga-Morgenstern

### ***Outstanding Law Firm:***

Meyer Olson Lowy & Myers

### ***Outstanding Nickel Alumnus:***

Benjamin Tragish '13  
Foley & Mansfield

## Sponsorship Levels

- \$10,000 – Platinum
- \$5,000 – Gold
- \$3,500 – Silver
- \$2,500 – Bronze
- \$1,000 – Partner
- \$500 – Associate
- \$250 – Friend

Table of 10 Early Bird Price: \$1250

Normal Price: \$1500

## Ticket Prices

- \$150 – General Ticket
- \$100 – Nickel Club members/  
Government Pricing





## Domestic Violence Advocacy Initiative

The Southwestern Alumni Association Domestic Violence Advocacy Initiative was established to provide financial stipends to law students and alumni who work or provide pro bono legal services to victims of domestic violence. The work may include: interviewing clients, obtaining evidence and arranging records, writing briefs and other legal memoranda, litigation preparation, appearing at administrative hearings and trials, appellate advocacy, in addition to conducting community outreach and education regarding services and victims' rights and protections. These stipends will help place many students and alumni at various organizations. Past organizations who have worked with Southwestern Law School include the Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County, Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, and Levitt & Quinn Family Law Center. Their work has made a significant impact in the lives of countless people.



*Erik Alexander Ceja, 2L SCALE Student*

## Student Testimonial

"As part of my summer fellowship duties at Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County (NLSA), I worked directly with victims of domestic violence and helped them with immigration issues, family law problems, and landlord/tenant disputes. It was extremely humbling to hear about their struggles and tribulations and I felt grateful that they shared their personal tales of pain and injustices with me."

"One of the greatest aspects of spending my summer with NLS was the ability to meet, interact, and work side-by-side with its dedicated staff and team members who are fighting for social justice on a daily basis. It is inspiring to see individuals

working together to make a positive impact on the world around us."

"This summer, I learned that public interest law is not about saving the world; it is about empowering the world. Many members of our communities, due to economic, social, and language barriers, do not have access to the justice they require. Nonprofits and organizations such as NLSLA together with public-interest attorneys and volunteers all empower individuals by teaching them about their rights so that they can face their legal battles. I look forward to empowering more people in the future. I want to be part of the solution to real-world problems and help change the world, one person and one case at a time."