

Research Fellow Highlight: Allison Yoo



Allison Yoo received her Bachelor's degree from Barnard College of Columbia University, where she majored in art history. Before attending law school, she worked at a law firm in New York. During law school, she expanded her legal experience with summer internships at law firms in Korea, followed by a summer associate position at a firm in Irvine.

Allison loves going to art museums and galleries. She makes it a mission to visit as many as she can whenever the opportunity arises!

Visiting Scholar Highlight: Tae Sang Kweon



Tae Sang Kweon previously worked as a lawyer at YOON & YANG LLC (Hwawoo), and is currently a professor at Ewha Womans University Law School, teaching civil law. His main research interests include privacy, publicity, and defamation. At UCI, he would like to examine how media coverage of public figures is treated legally in the United States and South Korea.

As a new resident of Irvine, he has been enjoying the life here, especially the serene and peaceful nature. He likes walking around campus and Aldrich Park has become his favorite place on campus. He has two boys in elementary school and loves to play soccer with them at the neighborhood park.

UCI Law Korea Law Center

February 2025



On February 7th, Aiden Kim, Program Advisor of the Korea Law Center, participated in the USC Graduate Conference in Korean Studies, where scholars gathered to discuss various aspects of Korean society, culture, and diaspora. In his panel, he presented South Korea's Immigration Policy Shift: Diversification and Exclusivity, examining the country's recently announced immigration framework. His discussion focused on the evolving visa policies and social integration measures, highlighting the balance between inclusivity and restriction in South Korea's approach to immigration.



The Korea Law Center and the Orange County Korean American Bar Association (OCKABA), held a pro bono legal clinic at Community Legal Aid SoCal on February 15. Attorneys and law student volunteers provided free legal assistance to Korean individuals from marginalized communities, addressing various legal concerns and ensuring greater access to justice. This event reflects KLC's ongoing commitment to supporting underserved populations and fostering legal empowerment within the Korean American community.



This month, the Korea Law Center team along with the Global Programs team and Dean Austen Parrish met with the Jane Herring, the CEO of the World Affairs Council of Orange County. The World Affairs Council holds a number of events, such as panels and receptions, to engage the community about global topics and issues affecting all of us, including current events in Korea.

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Dean Austen Parrish interviews Professor of Law and inaugural Faculty Director of the Korea Law Center (KLC) Sung Eun (Summer) Kim and Grace Lee, Program Director for the KLC, about the mission, goals and ambitious programs of the Korea Law Center since its inception at UC Irvine Law in 2009. The Korea Law Center's Visiting Scholars Program, delegations to Korea, upcoming KLAP project, and many events strive to bring together and foster the Korean-American community both at UCI Law and abroad in South Korea.

The podcast is available on Spotify, Apple Music, and SoundCloud. You can find the podcast episode and transcript on the UCI Law website: <https://www.law.uci.edu/podcast/episode50.html>

Pro Bono Collaboration: Seoul National University School of Law and UC Irvine School of Law

UCI Law Pro Bono Programs and Korea Law Center are very excited to announce our first joint pro bono project with Seoul National University School of Law Public Interest Law Center. Under the supervision of Professor Julia Choi of SNU Law, UCI Law students Jamie Morishima (1L) and Elizabeth Hwang (1L) will conduct research in understanding the impacts of California Assembly Bill 5 (aka the gig worker bill), which requires companies to classify certain workers as employees instead of independent contractors.

Prof. Julia Choi is a clinical professor at SNU Law focusing on labor rights in Korea. Gig workers in Korea, including delivery workers, lack employment protections. Prof. Choi is interested in better understanding the impact of implementation of AB 5 in California and what insight it can provide in informing laws in Korea.



Research Fellow Alumni Highlight: Karen Shin

Karen Shin graduated from UCI Law in 2019 and is currently an associate attorney at Blank Rome. In 2017, Karen joined the Korea Law Center as a Research Fellow. She has served as a judicial extern for the Honorable Josephine L. Staton of the United States District Court, Central District of California. During law school, she also served as co-chair for APALSA and was a staff editor of the UC Irvine Law Review. Now, her practice focuses on data privacy and information security matters.

One of her favorite memories during her time with KLC was getting to plan and participate in the "Mentoring the Next Generation" conference in 2017, which brought together distinguished Korean American leaders in the field of law, medicine business, entertainment, science and public service. She highlights the importance of representation in leadership positions. The conference also engrained in her the significance of passing down wisdom learned from being in those positions, its a lesson she's "grown to appreciate more and more as I've graduated law school and have been practicing law."



UCI Law

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Korean Lawyers in America Project Update



KLAP meeting with Professor Ji Li, Professor Summer Kim, Program Director Grace Lee, Yonghyung (Thomas) Chung, Allison Yoo, SJ Lee, Semmie Lee, Annie Hong and Serapia Kim

This month, the Korean Lawyers in America Project (KLAP) team met with John & Marilyn Long Professor Ji Li to discuss the research project and next steps. Professor Ji Li's study of Chinese immigrant lawyers has been one of the major inspirations and catalysts for KLAP, and we look forward to pursuing comparative and empirical projects together with Professor Li to explore both Korean and Chinese experiences and perspectives in the legal profession.

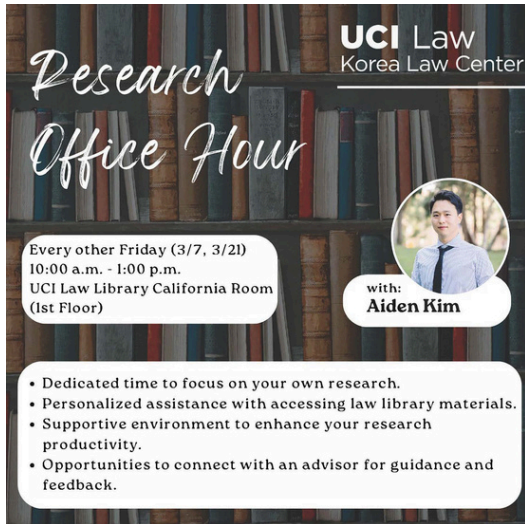
About KLAP. The Korean Lawyers in America Project (KLAP) is a longitudinal study which will combine survey data and in-depth interviews to trace the career trajectories of legal professionals of Korean descent who received their legal education and/or license to practice law from the United States. The goals of KLAP are to gather data on and generate new insights into the landscape of Korean lawyers across different sectors, regions, generations, and identities and to use this data and insights to analyze how Korean lawyers shape and are shaped by the profession. For more information about KLAP, please contact Grace Lee at glee@law.uci.edu.



UCI Law Korea Law Center

February 2025

Upcoming Events



Research Office Hour

UCI Law
Korea Law Center

Every other Friday (3/7, 3/21)
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
UCI Law Library California Room
(1st Floor)

with:
Aiden Kim

- Dedicated time to focus on your own research.
- Personalized assistance with accessing law library materials.
- Supportive environment to enhance your research productivity.
- Opportunities to connect with an advisor for guidance and feedback.



Global Language Cafe

FOR ENGLISH CONVERSATION

Date: Friday, April 4
Time: 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Location: MPAA 201
RSVP: Grace Lee (glee@law.uci.edu)
Join us for informal English conversations and cultural exchange at the Global Language Cafe!
Light refreshments served.



Korean Prosecutor's Association (KPA) Mentorship Panel

Friday, March 14

12:00PM-1:30PM

Education Building 1121

401 E. Peltason Drive, Irvine, CA. 92617

A joint celebration and gathering hosted by the Korean Prosecutors Association (KPA) and the Korea Law Center at UC Irvine Law.

This panel discussion and mentoring clinic will feature a group of experienced Korean American prosecutors in various fields and offices in Southern California. You can expect to learn about the day-to-day work of prosecutors, as well as the challenges and rewards of the profession.

This will be a great opportunity to learn more about various career paths as a prosecutor and engage in a lively discussion with KPA members. All law students are welcome!

Link to register: https://campusgroups.uci.edu/law/rsvp_boot?id=1938089

Korea Law 101: What You Need to Know About Korean Law Basic and Practical Knowledge for Foreign Lawyers and Entrepreneurs Working in Korea By Jinny Suh

Friday, March 21 (More Details to Follow)

Please join us for a special event as we welcome author, Jinny Suh, to UCI Law to discuss her new book, Korea Law 101, and her career.

Jinny Suh (Korean name: 서여진) is a dual-licensed attorney in Korea and New York with over 18 years of experience spanning private practice, entrepreneurship, and in-house counsel roles at a global consulting firm. She holds law degrees from UCLA and Seoul National University and has built her career advising clients at Kim & Chang, running her own legal practice, and guiding legal strategies within multinational corporations. As a generalist in an increasingly specialized legal environment, Jinny connects the dots across diverse legal domains, offering both a broad understanding of Korea's legal framework and actionable tools for foreign professionals.

