

Research Fellow Highlight: Semmie Lee



Semmie Lee is J.D student at UCI Law, class of 2026. Prior to law school, Semmie worked at the U.S. Department of Education and was a Peace Corps Volunteer in the education sector in the Philippines. During her 1L summer, Semmie was a judicial extern in the California Court of Appeals, Fourth District, Division Three. She received her Bachelor's degree at Emory University, majoring in international studies and Chinese language & literature.

During her free time, Semmie makes chunky knit handbags and blankets for fun.

Visiting Scholar Highlight: Hye Yeon Park



Hye Yeon Park is currently serving as a Constitutional Researcher (Rapporteur Judge) at the Constitutional Court of Korea. At UC Irvine, Hye Yeon's research involves the impact of AI technology development on the right to privacy protection.

Being a Visiting Scholar has allowed Hye Yeon to visit the west coast of the U.S. for the first time. During the recent holidays, she travelled all the way from Napa Valley to San Diego. She was impressed by how different each region of California in terms of natural environments, residential areas, and overall lifestyle. Although all of California has its unique charms, she enjoys the relaxed atmosphere brought by the warm climate in Southern California.

UCI Law Korea Law Center

January 2025



Earlier this month, members of the Korea Law Center community and UCI Law Global Programs enjoyed a private tour of the UC Irvine Langson Museum's current exhibition. The tour was led by Mr. James Irvine Swinden, who is a founding member of UCI law and currently serves on our board of visitors. Mr. Swinden shared fascinating insight into the works of the artist Charlotte Skinner as well sharing stories about the early days of the City of Irvine and our University.



UC Irvine held its annual Lunar New Year Celebration on January 21st at the Irvine Barclay Theatre to welcome in the year of the snake. Members of the Korea Law Center were invited by Carol and Eugene Choi to enjoy the event at the VIP Lounge. Carol and Eugene Choi are longtime friends and supporters of Korea Law Center and UCI Law. The celebration was vibrant with many traditional Asian dances such as the dragon dance and a performance by Hansori at UCI.



Together with Global Programs (LL.M.), we held a Global Language Cafe on January 24 to give international and domestic scholars, staff, and faculty the opportunity to engage in casual English language conversations. Participants enjoyed a lively conversation about their favorite places to travel and upcoming plans, while enjoying tea, coffee, and snacks. We look forward to having more members of our community stop by! Please join us for the next Global Language Cafe on February 21st at 1:00pm. Please email Grace Lee (glee@law.uci.edu) for more information.

UCI Law Korea Law Center

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On January 29, Korea Law Center hosted its first Visiting Scholar Workshop with Judge Miyon Kwon who presented her important research on disability rights in insurance law in Korea and the United States. Judge Kwon spoke about the current state of disability rights and possible solutions to the ongoing arbitration issues such as settlements. Afterward, there was a question and answer panel where other visiting scholars and members of the KLC community were able to share their own thoughts and ask Judge Kwon questions they had about her research and presentation.

Upcoming UCI Global Asias Conference 2025

From February 20 to February 21, the UCI Global Asias Research Cluster will host its 3rd annual Global Asias conference. The conference will feature over 40 panels and over 160 presenters to talk about a range of topics such as the environmental legacies of military conflicts and the queer forms of the Korean wave. The conference aims to explore Asia both domestically and internationally and cultivate a community of dialogue.

Registration for UCI staff, students, and faculty is free. Please visit the conference website for more information and to register: <https://sites.uci.edu/globalasias/ga25/>



Research Fellow Alumni Highlight: Sarah Choi



Sarah Choi graduated from UCI Law in 2018 and is currently an associate attorney at Cooley LLP. In 2015, Sarah became the inaugural KLC Research Fellow. During her time at KLC, she worked with Korean attorneys from various practices. Those experiences influenced her to pursue and partake in cross-border, Korean deals and transactions at her current firm.

One of her favorite memories of KLC was participating in the UCI Law delegations' visit to Seoul in 2017. There, they discussed cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural issues in South Korea. Now, since graduating and practicing law, she emphasized the importance of continuing to foster the relationships she's formed during law school. She also believes it is just as meaningful to, as an alumni, build new relationships with current students and be a recourse as they navigate their careers and life after law school.



Korean Lawyers in American Project Update: UCI Law CORCL 2025 Award

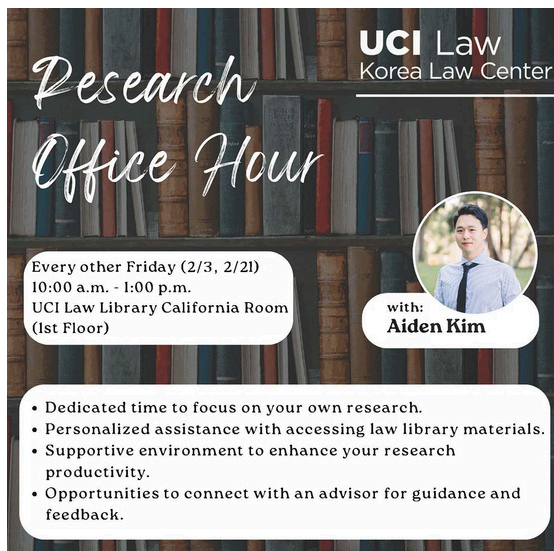
The Korean Lawyers in American Project (KLAP) has received an award from the Council on Research, Computing and Libraries (CORCL) fund to continue the research the team is doing on the career trajectories of lawyers of Korean descent who were educated and/or licensed in the United States. KLAP's mission includes gaining insight into the landscape of Korean lawyers across sectors, generations and gender identities and contributing to the success of the future generation of Korean legal professionals. Thanks to this generous award the KLAP team will continue to work towards these missions and more.



UCI Law Korea Law Center

January 2025

Upcoming Events



UCI Law
Korea Law Center

Research Office Hour

Every other Friday (2/3, 2/21)
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: February 21
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.

OC KABA and KLC Community Law Day

Saturday, February 15

10:00AM-1:00PM

Community Legal Aid SoCal

2101 North Tustin Ave. Santa Ana, CA. 92705

Orange County Korean American Bar Association and Korea Law Center will host a Pro Bono Legal Clinic for the Korean community. Please email Grace Lee (glee@law.uci.edu) if you are interested in volunteering for this event.



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