

Research Fellow Highlight: Rachel Lee



Rachel Lee is a J.D. student at UCI Law, Class of 2025. She developed a strong interest in tax law through her work as a 1L intern at the California Office of Tax Appeals and as a 2L intern with Deloitte's Multistate Tax Services. At UCI Law, she serves as president of the UCI Tax Law Society and as an associate editor of the UCI Law Review. She received her bachelor's degree in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention from the University of Southern California. In her free time, she loves cooking and spending time with her family and Yorkie-poo, Daisy.

Visiting Scholar Highlight: Sang Mi Lee



Sangmi Lee is a prosecutor for the Suwon District Prosecutor's Office. As a Visiting Scholar at UCI Law, her research focuses on measures against online sex-related offenses in the United States.

Sangmi, along with her children, enjoys the weather and sunshine in Irvine. She spends time with her family at the parks, beaches, and theme parks in Southern California.

Recently, she visited the Long Beach Superior Court which made a lasting impression on her, especially meeting one of the most respected judges serving on the court.

UC Irvine Korea Law Center

March 2025



On March 14th, seven members (Sylvia Choi, Barbara Kim, Justin Kim, Monica Kweon, Irene Lee, Josh Lee and Alex Yi) of the Korean Prosecutors Association (KPA) visited UCI Law to participate in a mentorship panel with current students while Korea Law Center Research Fellows Annie Hong and Yonghyung (Thomas) Chung moderated the discussion. The panelists discussed how their Korean identity has impacted their career, the challenges that come with working as a prosecutor, what they enjoy most about their work, and their outlook on the future of working as a prosecutor with new technologies emerging.



On March 21st, the Korea Law Center hosted attorney and author Jinny Suh to discuss her book, Korean Law 101: Basic and Practiced Knowledge for Foreign Lawyers and Entrepreneurs, and her career as an attorney in Korea and the United States. Jinny is a corporate attorney licensed in both Korea and New York. She serves as Associate General Counsel at McKinsey & Company. Her new book provides a broad yet practical overview of the Korean legal and governmental framework, tailored for foreign professionals navigating Korea's legal landscape.



UC Irvine

Korea Law Center

March 2025

Introducing New Korea Law Center Scholars Program



The University of California, Irvine School of Law and the Korea Law Center are very excited to announce the launch of the Korea Law Center Scholars Program. This new scholarship program is designed for exceptional students who are passionate about studying and exploring the intersection of legal issues facing Korea and the United States.

“From the outset, our students have been the most important stakeholders of the Korea Law Center. We are very excited to launch this program which will attract to our law school exceptional students whose talents and vision align with the mission of the Korea Law Center.

-Faculty Director and Professor Summer Kim”

Program Highlights and Benefits

- **Guaranteed Scholarship.** Program Admitted students who meet or exceed prior year LSAT/UGPA median will receive a minimum scholarship of \$90,000. (i.e., \$30,000 per year over three years)
- **Mentorship.** Each student designated as a UC Irvine Korea Law Center Scholar will be paired with: (1) an upper-division student mentor and (2) an attorney mentor.
- **1L Summer Position.** Korea Law Center Scholars will receive support to find a 1L summer position working with some of the nation's foremost leaders and trailblazers in the Korean and Korean American legal, business and civic communities.
- **Visit to South Korea.** Korea Law Center Scholars will be invited in their 1L summer to spend time in South Korea to visit the Korea Law Center's partners.
- **2L & 3L Research Fellow Position.** Members of the Korea Law Center Scholars Program, in their second and third years, will serve as Korea Law Center Research Fellows.
- **Networking and Other Benefits.**

Read more here: <https://news.law.uci.edu/2025/03/11/uc-irvine-law-korea-law-center-scholars-program/>

Research Fellow Alumni Highlight: Tim (Yejong) Yoo

Tim (Yejong) Yoo graduated from UCI Law in December 2018 and is currently an associate attorney at Steptoe LLP in the Los Angeles office, practicing general corporate and M&A. In 2017, Tim joined the Korea Law Center as a Research Fellow. During law school, he worked as a summer intern at Yoon & Yang LLC and White & Case LLP in Korea and served as a part-time judicial extern for the Honorable Theodor C. Albert of the United States Bankruptcy Court, Central District of California. After graduation, he worked at KL Partners, an M&A/international arbitration boutique firm in Korea, before returning to California in 2022.

During his time with KLC, Tim enjoyed working closely with visiting scholars from Korea (judges, law professors, prosecutors, etc.), assisting them with research and hosting talks on interesting subjects such as the sentencing guidelines and the presidential impeachment in Korea. Tim was able to maintain these relationships as he practiced in Korea, often having dinner together and sometimes reaching out to them for assistance with Korean legal issues. He believes that one invaluable advantage of KLC is the opportunity to personally connect with distinguished legal scholars and practitioners from Korea.



UC Irvine

Korea Law Center

March 2025



Korean Lawyers in America Project Update



Pictured from left to right: KLC Faculty Director Professor Summer Kim, UCI Law Alumni and Former Research Fellows Yujin Choi and Sophie Paeng, KLAP Legal Research Associates Serapia Kim, Annie Hong, Semmie Lee, and Allison Yoo, and KLC Program Director Grace Lee

This month, UCI Law and Korea Law Center (KLC) Alumni Yujin Choi and Sophie Paeng visited the KLAP team to share their insights on the legal profession and to provide helpful feedback on the KLAP research agenda.

Yujin Choi is a private funds lawyer in the San Francisco office of Ropes & Gray and Sophie Paeng is a commercial litigator in the Los Angeles office of Squire Patton Boggs. Yujin and Sophie made innumerable contributions to the Korea Law Center during their time as research fellows, including organizing a Transpacific Business Law Dialogue (Yujin) and launching the KLC Public Interest Law Forum (Sophie). They continue to generously give back to UCI Law and the KLC by serving as mentors to current students and as advisors of various KLC initiatives.

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.

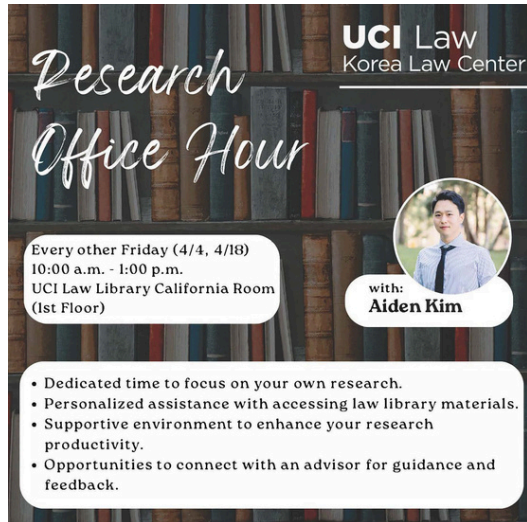


UC Irvine

Korea Law Center

March 2025

Upcoming Events at the Korea Law Center



UCI Law
Korea Law Center

Research Office Hour

Every other Friday (4/4, 4/18)
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.

Upcoming Events at UCI Law

Spring Intellectual Life Workshop: Ji Seon Song “Crisis Policing”

Wednesday, March 26

12:00PM

LAW 3500

401 E Peltason Dr, Irvine CA, 92697

Even as there is growing consensus that police should not respond to situations involving mental health and behavioral crises, police continue to do so, often with tragic results. This Article examines the continued and entrenched presence of police in crisis response by surfacing the institutional modalities of how crisis is constructed. Various institutional actors form localities' crisis response apparatus: police, paramedics, emergency departments, behavioral health teams, public health authorities, social service agencies, and community groups. This Article argues that without rethinking the structural relationship and coordination of these institutional actors, police will continue to occupy an outsized role in mental health and behavioral crisis response. The Article begins by describing our current state of converging crises and the existing mechanisms our society has to respond to those crises. It surfaces the legal and regulatory structure underlying these institutional actors' mandates to intervene in crisis situations. It then reveals how the diffuse definition of risk and paucity of mental health services create incentives for institutional actors to turn to policing and incarceration when crisis situations arise. This Article ends by providing prescriptions for developing governance mechanisms that decrease the reliance on police and increase the capacity of non-carceral responses.

Graduate Tax Program Information Session

Tuesday, April 1

12:00PM-1:00PM

Online Event

Discover how the Graduate Tax Program at UC Irvine School of Law can empower you to build a successful career in tax law. Please join Professor Omri Marian and Executive Director Natascha Fastabend as they discuss the Graduate Tax curriculum, on-campus interview programs, career planning and employment placement for graduates, among other things!

Link to register: https://campusgroups.uci.edu/law/rsvp_boot?id=1938100