

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

AS PRESIDENT OF the California Supreme Court Historical Society, and on behalf of its Board of Directors, I am honored to welcome the Society's first student chapter, from UC Hastings. I am thankful for these young women (Simona Bandong, Katherine Burgess, and Natalie Dreyer), who not only conceived of the idea for a student chapter of the Society, but also took the initiative to ask the Board to create one, where none previously had existed. The energy and commitment of these UC Hastings students inspires all of us to continue the good work of the Society: recovering, preserving, and promoting California's legal and judicial history, with a particular emphasis on the State's highest court. The creation of our first student chapter will help us to instill the importance of that history in the State's newest lawyers, enabling them to carry the message to future generations. We welcome the UC Hastings chapter of the California Supreme Court Historical Society with open arms, we look forward to working together with them, and we are excited to expand the student chapters to other law schools throughout the State. Congratulations, UC Hastings, on blazing the trail!

Student membership is now open to all currently enrolled law, undergraduate and graduate students. Members will be invited to upcoming Society events and also receive electronic copies of our fall and spring newsletters. Join online here: <https://my.cschs.org/membership>.

We welcome you to the Society.

— GEORGE ABELE

## STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY BEGINS AT UC HASTINGS

BY SIMONA BANDONG\*

THE UC HASTINGS chapter of the California Supreme Court Historical Society registered as a student association in August and is the Society's first student chapter.

The idea for the new chapter came from three Hastings law students: Natalie Dreyer, Katherine Burgess and myself, and the proposal to charter student chapters won approval from the Society's Board of Directors at its June meeting.

Our goal is to promote interest in California legal history among Hastings law students.

We first thought of forming the group after we met with Justice Kathryn Werdegar last March as part of a Court tour that six of my law school classmates and I won as a silent auction prize at the Hastings Public Interest Law Foundation Gala.



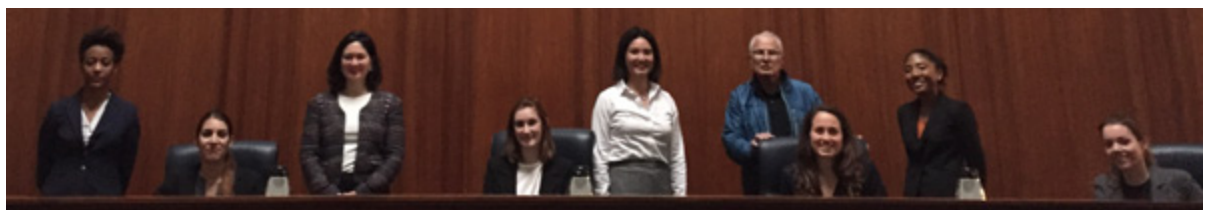
Jake Dear, the Court's chief supervising attorney, and Hastings professor and former Justice Joseph Grodin were our tour guides. Among the highlights for us: entering the courtroom through the robing room, viewing the courtroom from the justices' elevated seats, and looking down on the Civic Center plaza from the justices' chambers.

Student Elisa Vari particularly liked hearing about how the justices witnessed some of San Francisco's biggest celebrations from their offices, including those for the Giants' World Series victories in 2012 and 2014 and the California Supreme Court's 2008 decision legalizing gay marriage.

The Court building, "its architecture, and . . . the story of the lost mural and how the new one found its final place in the Supreme Court" was particularly fascinating to Natalie Dreyer. She also enjoyed Jake Dear's narration of the photographs of former justices that line the courthouse walls, including the rise and demise of court "commissioners" between 1880–1905 and his description of how the justices' facial hair evolved over the decades. I enjoyed hearing Justice Grodin explain some of the historical mementos exhibited in the building rotunda. I liked the historical jokes, for example the dirty sneaker in one of the glass cases that com-

*Law students, with tour guide UC Hastings Professor Joseph R. Grodin (4TH FROM RIGHT), view the courtroom from the Justices' elevated seats.*

\* Simona Bandong is a second year law student at UC Hastings.



memorates a dismissive statement Justice Mosk made about the John Birch Society in 1961.

When we visited her chambers, Justice Werdegar showed us past issues of California Supreme Court Historical Society newsletters and encouraged us to join the organization. We asked Jake Dear about forming a student chapter soon after the tour and he put the idea before the Society's board.

Justice Werdegar also showed us her mementos, including a plaque listing the justices who occupied her office before her. She announced her retirement the week following our visit. It did not occur to me at the time that she may have also been looking at the blank space below her name, wondering about her successor.

I wonder what it would be like to contemplate retirement while showing a group of law students the chambers of a Supreme Court justice — awestruck students who only know stories about what it was like to practice law in the 1960s when attitudes towards women attorneys were different and legal research was done using library books. I hope Justice Werdegar thinks she's leaving the profession in good hands.

The tour gave me a new appreciation of how much of California life is decided here. The justices loom large in their commanding robes and their big offices and their opinions become part of the state's historical record. I imagined the weight of writing those opinions, knowing every word will be scrutinized and preserved. By forming a student group, I hope we can spread the word that UC Hastings sits in the shadow of a treasure trove.

When law school resumed in August, we publicized the new student chapter at the UC Hastings Student Life Fair, displayed the Society's newsletter and journal, and advertised the Selma Moidel Smith Law Student Writing Competition in California Legal History. We also plan to invite speakers on California legal history for informal lunchtime seminars. ☆

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### DAN GRUNFELD TAKES LEADERSHIP ROLE AT PARDEE RAND GRADUATE SCHOOL

**F**ORMER SOCIETY PRESIDENT and current Board Member Daniel Grunfeld has joined RAND in a newly created position with the Pardee RAND Graduate School in Santa Monica. ☆

Pardee RAND, the largest public policy Ph.D. program in the nation, is in the midst of a comprehensive effort to redesign policy graduate education and policy analysis to make it more relevant and responsive to contemporary problems. In his new position as executive vice dean for strategy and partnerships, Grunfeld will help guide that effort, working particularly to develop the school's impact, partnerships and philanthropic support.



Dan Grunfeld  
RAND PHOTO/DIANE  
BALDWIN

"This is a challenging time for policy makers, policy research and policy education," he noted. "I'm excited and honored by the opportunity to be part of this important endeavor."

Grunfeld had served on Pardee's governing board for more than eight years before joining the school's leadership "so RAND is an organization that I know very well and have a deep appreciation and respect for," he said.

"Dan's deep commitment to public service and his belief in the need for RAND's work and in Pardee RAND's ability to educate our graduates to thrive in a rapidly changing world will greatly enhance our efforts," said Pardee Dean Susan L. Marquis.

Most recently, Grunfeld headed West Coast litigation for Morgan, Lewis & Bockus LLP. Earlier, he had served as deputy chief of staff for policy under former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. Before that, he was president and CEO of Public Counsel from 1998–2008.

Pardee was founded in 1970 as one of the original eight graduate programs in public policy analysis and is the only program specializing in Ph.D. studies. It is also the only program housed in a public policy research institute.

RAND is a non-partisan, non-profit think tank that developed many of the analytical methods and tools of public policy analysis. The research organization currently pursues solutions to public policy challenges in a number of areas, including healthcare, education, national security, climate change, criminal justice and aging. RAND is headquartered in Santa Monica with offices in Washington, Boston, Pittsburgh, New Orleans, Australia and Europe. ☆

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