

# UCLA Women & Philanthropy

Celebrating and inspiring women throughout the UCLA community as major donors, leaders and decision-makers

## UCLA Law: 75 Years As A Leader in Diversity

When reflecting on UCLA School of Law’s start in 1949, Dean William Warren reportedly said, “As a young law school, it was just easier for us to strike out on our own because we had no traditions to break.” Since 1949, UCLA Law has built standards and brought innovation to legal education.

UCLA Law has made its presence known as a leader in diversity of gender, race, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic background. The school’s first class included five women, a number that increased to 13 by 1969. Today, the JD class is 54% women. The UCLA School of Law is ranked 13 by *U.S. News & World Report*, and its more than 20,000 alumni work in all 50 states and 55 countries around the world.

UCLA Law made myriad strides in diversity between 1958 and 1969. During that time, its first female and African-American faculty members were hired. The International and Comparative Law Program launched, and the school’s curriculum expanded to include environmental law, Native American law, and communications law.

In 1966, UCLA Law’s commitment to minority representation was bolstered with the enactment of the Legal Educational Opportunity Program. In 2024, UCLA Law is still breaking ground with its Critical Race Studies (CRS) program.



UCLA School of Law students from the 1970s

Recently, CRS received the largest gift in its history: \$1M celebrating CRS co-founder Laura E. Gómez by establishing the Laura E. Gomez Teaching Fellowship on Latinx People and the Law. Research will be conducted through the fellowship on laws impacting Latinx people in the U.S., a course on Latinx People and the Law will be offered and mentorship for CRS students will be provided. The inaugural fellow is Yvette Borja, a former movement lawyer for the National Day Laborer Organizing Network with a focus on National TPS (Temporary Protected Status) Alliance’s campaigns for permanent residency.

Immigrant rights have also come into play in a personal way via Luis Perez. The Jalisco, Mexico, native became an advocate for immigration reform. Before entering UCLA undergraduate school, Perez attended UCLA Law’s Fellows Program. Established in 1997, the program is geared toward “increasing the pipeline of diverse students interested in law, and demystifying the law school experience” for students from disadvantaged backgrounds

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## Levy’s Law of Philanthropy



After graduating from Michigan State in 1972, Maggie Levy had her sights focused on

UCLA School of Law. The Louisville, Kentucky, native admits three winters in Michigan made LA’s weather a definite draw.

During a quarter working at the Center for Law in the Public Interest, Maggie caught “the public interest bug,” compelling her to take on pro bono work throughout her career. Then, after her ’75 UCLA Law graduation, Maggie had a fateful visit from UCLA School of Law Dean Susan Westerberg Prager. “She showed up at my law office,” Maggie recalls, “and, it flashed through my mind she was there to tell me I didn’t really graduate.”

Prager had a different agenda—fundraising for a new law library. The dean mentioned how many of Maggie’s classmates were dedicating \$25,000 to the new library. The outcome, says Maggie, “My first real philanthropy was because of Susan Prager.”

Maggie donates to UCLA School of Law, UCLA Mediation Clinic, UCLA Law Library, UCLA Law’s Williams Institute, and UCLA Women’s Basketball.

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## President's Message

Milestones. I mark one as I enter my first year as President of Women & Philanthropy. There are two momentous milestones highlighted in this newsletter: the 75th anniversaries of the UCLA School of Law and the UCLA School of Nursing.

Another milestone that I am particularly eager to celebrate is Women & Philanthropy's 30th Anniversary. In 1994, I was a UCLA Development Officer as Women & Philanthropy was being created. Early on, several female UCLA staff members advocated for Women & Philanthropy and showed their support by giving their time to its founding. It was exhilarating to be amongst those leading the charge.

I'm thrilled to be lauding our organization on October 24. During the luncheon, we'll also honor former Associate of the Chancellor and Women & Philanthropy Board Member Carol Block and the Carol K. Block Endowed Scholarship to The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music. There is information about supporting the endowed scholarship on this newsletter's back panel.

We commemorate the UCLA School of Law's aforementioned 75th anniversary. The program has been a leader over its history, particularly in terms of diversity. This is especially true when it comes to gender. In 1958, there were two women UCLA Law graduates. This year, 54% of the JD class is women.

A Women & Philanthropy member who earned her JD at UCLA, Maggie Levy, '75, a long time Board Member is also featured here. Maggie shares her philanthropy journey that began with a focus on the law school, but has expanded its scope through her involvement with Women & Philanthropy.

As UCLA School of Nursing also ushers in its 75th year, we look at its pioneering start, which led to huge advances in the profession, including a new collaborative program aimed at its mental healthcare curriculum.

Before I close, I'd like to thank Coretta Harris for her service as Women & Philanthropy President. She has truly been an inspiration. I'm honored to step into the role and can't begin to express just how excited I am to be leading our group. I look forward to toasting Women & Philanthropy in October!

— Judith Angel, President, Women & Philanthropy

## UCLA Law: 75 Years ...

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interested in a legal career. In 2010, Perez became UCLA Law's first undocumented immigrant to earn a degree. Perez obtained his residency several weeks later with the support of the UCLA Law community. Today, he serves as the legal services director at the Coalition for Human Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA).

Stories of students like Perez have led to UCLA Law's establishment of the Achievement Fellows program, a full tuition scholarship program for academically talented, high-achieving applicants who have also overcome significant obstacles in life.

Starting with its first graduating class of 44 members, the passion and power behind UCLA School of Law's aspirations have led it to become the highly esteemed institution it is today.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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## Levy's Law ...

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In 2018, she established the Margaret Levy Public Interest Fellowship, bringing nationally known UCLA public interest leaders to speak at UCLA Law and host office hours.

When approached about becoming a founding member of UCLA Law Women's LEAD (Leadership, Empowerment, Advancement, Distinction) program, Maggie immediately said yes. "It's important for women to have mentors and role models, and those who have families to see how they can balance careers and families."

As Maggie's passion for giving grew, she agreed to join Women & Philanthropy and the Board in 1994. Now a Women & Philanthropy Lifetime Member, Maggie has served as VP of Membership and chaired the Diversity & Inclusion Task Force.

"From climate change and archeological expeditions to medical research and 3D printing, Women & Philanthropy has exposed me to whole new areas of campus and giving."

## The UCLA School of Nursing: 75 Years of Innovation, Leadership and Excellence

There's another 75th anniversary to recognize—75 years since the UCLA School of Nursing launched. It's been pioneering change ever since. In 1929, UCLA offered certificates in public health nursing through extension courses. By 1932, a group of nurses raised their voices about the need for a Department of Nursing within the College of Letters and Science. Their dream was realized in 1944.

A force to be reckoned with was brought to UCLA in 1948: Lulu Wolf Hassenplug. A true disruptor, Lulu pushed UCLA's first nursing program forward in 1949, serving as the first Dean of the UCLA School of Nursing for 20 years. Her goal: to make changes in nursing and nurse education. Hassenplug led the movement to shift nurse education from hospitals to college campuses, helping create the research-based, academically oriented discipline we know today. Most famously, she was also a key figure in the removal of the traditional nursing cap so that students would look like their campus peers.

An endowment to the School of Nursing came in 1980 from Audrienne H. Moseley, a former nurse at Good Samaritan Hospital, who could not have foreseen the impact her bequest of \$5.3M would have. The endowment's market value has ballooned to \$43.7M today, making it possible to not only support student scholarships but to improve student education by creating four chairs to recruit and retain faculty.

**“Supporting the UCLA School of Nursing means supporting the future of healthcare in Los Angeles and the world. I am incredibly proud of all our school has accomplished and know that together, we can improve the health of all people through nursing.”** — UCLA School of Nursing Dean Lin Zhan



Throughout the years, theory-based models conceptualizing nursing care have been developed, tested and utilized at UCLA to meet the most pressing needs in health and wellness. Most recently, UCLA School of Nursing has increased attention on the mental health care crisis facing California. A nearly \$1M grant received from California Department of Health Care Access and Information will allow UCLA to recruit and train more post-graduate nursing students to meet state mental health care needs.

Women & Philanthropy's Linda Gorman has also provided funding to support Psychiatric Mental Health as the School of Nursing works to re-establish that specialty for graduate students. The funds have already supported Associate Professor Kristen Choi, PhD, PMHNP-BC, FAAN on her path to gain licensure in Psychiatric Mental Health for teaching and precepting students in that specialty.

Since its inception, the UCLA School of Nursing has remained a hub of innovation, excellence, and leadership through the power of gifts and grants—preparing students to work from the bedside to the boardroom and empowering faculty to educate, research, and practice at the highest level to serve communities that need it most.

### Did You Know ...

#### The UCLA School of Nursing is ...

- Ranked No. 14 for its Masters program and No. 16 for its Bachelor of Science program, from the 2024 *U.S. News & World Report*
- Where 16% of the 559 students enrolled are male in 2023/2024. In 1950, 98% of nursing students were women.
- The first nursing school to establish a no-nursing cap policy to ensure that nursing students were recognized for their skills rather than their apparel, thanks to the school's first dean, Lulu Wolf Hassenplug
- Staffed by 97 faculty members, 16 Academy Fellows and six endowed chairs
- Where a Safe Zone exists for students, staff, and faculty to get support without bias, assumption or judgement
- Leading a five-year test of an interactive storytelling app designed to connect Latina women to mental health care in a discreet manner
- Studying therapeutic interventions that could protect and restore Type 2 diabetes patients' brains, and minimize and prevent cognitive and mood dysfunction

**Development/Women & Philanthropy**

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Women & Philanthropy at UCLA is celebrating our 30th in 2024. For this momentous occasion, we are honoring Board Member Carol Block, the former Associate of the Chancellor.

To acknowledge her substantial contributions, we have established the Carol K. Block Endowed Scholarship at The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, a scholarship awarded annually to a music major from California who's entering their junior or senior year.

Please consider supporting this special tribute that will leave a lasting legacy in Carol Block's name.

**THERE ARE MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO  
MAKE A DONATION TO SUPPORT THE**  
*Carol K. Block Endowed  
Scholarship*  
**at The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music**



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