

KATHARINE  
& GEORGE  
ALEXANDER  
COMMUNITY  
LAW CENTER

*Celebrating a Legacy  
Shaping our Future*



SANTA  
CLARA  
LAW

ANNUAL CELEBRATION

OCTOBER 22, 2016



## A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to welcome you to the Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center’s Annual Celebration. This year’s Celebration is quite special as we will honor Professor and Executive Director Emerita Cynthia A. Mertens with the Lifetime Achievement Award. This recognition is a testament to her commitment and dedication to educating law students and to serving the low-income community through the Law Center. Professor Mertens operates in excellence and truly inspires.

Thanks to Professor Mertens’ exemplary leadership, a strong clinical faculty and staff, and a twenty-year history of educating law students and providing high-quality free legal services, the Alexander Community Law Center is well-positioned to take its work even further by 1) enhancing learning opportunities for law students; 2) increasing the depth and breadth of services offered to clients; 3) leveraging collaboration to affect social, institutional and legislative change aligned with its mission; and 4) sustaining and increasing financial support. Together with our Advisory Board and others, we have the experience, heart and vision to take the Law Center to the next level.

We are indebted to the volunteer attorneys and community partners who help staff workshops, advice clinics, take pro bono cases, and work with us in other ways. We also simply could not continue without the financial support of law firms, attorneys and individuals, as well as entities and grant providers such as the State Bar and Santa Clara County. We must thank the clinical law students as well – you make us better teachers, lawyers, and learners. Our law students and alumni return and give back, like many of you here today. You are integral to our success. Thank you for your continued support.

Tonight’s success is largely due to the stellar Celebration Committee – led by Advisory Board Member Estela López J.D. ’97 – and many members of the Law Center’s Advisory Board and staff. We are especially grateful for the generous support of Michael E. Engh, S.J., University President, and Lisa A. Kloppenberg, Dean of Santa Clara Law.

Let’s celebrate Professor Cynthia Mertens, over 20 years of educating law students and serving clients, and our promising future advancing justice. Have a wonderful evening!

Deborah Moss-West J.D. ’94

## EVENT PROGRAM

### WELCOMING REMARKS & BLESSING

**Michael E. Engh, S.J.**

President, Santa Clara University

### CELEBRATORY REMARKS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**Deborah Moss-West J.D. ’94**

Executive Director, Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center

### OVER 20 YEARS OF EDUCATING STUDENTS AND SERVING CLIENTS - A BRIEF PERSPECTIVE

**Delma Locke J.D. ’95 and Carlos Miño J.D. ’06**

Current Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center Advisory Board Members

*Introducing a video honoring Executive Director Emerita Cynthia A. Mertens*

### THE KATHARINE & GEORGE ALEXANDER COMMUNITY LAW CENTER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

*Award presented by Dean Lisa A. Kloppenberg*

*Acceptance remarks by Cynthia A. Mertens*

### UNVEILING OF NAMING OPPORTUNITY

**Donald J. Polden**

Dean Emeritus and Professor of Law

### CLOSING REMARKS

**Sergio López**

Director of External Relations, Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center

*Music, Mix & Mingle*

THE MORRISON & FOERSTER  
FOUNDATION CONGRATULATES  
**THE KATHARINE &  
GEORGE ALEXANDER  
COMMUNITY LAW CENTER**

AND

**CYNTHIA A. MERTENS**  
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD RECIPIENT

The Morrison & Foerster Foundation is dedicated to giving back to the communities in which the people of Morrison & Foerster live and work. Established in 1986 as a separate nonprofit organization, the Foundation has been serving others through community-focused financial support for 30 years.

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FOERSTER**  
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**30**  
YEARS



## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Introduced by  
Lisa A. Kloppenberg  
Dean, Santa Clara Law

**Cynthia A. Mertens**  
**Executive Director Emerita**  
**Alexander Community Law Center**

If academic excellence and community service are the trademarks of Santa Clara University, then Cynthia A. Mertens is an exceptional representation of these values. And perhaps nowhere is this expression more present than at the Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center, where she served two terms as Executive Director, the latter of which ended in May of this year. Here, her passion for the law and her uncompromising interest in the wellbeing of our underserved have benefitted countless clients, influenced scores of students and inspired a very loyal staff. Indeed, it's difficult to highlight the growth and accomplishments of the Law Center without mentioning her name.

A Bay Area native, Cynthia graduated from Stanford University before attending U.C. Hastings Law School in the 1970s. There she overcame the prevailing gender gap to excel, and after graduation accepted a position with California Rural Legal Assistance in Santa Maria, where she made her first court appearance the day after she was admitted to the Bar. She left CRLA to join the Santa Clara University law faculty in 1975, from which she retired earlier this year. Yet, as they always have, she and her husband Jim Rowan continue to welcome students, colleagues and former-students-turned friends to their home – a legendary law school headquarters where lifetime relationships are forged.

Cynthia served Santa Clara Law generously and effectively during her tenure. She was Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; directed the Summer Abroad Program in Hong Kong, Geneva/Strasburg and Costa Rica; led numerous immersion trips to El Salvador; and served as director of the Alexander Community Law Center from 2001 to 2005, and from 2014-2016. Thanks to her effective leadership and collaboration with the University administration, she is largely credited with moving the Law Center to its current location in 2002, thereby enhancing its learning environment and client experience. In 2004, she found a receptive ear in Dean Emeritus George Alexander who, with his wife Katharine, made a generous contribution to the Law Center, after which the Law Center was renamed in their honor. Having secured a long-lasting legacy through these and many other contributions, Cynthia remains the compass that helped chart the Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center's trajectory as a premiere service-oriented clinical law school program in the Silicon Valley.



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## Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center

The Foundation was created by the members of  
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati  
as a commitment to the community we serve.

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Salutes

**Santa Clara University School of Law  
Katharine & George Alexander Community Law  
Center's 22nd Anniversary Celebration**

and congratulates honoree

**Cynthia A. Mertens**

Oakland, CA | (510) 302-1000 or (877) 995-6372 toll free | www.kazanlaw.com

### The Alexander Community Law Center Through the Years

- 1993** Ruben Pizarro, former law professor Jim Hammer and Santa Clara La Raza law students venture out to East San Jose to provide legal orientation to day workers.
- 1994** Law professors Eric and Nancy Wright provide legal supervisory assistance and secure \$200,000 in grants from the U.S. Department of Education and the Legal Services Corporation.
- 2001** The East San Jose Community Law Center is established at 1765 Alum Rock, in the heart of East San Jose. It offers free legal advice in Workers' Rights and Immigration. Eric Wright becomes the first Executive Director. He transfers leadership to Peggy Stevenson.
- 2002** Law professor Cynthia Mertens becomes Executive Director. The Law Center offers free legal advice in Immigration, Consumer Law, Workers' Compensation and Small Business and employs a seven-person staff, including a multilingual interpreter.
- 2004** The East San Jose Community Law Center moves to 1030 The Alameda. Former Law School dean George Alexander and his wife, Katharine, make a generous donation to the Law Center's endowment. The Law Center is renamed in their honor.
- 2005** Angelo Ancheta becomes the new Executive Director and serves until 2014.
- 2014** Cynthia Mertens returns to the Law Center as Interim Executive Director.
- 2016** Deborah Moss-West J.D. '94 becomes Executive Director; Cynthia Mertens retires. The Law Center offers services in Immigration, Workers' Rights and Consumer Rights, and employs 11 staff dedicated to educating law students and serving the community.

# Making a difference everyday...

## Our Mission

Our mission is to educate law students in accordance with the highest professional and ethical standards by serving individuals and communities in need with competence, conscience and compassion through pro bono legal representation and education.

## Our Services

### Legal Advice and Representation

The Law Center leverages the evolving skills of law students, who work under the close supervision of experienced attorneys to provide free legal services. Clients are served through appointments scheduled during “clinic” days. This model achieves two goals:

- It allows law students to receive excellent training in the handling of cases involving real clients, which in turn allows them to become competent and compassionate attorneys.
- It provides very low-income clients with high-quality legal representation that they would not be able to afford otherwise.

Depending on the available resources, the Law Center may decide to offer full legal representation to a limited number of clients seen during its legal clinics or referred by partner agencies.

### Education Through Community Workshops

In addition to its legal clinics, the Law Center offers a number of workshops in the areas of:

- Consumer Rights
- Tenant Rights
- Workers' Rights

These workshops are given throughout the community in day-worker centers, ESL classes, community centers, homeless shelters and other venues as a way to disseminate basic legal information to the under-represented members of our community.



“The environment at the clinic mirrored a law office. I had clients and colleagues. In addition to being exciting, it was very realistic. It made me feel like an attorney already.”

**Krysha Chatman '16**

The Alexander Community Law Center's  
Advisory Board  
congratulates

*Executive Director Emerita  
Cynthia A. Mertens*

on receiving the  
Lifetime Achievement Award

### Board Members

Marlene Bennett | Sara Folchi | Robert E. Greeley | Steven J. Kahn | Sylvia Kennedy  
Delma Locke | Estela López | Carlos Miño | Angela Nelson | Robert Nuddleman  
Ruth Silver Taube | Patricia Timm | Niels van Naarden | Bart Volkmer

## Alexander Community Law Center Staff

- Margarita Alvarez, Workers' Rights Supervising Professor
- Dianne Blakely-Depositari, Administrative Director
- Reuben Castillo, Consumer Law Paralegal
- Marisol E. Durani, Legal Assistant
- Mirna Henriquez, Receptionist
- Sergio López, Director of External Relations
- Scott Maurer, Consumer Law Supervising Professor
- Deborah Moss-West, Executive Director
- Lynette Parker, Immigration Law Supervising Professor
- Margarita Sandoval, Immigration Legal Assistant
- Ruth Silver Taube, Supervising Attorney, Workers' Rights Advice Clinic

### Consumer Law

- Fraud and unfair business practices in the sale and financing of used cars
- Identity theft and inaccurate credit reports
- Car repossession or towing issues
- Debt collection harassment and other miscellaneous consumer issues

### Employment Law

- Wrongful termination, unpaid wages
- Harassment and discrimination in the workplace
- Investigation of retaliation cases for the Department of Labor Standards Enforcement of the State of California
- Family and Medical Leave Act and California Paid Family Leave Act issues
- Representation at the Labor Commission and the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board
- Mediation at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- Assistance with Superior Court Appeals from Labor Commission Decisions

### Immigration Law

Representation of adults and minors (including unaccompanied minors), in affirmative applications and in deportation defense related to:

- T visas for victims of human trafficking, U visas for victims of crimes
- Self-petitions based on VAWA (the Violence Against Women Act)
- DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)
- Petitions for political asylum

### Our Collaborative Work

#### Memberships

- Bay Area Equal Pay Collaborative
- South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking
- Santa Clara County Human Trafficking Commission
- Santa Clara County Wage Theft Coalition

#### Partnerships through the Workers' Rights clinics

- The Mexican Consulate in San José
- The Filipino Bar Association of Northern California (FBANC)
- The Vietnamese American Bar Association of Northern California (VABANC)
- The Santa Clara County Office of Women's Policy
- The Silicon Valley Independent Living Center (SVILC)
- Yerba Buena High School and Mount Pleasant High School

*“The assistance and the respectful service that the Law Center students and staff have offered inspire me to do things for others and for myself. The way you have treated me has taught me that there are no limits, that I can do anything I set my mind to.”*

**The Law Center helped Mr. G obtain legal residence based on humanitarian reasons.**



## SPONSORING INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Without your support, our work would not be possible. Thank you!

### BENEFACTORS



Michael E. Engh, S.J.  
President, Santa Clara University

### ADVOCATES & PATRONS



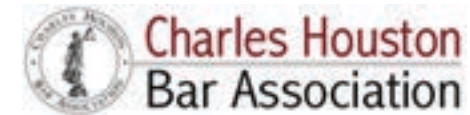
### ADVOCATES & PATRONS

Michael Alcorta  
Laborers' International Union of North America,  
Local Union 270  
Cynthia A. Mertens & Jim Rowan  
Deborah Moss-West

Kristi Nevarez  
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Andrew & Jennifer Shaffer  
Ruth Silver Taube  
Bart Volkmer & Lan Nguyen

### FRIENDS & SPONSORS

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Robert Nuddelman & Lidia Carlsgaard  
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### A very special thanks...

**Our deepest gratitude to the following individuals and organizations...**

Vicky Arafa & Justin Depositar, Celebration Video Producers  
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David McCoy, Director of Audio Visual Services, Five-Star Audio Visual  
Trang Morris, Catering & Conference Services Manager, Hotel Valencia

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## ONSITE & ONLINE AUCTIONS

### FEATURED ITEMS



"Glyph" - World's First Personal Theatre!  
You may win two separate Glyphs.



Behind the Scenes Tour of NBC News for Six with Janelle Wang.  
Donated by her.



Two Tickets to a Golden State Warriors Game.  
Donated by Estela López-Gilliam



Dinner or Lunch with Dean Lisa Kloppenberg, Santa Clara Law.



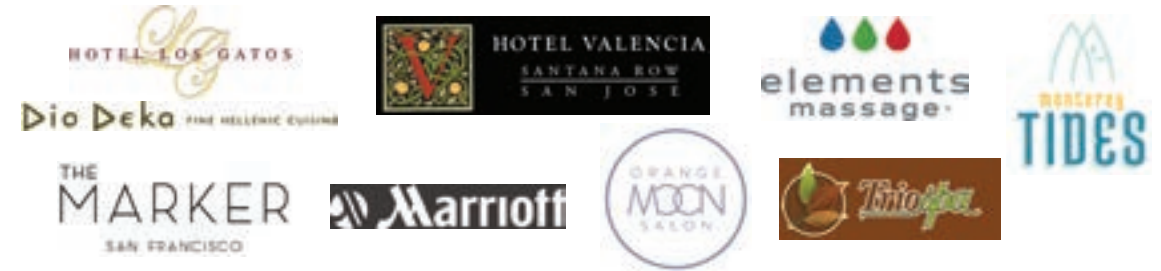
Romantic Getaway in Santa Cruz!  
Enjoy 2-nights and dinner.  
Donated by Montalvo Homes & Estates.

- Arabian Shakespeare Festival
- Ramon Ayala Prado, Wood Crafts
- Beach Blanket Babylon
- California Academy of Science
- Chardonnay Sailing Charters
- Consuelo's Mexican Bistro, Santana Row
- Crema Coffee Roasting Company
- Crow's Nest/Shadowbrook Restaurant
- Fogo de Chão Brazilian Steakhouse, Santana Row
- Gilroy Gardens Family Theme Park
- Hotel Valencia, Santana Row
- Massage Envy, Union City
- Monterey Bay Aquarium
- Mount Hermon Adventures
- Ridge Vineyards

- Oakland Raiders
- Oakland Zoo
- Orangetheory Fitness, The Alameda
- Olympic Village Inn at Squaw Valley
- Peet's Coffee & Tea
- Ruby Roxanne Designs, High-end Cuffs
- San Francisco 49ers (mini-helmet signed by Colin Kaepernick)
- San Francisco Go-Car GPS-Guided Tours
- San Francisco Ballet
- Santa Clara Law
- Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk
- Starbucks
- Target
- Bart Volkmer
- Yard House, Santana Row

## RELAXATION PACKAGES

We are grateful to these Opportunity Drawing partners:



This year, to recognize the continued support of the campus community, the Opportunity Drawing is open only to SCU faculty and staff.

## OTHER IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS

Event wine generously provided by:



Printing services by:



Thanks to the members of the Advisory Board who made the wine baskets possible.

## THE CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

- Marlene Bennett, Esq.\*
- Dianne Blakely-Depositari +
- Reuben Castillo+
- Sylvia Kennedy, Esq.\*
- Delma Locke, Esq.\*
- Estela López, Esq., Committee Chair \*
- Sergio López+
- Deborah Moss-West, Law Center Executive Director +
- Ruth Silver Taube, Esq.\*+
- Patricia Timm, Esq.\*

\*Advisory Board Member

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THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE MISSION OF THE LAW CENTER.

The Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center educates law students in accordance with the highest professional and ethical standards by serving individuals and communities in need with competence, conscience and compassion through pro bono legal representation and education.



Learn more at [law.scu.edu/kgaclc](http://law.scu.edu/kgaclc)