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From: **Law Dean** <lawdean@sandiego.edu>

Date: Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 3:52 PM

Subject: DEI Task Force

To: Law Dean <lawdean@sandiego.edu>

Dear Students,

Now that the fall semester is well underway, I am writing with some updates about the continuation of vital work for our law school. One of my most pressing priorities as Dean is to promote and effect concrete change at the law school that will enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) for our entire community. For this reason, I am excited to inform you of the activities of our DEI Task Force.

The Task Force commenced its efforts in September and is working toward widespread consultation of the law school community, gathering and analyzing data, researching best practices, and formulating recommendations on policies, practices, and programming. As part of its [charge](#), the Task Force also will examine how to align with the broader University's DEI commitments, including the [Horizon Project](#).

The Task Force includes students, faculty, administrators, and alumni:

Membership for the 2021-2022 Academic Year

Co-Chairs

- Emily Nagisa Keehn, Assistant Dean for Law Student Affairs
- Laurence Claus, Professor of Law (Co-Chair from Spring 2022)

Faculty Members

- Roy Brooks, Warren Distinguished Professor of Law
- Joe Villasenor, Professor of Practice
- Mary Jo Wiggins, Professor of Law and Herzog Endowed Scholar

Administrators

- Michael Chavez, Interim Director for Admissions and Diversity Initiatives
- Judith Lihosit, Assistant Dean and Director of the Legal Research Center, Professor of Legal Research

- Assistant Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (TBD)

Law Students

- Adrielli Ferrer (3L, Black Law Students Association President)
- Meena Kaypour (3L, Student Bar Association President)

Alumni

- Judge Olga Alvarez '02, San Diego Superior Court, South County Division
- Efaon Cobb '08, Hewgill Cobb & Lockard APC

Student Advisory Group

The Task Force also will set up a Student Advisory Group, to be composed of leaders from a number of student organizations within the law school.

The Task Force plans to provide an update to my office at the end of this semester and finalize its recommendations by the end of the spring semester. I know that the Task Force members look forward to engaging with all of you. I encourage you to respond to their outreach when it comes. Advancing DEI and ensuring our law school is welcoming and supportive for all of its members is our shared responsibility and will require our collective efforts.

If you have any questions or input, please write to lawdean@sandiego.edu.

Best regards,
Robert

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