

# PACIFIC COAST BUSINESS TIMES

## Law review: Managing partner of Santa Barbara firm donates to alma mater

BY MIKE HARRIS FRIDAY, JANUARY 26TH, 2024

Through his foundation, Barry Cappello, managing partner of Santa Barbara's Cappello & Noël LLP, has donated more than \$3 million to his alma mater, UCLA School of Law.

The funds have been earmarked to modernize the school's courtroom where students can learn and practice their trial skills, and to build its trial advocacy program, both of which are named after Cappello.

The funds also provide law school scholarships for students wanting to specialize in litigation.

Most recently, the Cappello Foundation added another \$100,000 to the A. Barry Cappello Endowment Scholarship Fund for students enrolled in the trial advocacy program.

"When I was in law school in the 1960s, there weren't scholarships based on financial need," Cappello said in a press release.

"Law school is financially out of reach for a generation of students who would make excellent trial lawyers," he said.

Also in the 1960s, he said, law schools didn't teach students how to try cases. They had to learn once they became attorneys.

In letters he receives from scholarship recipients, many say they would not be able to attend, much less specialize in trial advocacy, without the funds, Cappello said.

"It's gratifying to know that these scholarships are making a difference," he said.

Since the Cappello Trial Advocacy Program was established, and under the guidance of its director, Justin Bernstein, the UCLA Trial Team has won 24 national mock trial titles including the 2023 title.

Cappello is a top trial attorney, securing billions of dollars in awards and settlements in his decades-long career, the release said.

A member of the UCLA Law Board of Advisors, Cappello intends to continue the foundation's philanthropy to ensure his alma mater remains one of the most prominent law schools in the nation.