

Morris Ratner

Academic Dean and Professor of Law at UC Hastings College of the Law

San Francisco, CA, US

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Biography

Academic Dean Morris Ratner (BA, Stanford University 1988; JD, Harvard Law School 1991) manages and supports the faculty and all academic programs, including clinics, centers, academic support, career development, and the legal writing program. In addition, he manages and supports associate and assistant deans responsible for degree programs or departments (e.g., Global Programs, the LLM, MSL, and HPL degrees, and the Library), oversees the Associate Academic Dean, and manages the classroom budget.

Consistent with the College's mission and strategic plan and the vision of its Chancellor & Dean, Dean Ratner's priorities include:

- Creating a cohesive student experience from admission through graduation that prepares students for professional success;
- Adapting the curriculum to anticipate technological and other changes in the practice of law;
- Collaborating with faculty and staff to develop innovative teaching methods, courses, and co-curricular programming;
- Supporting faculty research and faculty and staff professional development;
- Integrating faculty, students, alumni, and the wider community in which UC Hastings is situated;
- Promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion; and
- Fostering a culture of continuous and evidence-based self-reflection and improvement.

Dean Ratner joined the UC Hastings Faculty in 2012 after teaching at Harvard Law School as a visiting lecturer and then as a visiting assistant professor from 2009 to 2011. He teaches civil procedure, legal ethics, and the business of law practice, and produces scholarship at the intersection of those fields.

While at UC Hastings, Dean Ratner has received multiple awards for his teaching and scholarship, including Student Choice Award for Professor of the Year (twice) and the Rutter Award for Teaching Excellence, as well as the Fred C. Zacharias Memorial Prize for Scholarship in Professional Responsibility awarded by the AALS Section on Professional Responsibility.

Dean Ratner was a litigator at the San Francisco-based plaintiffs' firm Lieff, Cabraser, Heimann & Bernstein, LLP, where he was a partner for ten years and where he prosecuted product liability, environmental, mass personal injury, consumer, and human rights actions. Among other high-profile matters, he prosecuted and settled Holocaust-era slave labor, looted asset, dormant bank account and unpaid insurance claims against European companies, producing global settlements in those cases worth more than \$7.5 billion.

Areas of Expertise

Higher Education Administration, Civil Procedure, Legal Ethics, Law Practice Management, Complex Litigation, Assessment Educational Leadership

Affiliations

California Bar Association : Member (Since 1992), District of Columbia Bar Association : Member (Since 1999), New York Bar Association : Member (Since 2000), American Association of Law Schools - Litigation Section - Chair 2016

Sample Talks

UC Hastings Social Justice Speaker Series- April 2014

Presentation re Holocaust-era litigation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vXSHYI4BXY>

Event Appearances

Upcoming - Branstetter Litigation & Dispute Resolution Program's New Voices Workshop 2017

Presenting Selected Paper: "Class Conflicts"

MDL Problems

AALS Annual Meeting Litigation Section Program (Moderator)

Towards Tomorrow's Legal Education - Implementing Change with a New Perspective and Vocabulary

International Association of Law Schools

Fordham Law Review Ethics Colloquium

Civil Litigation Ethics at a Time of Vanishing Trials

Aggregate Litigation Ethics - Panel

International Legal Ethics Conference VII

The Quality of Legal Representation in U.S. Class Actions: The Problem of Conflicts

International Conference on the Resolution of Mass Disputes: Collective Redress, Class Actions and ADR

Ethical Integrity Challenges Facing the Judiciary

Professional Ethical Integrity: Cornerstone for Rule of Law Reform Around the Globe, UC Hastings College of the Law Conference

Compensating Victims of Man-Made Disasters – The American Experience

The Legal Impact of the Fukushima Disaster, UC Hastings College of the Law Conference

A Monument Man in the Courtroom: Litigating the Holocaust

Inaugural Lecture, UC Santa Cruz/UC Hastings College of the Law Social Justice Speaker Series

Battling Goliath: The Impact of Plaintiff-Side Litigation Against Corporate Defendants

Shaking the Foundations: The West Coast Progressive Lawyering Conference

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Ethical Issues in Class-Action Settlements
ABA Annual Meeting

Lessons from Chevron: Legal Ethics and Transnational Litigation
Lessons from Chevron: Stanford Journal of Complex Litigation Symposium

Education

Harvard Law School
J.D. Law

Stanford University
B.A. Economics

Accomplishments

Selected Presenter, Vanderbilt Law School's Branstetter Litigation & Dispute Resolution Program 2017 New Voices Workshop

The Branstetter Program supports research and curriculum in civil litigation and dispute resolution. Held annually, the Branstetter New Voices Workshop brings together junior scholars, senior scholars, and Vanderbilt faculty in the areas of civil justice. Each year, junior scholars are selected via a blind review process to present at the New Voices Workshop.

Student Choice Award: Professor of the Year 2017

Conferred by the Associated Students of UC Hastings College of the Law

"Outstanding Contribution to UC Hastings" Award 2017

Conferred by UC Hastings College of the Law

Co-winner of the sixth annual Fred C. Zacharias Memorial Prize for Scholarship in Professional Responsibility 2015

Awarded by the AALS Section on Professional Responsibility for Class Counsel as Litigation Funders, 28 Geo. J. Legal Ethics 271 (2015)

Rutter Award for Teaching Excellence 2015-2016

The William and Sally Rutter Award for Teaching Excellence - Outstanding Professor of the Year 2015-2016

Student Choice Award: Professor of the Year 2015

Conferred by the Associated Students of UC Hastings

Visionary Service Award

Conferred by the UC Hastings College of the Law Board of Trustees.

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