



SVUDL
SILICON VALLEY
URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE

2021-2022

**IMPACT
REPORT**

TO OUR SVUDL COMMUNITY

As we reflect on the past academic year and look forward to the next, we are so proud of the adaptability of our students – and the staff, Teacher Coaches and volunteers that support them – in a continually shifting post-pandemic reality.

The Silicon Valley Urban Debate League continues in its mission to empower young people from low-income communities – most of whom are people of color – with the research, critical thinking, and public speaking skills they need to be effective advocates for themselves and their communities. And despite the pandemic, we are providing Speech and Debate programming to more students and in more classrooms than ever before.

As was the case last year, the pandemic required that we adapt our core afterschool, competitive Speech and Debate programs. The COVID-driven shift of tournaments nationwide to online platforms represented a different experience for our students, but it also created new opportunities for them to compete and succeed at national tournaments unavailable to them in the past. By participating in the competitive “sport” of Speech and Debate, these young people not only develop skills, they are also learning about teamwork and gaining the confidence they need to succeed and to overcome the great social and economic challenges they face in their lives.

This school year, during and in between COVID-19 surges, we identified new ways to work with students during the school day. Whether it was through our existing A-G approved curriculum or helping teachers “debatify” their existing lesson plans through our Debate Centered Instruction work, we are empowering our school partners to help students develop the very skills that will propel them to achieve their higher education and professional dreams. In years to come, we are

confident you will find SVUDL alums leading the way in professional settings from the boardroom to the classroom, and from the courthouse to the state house!

Through SVUDL programs, our students also learn the power of civil discourse. Only by actively listening to opposing views and responding using fact-based arguments and persuasion can we repair our polarized and dysfunctional civic society. It is not an overstatement to say, as did Robert Litan of the Brookings Institution in his 2020 book, “Resolved,” that Speech and Debate can revolutionize education and help save our democracy.

In the pages that follow you will find profiles of just a few of our exceptional students who exemplify the deep impact of our programming, as well as the power of a caring and empathetic community. These students, and the hundreds of others we have the privilege of working with, prove time and time again – to themselves and others – that they deserve a seat at the proverbial table and will shine and enlighten everyone when they are there.

Thank you for standing with us. With your support, we will continue to give our students the opportunity to advocate, argue, think critically, and, most importantly, dream and actualize their promising futures.



Andrew Gold
Board Chair



Rolland Janairo
Executive Director

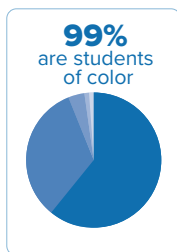
MISSION

To empower Silicon Valley students, regardless of their race or socioeconomic status, to reach their full potential to become professional and community leaders by teaching critical thinking and communication skills through Speech and Debate programming.

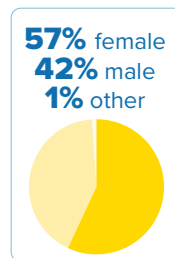
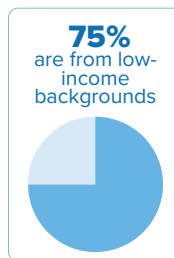


 **SVUDL** SILICON VALLEY
UREAN DEBATE LEAGUE

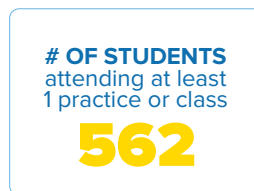
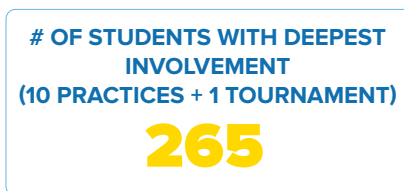
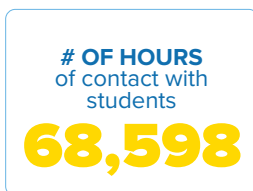
SVUDL BY THE NUMBERS



- 61% Latinx/Hispanic
- 33% AAPI (Asian American/ Pacific Islander)
- 4% Native American
- 1% African American
- 1% Caucasian



Students attended 26 online tournaments from around the country, including seven hosted by SVUDL as well as national Speech and Debate tournaments hosted by Stanford, Emory, UC Berkely and others. We also had one team qualify for and attend in person the Catholic Forensics League Grand National Championships in Washington, DC.



Congratulations to our 37 seniors who graduated this spring and are headed to college!

THANKS TO OUR SCHOOL PARTNERS

Andrew P. Hill High School *San Jose*

Cristo Rey Jesuit High School *San Jose*

Downtown College Prep *San Jose*

East Palo Alto Academy *East Palo Alto*

Eastside College Preparatory School *East Palo Alto*

KIPP San Jose Collegiate *San Jose*

Latino College Preparatory Academy *San Jose*

Oxford Day Academy *East Palo Alto*

Silver Creek High School *San Jose*

Summit Everest *Redwood City*

Yerba Buena High School *San Jose*

PREPARING

THE NEXT GENERATION OF CIVICALLY-ENGAGED CITIZENS

SVUDL's Speech and Debate program provides high school students with regular Speech and Debate practices and opportunities to compete. Our program teaches students how to analyze and solve complex problems; research information and evaluate evidence; and speak and persuade. Our dedicated coaches mentor the students in a variety of ways as they navigate the path through high school and beyond.

+28%

The percentage of students who reported they could understand complicated ideas in class after one year of SVUDL programming.

2021-2022 GROWTH

A word cloud graphic featuring names of students and figures. The names are arranged in a circular pattern, with some names appearing larger than others. The names include: Philando Castile, Braonna Taylor, Oscar Grant, Aura Rosser, Akai Gurley, Jermaine Reed, Eric Garner, Daniel Prude, and others.

EXPANDING IMPACT THROUGH TEACHER COACHES

SVUDL adapted to the pandemic by re-invigorating its Teacher Coach model: a teacher at a partner school is the main coach for students and is also responsible for recruiting and retaining members of the Speech and Debate team. In turn, SVUDL provides ongoing support and professional development to Teacher Coaches, setting them up for success.

SVUDL has unique collaboration strategies for each of its schools. In each case, we work with Teacher Coaches to make Speech and Debate an organic part of the partner school culture.

At Yerba Buena High School, veteran coach Emily La utilized senior leadership to double the size of her team and set the foundation for younger students to become the next generation of school leaders.

2020-2021 TEACHER COACHES

Andrew Hill High School

Mike Winsatt & Rachel Carruth

Downtown College Preparatory

Jessica Lew-Muñoz & Lindsay Denton

East Palo Alto Academy

Peter Otte

KIPP San Jose Collegiate

Hasanka Mudalige

Latino College Prep

Lindsey Perez

Oxford Day Academy

Martha Olivas

Yerba Buena High School

Emily La

DEBATE CENTERED INSTRUCTION

Debate Centered Instruction (DCI) is a unique approach to learning that engages students in traditional classrooms with controversies connected to what they are studying and gives them opportunities for deeper research and debate. As Robert Litan noted in his groundbreaking work *Resolved: Debate Can Revolutionize Education and Help Save Our Democracy*, DCI teaches students to see their studies as a living conversation they can participate in, instead of as a lecture they should simply passively receive. Meanwhile administrators in our partner schools can see the academic value of Speech and Debate. It's not simply an after-school activity. It can enhance the learning experience for students across the curriculum and connect the world of the classroom organically to the structures and institutions students navigate outside the walls of school.

For example, one DCI unit at Andrew Hill High School tackled voter rights, and students explored these questions and more:

- 1.** Do proposals such as automatic voter registration, vote by mail, and same day voting risk an increase in election fraud or are they necessary to ensure democratic participation?
- 2.** Is it primarily the responsibility of the states or the federal government to regulate elections and ensure the right to vote?
- 3.** Would the policies contained in the Freedom to Vote Act actually work? Would more Americans exercise the right to vote if the bill were passed?

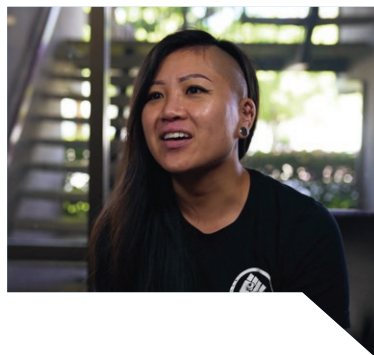
During the class, students not only had an opportunity to engage in one of the most important issues of our time, but they also heard from both

a renowned activist, Jonathan Mehta Stein, the Executive Director of California Common Cause, and a famous journalist, Jessica Huseman, the editorial director of Votebeat, a nonprofit newsroom covering voting and elections. Hearing from professional advocates helped students to imagine themselves in these roles as they researched and argued their cases.

In another case, East Palo Alto Academy teachers Peter Otte and Marilyn Travis collaborated with SVUDL Program Specialist Kwodwo Moore to teach students about a controversial local issue – gang enhancement in sentencing – and brought in a series of speakers to discuss the pros and cons of the law from their own unique perspectives. Some students crafted and recorded themselves presenting a letter to their state representative outlining what they would like to see with regards to gang sentencing; some drafted a proposition and recorded themselves explaining the proposition to potential voters; some engaged in a debate with a fellow student about their own plans for gang enhancement. All these final project options incorporate skills championed by SVUDL, including research, critical thinking, and argument construction.

“When they first arrived on our team, they were understandably nervous about their speaking skills, but they have grown so much in terms of confidence and that’s amazing and inspiring to witness.”

Emily La
Teacher Coach,
Yerba Buena Hugh School





2021-2022 GROWTH

+28%

The percentage of students who reported that it was important to work to solve problems in their community, after one year of SVUDL programming.

PROFILE

ADDIS
ARCINIEGA

Addis Arciniega, graduating senior at Downtown College Prep El Primero, recognizes the critical role that Speech and Debate played in her formative years. She sees the value that it will continue to have in her education as she goes to college. “Speech and Debate have helped me to be well-spoken, understand my ideas, and articulate them. It also helped me to have a support system that I don’t believe I would’ve found elsewhere. I am continuously shocked by how welcoming everyone is and how willing everyone is to help,” stated Addis. “I joined the debate team without a work ethic, confidence, or skills. I am now able to do so much because of what I have learned in debate. I am able to do research at a faster pace and better able to articulate my ideas in my writing. I can advocate for my community. I can take the skills I have learned and teach them to younger students.” Addis is now attending UC Santa Cruz.

STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

This year, SVUDL awarded two remarkable students with the inaugural Jennie Savage Courage Award and John Dawson Leadership Award. Jennie Savage and John Dawson were co-founders of the Silicon Valley Urban Debate League and guided it through the organization's early growing stages.

The inaugural Jennie Savage Courage Award went to Downtown College Prep senior Christopher McGinnis. Christopher, along with his partner Addis Arciniega, were founding members of the debate team at Downtown College Prep. While he has faced personal challenges, Chris has remained committed to his team, participating in debate for four years. His courage to embrace uncomfortable situations, like travel on the national circuit, and his character in the face of adversity has prepared him well for life after high school. Chris is now attending UC Berkeley.

The inaugural John Dawson Leadership Award went to Yerba Buena High School senior Kastella Nguyen. As a freshman, Kastella determined she was going to excel at debate and consistently pushed herself to be the very best. She had the courage as a freshman to attend the California National Debate Institute at UC Berkeley, and is currently attending Stanford University.



CAN DEBATE SAVE DEMOCRACY?

On May 26th, the Silicon Valley Urban Debate League (SVUDL) hosted a virtual event - Can Debate Save Democracy? - that was attended by over 50 friends, donors, and community members. Moderated by the Honorable Julia Alloggiamento, Judge of the Superior Court of Santa Clara County and SVUDL Board member, the distinguished panel included LaToya Green, Professor and Director of Debate at Cal State Fullerton, and Robert Litan, an economist, attorney and author of *Resolved: Debate can Revolutionize Education and Help Save our Democracy*.

The speakers explored questions around democracy and civility in a polarized world, the importance of Urban Debate Leagues in bringing the power of Speech and Debate to marginalized communities, and how teaching debate can be part of the solution – not only to build a more informed, critically thinking electorate – but to also empower citizens to dismantle the systemic inequities that threaten our democracy.

Panelist LaToya Green explored the issue of access and inclusion, and questioned, “We have to start asking ourselves first and foremost, before we start to navigate civility, are all the people there to participate in some of these conversations?”

Bob Litan advocated for more debate centered instruction, whereby any teacher, regardless of what subject they taught, would be able to infuse the tenets of competitive debate in their curriculum, as well as their approach to teaching.



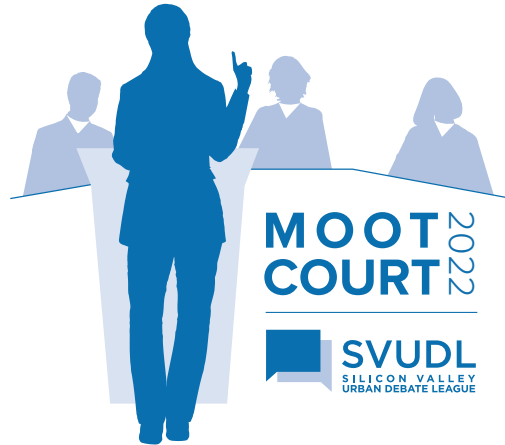
+39%

The percentage of students who reported they can find a way to help people resolve arguments, after one year of SVUDL programming.

**PROFILE****KASTELLA
NGUYEN**

Kastella Nguyen, graduate of Yerba Buena High School, is now a freshman at Stanford University. She looks forward to taking classes in topics that she is really interested in, perhaps even majoring in political science. Kastella knows that her SVUDL experiences have helped prepare her not only for Stanford, but for her entire life. “Debate will help me in the future, and not only in terms of advocating for myself, but also for entering college when I have to speak with people in higher positions. Before debate, I was always nervous to talk to people. But through debate, I found confidence and skills that will carry me forward. I also found community with other students and adults. These abilities will also help me when I have to do a lot more things on my own in college,” reflected Kastella.

2021 SVUDL MOOT COURT COMPETITION



The SVUDL 2021 Moot Court Competition was a special event where high school students prepared and argued a case before a panel of federal and state court judges who evaluate the students on their presentation as well as responses to questions from the bench. The Moot Court Competition is a cornerstone of our Professional Access & Mentoring programs that work to close the opportunity gap and seed the pipeline of diversity within a variety of career pathways.

SVUDL extends deep appreciation to our distinguished panel of judges:

The Honorable Michelle T. Friedland Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

The Honorable Mary J. Greenwood Administrative Presiding Justice to the California Sixth District Court of Appeal

The Honorable John B. Owens Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

SVUDL's 2021 Moot Court Competition teams argued the case of *Baxter v. Bracey*--a case on the scope and legitimacy of qualified immunity for police officers. The case was petitioned on behalf of Alexander Baxter who received a bite from a police dog while he was sitting with his hands in the air, which led him to sue for excessive force.

SVUDL's Legal Advisory Council members also participated in the practices and brought a fresh perspective to spar with students. The following lawyers worked particularly closely with SVUDL students in this effort:

Willie Hernandez SVUDL Board Chair Emeritus and General Counsel, International, The Coca-Cola Company

Nadia Arid Associate Product Counsel, Google

Robert Schmoll Assistant General Counsel at Intuit

Leslie Spencer Partner at Desmarais LLP

Chris Hersey Partner at Ventura, Hersey, & Muller

The students worked hard, and it was a very close call as to which students made it to the finals. Ultimately, the Moot Court event was a great success, and everyone who participated – from students to adult volunteers - found it to be exciting and worthwhile.



2021-2022 GROWTH

+27%

The percentage of students who reported they can be successful even if they had trouble with a subject in the past, after one year of SVUDL programming.



Class of
2021

2021-2022 GROWTH

+34%

The percentage of students who reported they actively participate in class discussions, after one year of SVU DL programming.

DEBATE DATA

In Silicon Valley, data is king! At SVUDL, we have always known the power of debate, but it never hurts to also be able to provide proof backed by strong data: the largest study of US debaters looked at 35,788 students, including 1,145 debaters, in the Houston Independent School District. The findings illustrate the potential of school data systems to investigate the academic impact of co-curricular programming like debate. The findings show the students who participated in debate experienced:

+0.66

**HIGHER
GPA**

+52

**MATH SAT
SCORES**

+57

**READING SAT
SCORES**

NAUDL / RESOLVE

SVUDL was chosen again this year to participate in I RESOLVE, a public debate on a timely issue of civic importance and social equity sponsored by the National Association for Urban Debate Leagues. For the second year in a row, SVUDL was honored as one of six leagues to be chosen out of NAUDL's 22 member leagues. At this year's debate, Yerba Buena High School senior Kastella Nguyen and Andrew Hill High School junior Erick Zaragoza debated whether the 1033 program, which facilitates the sale of military equipment to local police departments by the Department of Defense, should be ended or reformed. Kastella and Erick constructed their own cases over hours of research and preparation and were coached by Dr. Robert Burns and Lucia Hernandez who worked together with NAUDL's Director of Programming and Communications, Sara Sanchez. During the debate, they were joined by a distinguished panel of guests who asked them questions and gave real-time feedback as they presented their respective plans: the Honorable Jesús Valencia, Judge of the Superior Court of Santa Clara County, Santa Clara County Deputy Public Defender Sajid Khan, and Dustin Davis, Sergeant with the Santa Clara County Office of the Sheriff.

PROFESSIONAL ACCESS & MENTORING PROGRAM

SVUDL's Professional Access & Mentoring program engages high school students and SVUDL alumni in activities aimed to broaden their horizons, opportunities, and networks. This past year, they participated in a number of workshops offered by SVUDL community members that exposed them to diverse professions and work settings that built their social, cultural, and professional capital and showed them how the skills they learn through Speech and Debate can propel them in the professional world.

8 Professional Access visits in 2021-2022

The program also provides professional mentoring and internship opportunities that provide work experience, build social capital, and expand the perspectives of students on potential career choices. This form of SVUDL programming provides a collegial, collaborative environment where students learn academic skills as well as social-emotional skills that will stay with them through higher education and into the workforce.

+25%

The percentage of students who reported that they were willing to talk to people who have opinions they disagree with, after one year of SVUDL programming.

2021-2022 GROWTH

**PROFESSIONAL ACCESS AND MENTORING HIGHLIGHT:
YOUNG WOMEN'S POWER LUNCH**

In May, the Santa Clara County Superior Court Community Outreach Committee (with support from the Office of Women's Policy and the City of San Jose) hosted their annual Young Women's Power Lunch. This lunch provided the chance for young women to have personal discussions with women judges, attorneys, and leaders about the struggles, journeys, failures, accomplishments and support that women share. The idea is that these women will be there to support participants, lift each other up, stand by each other, and share some special time together.

Many young women leaders were invited from San Jose, including SVUDL students. Debaters from Latino College Prep and Roberto Cruz Leadership Academy enjoyed a special luncheon with Judge Alloggiamento (and SVUDL Board Member) and her team of mentors who consisted of lawyers, judges, human resource executives, nonprofit professionals, and more. During the luncheon, Judge LaDoris Cordell inspired each attendee to speak up against injustice no matter the cost, especially in the face of adversity.



THE 2021 JOHN LEWIS SVUDL INVITATIONAL

From November 19-21, 2021, SVUDL hosted its national tournament – the John Lewis SVUDL Invitational - for a second time. Formerly offered by Santa Clara University’s debate team as the SCU Dempsey Cronin Invitational, this tournament was attended by 1,300+ Speech & Debate students from 100+ high schools in 10 states across the country.

Thank you to our sponsors Intermedia Cloud Communications, O’Melveny & Myers, Sheppard Mullin, Davis Polk, DLA Piper, Orrick Harrington & Sutcliffe, and HP.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

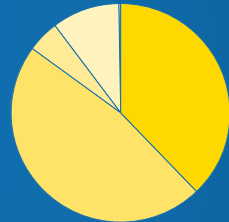
AUDITED FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

January 1 - December 31, 2021

SVUDL delivers high impact programmatic results in an operationally efficient and cost-effective manner. This impact is made possible through the ongoing commitment, involvement and financial contributions of individuals, foundations, and corporations who believe in the importance of educational equity in our community.

REVENUE

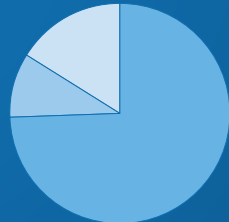
Grants	\$324,368	■
Donations and contributions	\$405,493	■
In-kind donations	\$42,510	■
Program revenue	\$85,613	■
Investment return	\$613	■



TOTAL REVENUES & SUPPORT \$858,597

EXPENSES

Program services	\$701,999	■
General and administrative	\$89,668	■
Fundraising	\$149,519	■



TOTAL EXPENSES \$941,186

THANKS AND APPRECIATION

SVUDL is grateful to the following individuals, foundations, and corporations for their generous cumulative support in 2021.

Special thanks to the Sobrato Family Foundation for providing in-kind office space for SVUDL at the Sobrato Center for Nonprofits in Milpitas, CA.

\$25,000+

James F. Basile
The Franklin & Catherine Johnson Foundation
Bernice and Willie Hernandez Kirkland & Ellis Foundation
LaureL Foundation
Leo M. Shortino Family Foundation
Meta Platforms, Inc.
PwC Foundation
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John M. Sobrato
The William and Charlene Glikbarg Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

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and Annie Pogue
Jennie Savage
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State of California

Wayne Stacy
and Caren Ulrich Stacy

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Matt Abrahams and BoldEcho
Anonymous
Gene Assaf and Liz McHenry
BartkoZankel
Diversity Lab
Google Inc.
Marian Hoffman
David Kung
Mayer Brown LLP
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Patrick J. Nash, Jr.
National Association
for Urban Debate Leagues
Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund
Robins Kaplan
Sheppard Mullin LLP

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Adam and Devin Alper
Naomi Andrews
Anonymous
Nadia Arid
Bay Area Urban Debate
Commission
Noah Boyens
Brandon Brown
Stuart Casillas
Covington & Burling LLP
Davis & Gilbert LLC
Davis Polk & Wardwell
Eliaabeth L. Deeley



“Intuit is proud to have a long-standing relationship with SVUDL and excited to see how SVUDL students will go on to make the world a better place. These students inspire us all.”

- Marc Fernandez, Director, HR Legal at Intuit and SVUDL Legal Advisory Committee member

John Delaney
DLA Piper LLP
Elizabeth Duncan
Fasken Martineau DuMoulin
Marc Fernandez
Michelle and Brett Galloway
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Jenet Manuel
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Edward Rhee
Angela Robinson
Jennifer Samson
Sara Sanchez
ServiceNow
Alex Shvartsman

Silicon Valley Social
Venture Fund
Kristin Silverman
Bishoi Sourial
Yavor Stoynov
Paul D. Tanaka
Nellie True
Lisa Van Dusen
and John Kelley
Raja Venkataraman
Edward Vieira-Ducey
Vivienne Hsu
and Ken Tsai Fund
Maogang Wang
Alison Watkins
Ian Wilbur
Kasia Witkowski
Thomas Wu
Michelle Yallum
Stanley Young

2021-2022 GROWTH

+25%

The percentage of students who reported that when they are unsure of a topic, they try to research it and come to an informed position, after one year of SVUDL programming.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Served during the 2021-2022 program year

Andrew Gold, Chair

Attorney, Private Practice

John Castelly, Treasurer

VP of Legal and Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer, ServiceNow

Nadia Arid, Secretary

Associate Product Counsel, Google

Matt Abrahams

Lecturer, Stanford Graduate School of Business

Sahil Bhardwaj

Partner, Strategy& (a PwC company)

The Honorable Julia Alloggiamento

Judge of the Superior Court, Santa Clara County

James Basile

Partner, Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Ellen Ehrenpreis

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Willie Hernandez, Chair Emeritus

General Counsel, International, The Coca-Cola Company

Christopher Hersey

Partner, Ventura, Hersey & Muller LLP

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William H. Neukom Professor of Law at Stanford Law School

Kayvan Shahabi

Principal (Partner), PwC

John Sheputis

Managing Director, GI Partners

Leslie M. Spencer

Partner, Desmarais LLP

LEGAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Legal Advisory Committee brings together leaders from the Silicon Valley legal community to help students realize their dreams of becoming successful lawyers. Thank you to these members who mentor, host firm visits, and provide internships.

Willie Hernandez, Chair

General Counsel, International, The Coca-Cola Company

Brandon Brown

Partner, Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Graham “Gray” Buccigross

Senior Associate, Intellectual Property, Mayer Brown LLP

Marc Fernandez

Director, HR Legal at Intuit

Patrick Hammon

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Christopher Hersey

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Ash Nagdev

Counsel, Sidley Austin LLP

Shayne O'Reilly

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Carlos Orellana

District Counsel, Valley Water

Bryson Santaguida

Product Counsel, Google

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Caren Ulrich Stacy

CEO, Diversity Lab
Vice President of Policy & Partnerships, US
National Committee for UN Women, SF

Yesenia Villaseñor

Associate General Counsel, Tesla Corporation

Elizabeth Wells

Executive Director for the Foundation for
a College Education

Carrie Williamson

Deputy Managing Partner, East Palo Alto,
DLA Piper

Andrew Yaphe

Counsel, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

PROGRAM ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Program Advisory Council convenes leaders in the field of education, Speech and Debate champions, community stakeholders, students and alumni who can share their varying perspectives and expertise to inform the programmatic direction of the organization.

Jennie Savage, Chair Emeritus

Emeritus Director of Speech and Debate, Palo Alto High School

Matt Abrahams

Lecturer Stanford University Graduate
School of Business

Rachel Stattion

SVUDL Alum and Santa Clara
University student

John Castelly

Vice President of Legal and Chief Ethics and
Compliance Officer at ServiceNow

Danielle Mitalipov

Senior Manager at adidas

Diego Certa

Coordinator of Goodwill ASSETS Youth
Programs

Elizabeth Wells

Executive Director for the Foundation for
a College Education

Zaragoza, Erick

SVUDL student at Andrew Hill High School

**YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
NETWORK: EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE****Nadia Arid, Co-Chair**

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