

The Fuller View

August 2026 Edition
Lincoln Law School of San Jose

A Letter from the Dean



Dear Lincoln Family,

Every month, putting together the *Fuller View* gives me a chance to look back over the past few weeks. This month, the stories seemed to be about different things: a campus refresh, outreach to future law students, alumni serving veterans, and the relationships that connect our legal community.

It made me think about a simple question. What makes a law school more than a place to earn a degree?

It isn't the building. It isn't the curriculum. It's certainly not the paint on the walls. It's the people who invest in one another. One of the things I've discovered during my first months as Dean is that some of the most important things happening at Lincoln aren't on the class schedule.

You can see it in alumni who volunteer their time. It's reflected in legal professionals who welcome newcomers into the profession, faculty who spend part of their summer preparing for students they haven't even met yet, and the many people working behind the scenes to make Lincoln a place where students feel they belong from the day they arrive.

In a few days, we'll welcome another class into the Lincoln family. They'll arrive with different experiences, different goals, and different reasons for choosing law school. What I'd like them to discover is that they're joining a community of people who genuinely care about their success.

Perhaps that's what this issue is really about. Each of us has opportunities to encourage someone else, share what we've learned, or open a door that might otherwise remain closed. Those small acts have a way of changing lives.

As you read this month's *Fuller View*, I hope you will see yourself somewhere in these pages.

Thank you for being part of the Lincoln family.

Warmly,

Mary Fuller
President and Dean

Around Lincoln: Looking Ahead

Faculty Development Day – August 8

Before classes begin, our faculty will gather for a morning of professional development focused on helping students learn, retain, and apply complex legal concepts more effectively. We'll share highlights and photos in next month's *Fuller View*.

Welcoming Our Newest Lincoln Family Members – August 10

Our newest students will begin their legal education on August 10. We can't wait to welcome them into the Lincoln family and introduce you to them in our September issue.

The Lincoln Family Returns – August 17

Our returning students will be back on campus on August 17. After a summer apart, we're looking forward to seeing familiar faces, hearing about everyone's summer, and beginning another year together.

A Fresh Start

The campus refresh is nearly complete, and we're excited to welcome everyone back to a building that reflects the pride we all share in Lincoln.

Our Bar Takers Are in Our Thoughts

Our graduates recently completed the California Bar Exam. While they wait for results, please join us in wishing them every success.

Come See Us at the Menlo College Art & Wine Festival – September 12

Lincoln is heading to Menlo College's first-ever Art & Wine Festival! Stop by our table and enjoy a day of local art, regional wines, food trucks, and live music. The festival is free and open to all ages, with wine tasting tickets available for guests 21+. **Saturday, September 12, 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. at the Menlo College Quad in Atherton.** [[RSVP here.](#)]

From Healing to Advocacy: Lincoln's Commitment to Those Who Served

This fall, Lincoln will welcome an extraordinary new member of its entering class.

Dr. Simone Lundquist has spent her career helping people heal. As a clinical psychologist, educator, and nonprofit leader, she has worked extensively with veterans overcoming trauma and has dedicated much of her professional life to empowering survivors to reclaim their lives.

Now she has chosen to pursue a law degree at Lincoln.

At the same time, one of our alumni reached out with an opportunity that reflects those same values of service.

Karina Tiwana, Class of 1999 and Commander of American Legion Post 432 in Cambria, is organizing a pro bono effort to help protect the rights of veterans who use a local Veterans Memorial Building. She has invited Lincoln students and alumni to assist with legal research and drafting under the supervision of licensed attorneys. Fellow alumnus David Dornblaser has already agreed to serve as one of the supervising attorneys.



Taken together, these stories remind us that service has a way of connecting generations of the Lincoln community. Some arrive at Lincoln after distinguished careers, bringing decades of experience serving others. Others have already graduated and continue to use their legal training to strengthen their communities. Lincoln's tradition of service continues with each new generation of students and alumni.

That spirit of service is continuing right now. If you are an upper-division student or alumnus interested in participating in the veterans project, we would love to hear from you.

Interested in helping?

Karina is assembling a team of Lincoln students, alumni, and supervising attorneys to assist with legal research on behalf of veterans. If you are an upper-division student, a licensed attorney, or an alumnus who would like to contribute your time and expertise, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Karina Tiwana at zebraview@gmail.com or via TEXT at (805) 550-5736. *Be sure to clearly identify yourself and why you are contacting her, or your message will be marked as spam.*

Every Lincoln graduate has knowledge that can make a difference, and every Lincoln student is looking for opportunities to learn. Sometimes all that's needed is someone willing to bring those two together. This may be one of those opportunities.

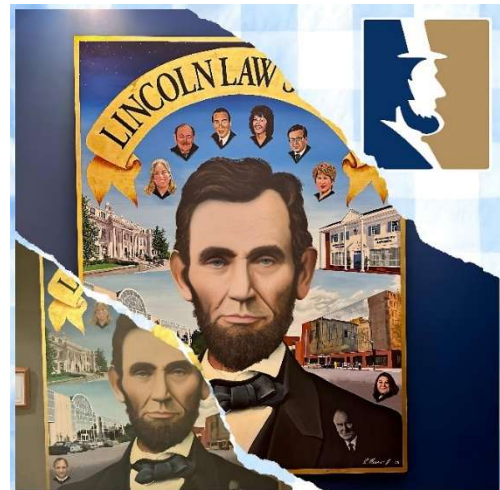
A New Look for the Next Chapter

If you've visited Lincoln recently, you've probably noticed that the school looks a little different.

Over the summer, our classrooms, hallways, offices, and common spaces have been refreshed with new paint, updated lighting, and colors inspired by Lincoln's new branding. What began as a building full of painters, ladders, and a staff temporarily working from home has become a welcoming campus, ready to begin another academic year.

One of my favorite transformations is the wall surrounding our Lincoln portrait. The deep blue accent wall, inspired by our new school colors, has given the space a warmth and presence it never had before. It has quickly become one of my favorite places in the building, and I suspect it will become a favorite gathering spot for students, faculty, alumni, and visitors as well.

These improvements are about much more than appearance. They reflect our commitment to creating a learning environment that reflects the quality of the education taking place inside our classrooms. As Lincoln continues to grow and evolve, we want everyone who walks through our doors to immediately sense the pride, professionalism, and community that define our school.



We are deeply grateful to Trustee Greg Richardson, one of the owners of our building, and his business partners for their generosity in making these improvements possible. Their investment has transformed our campus and created a welcoming environment for students, faculty, alumni, and visitors.

While there is still more to come in the months ahead, we are excited to share this next chapter with the entire Lincoln community.

Every Lawyer Starts Somewhere

One of the most rewarding parts of serving as Dean is meeting people who are just beginning to explore the legal profession.

Recently, I had the pleasure of speaking with the inaugural Summer Intern Class of the Superior Court of California, County of San Benito. The program brought together high school students, college students, and one law student, all exploring what a career in law might look like. Although several law schools were invited to participate, Lincoln was honored to be the only school that joined the interns in person.



I was joined by Nadia Padilla, a member of Lincoln's Admissions team who will begin her own legal education at Lincoln this fall. It was fitting that someone just starting her journey into the legal profession could encourage others who are considering taking that same first step.

Rather than talking about admissions requirements, I shared my own path to becoming a lawyer. Like many of our students, it wasn't traditional. That's one of the things I love most about Lincoln. Some students come straight from college, while others arrive after careers in business, engineering, education, healthcare, public service, or the military. There is no single roadmap to becoming a lawyer, and those different experiences enrich our profession.



Programs like San Benito's internship remind us that every lawyer starts somewhere. Sometimes all it takes is one conversation to help someone imagine a future they hadn't considered before. We were grateful to be part of the court's inaugural program and look forward to seeing where these talented students' journeys lead.

Where the Legal Community Feels Like Family

There are networking events, and then there are backyard barbecues where people actually get to know one another.

This summer, I had the pleasure of attending the Santa Clara County Legal Professionals Association's 14th Annual Membership Appreciation BBQ, graciously hosted by former SCCLPA President Rod Cardinale, Jr. Rod welcomed everyone into his backyard, spent 18 hours smoking the brisket and pork, and somehow still found the energy to emcee an afternoon filled with great food, conversation, raffle prizes, bingo, and an appetizer contest.



I'll admit I briefly wondered whether the games were entirely fair after Rod's mother won both a raffle prize and bingo. Rod quickly came to his family's defense, pointing out that he had won the appetizer contest. I'll let our readers decide whether that clears everyone's name.

What made the afternoon memorable, though, wasn't the friendly competition. It was the people and the conversations.

I attended with Nadia Padilla, who will begin law school at Lincoln this fall while serving on our Admissions team, along with another incoming student. As we spent the afternoon meeting members of SCCLPA, we were reminded why Lincoln has enjoyed such a longstanding relationship with this organization.

One conversation stood out. We met a prospective student who already holds a paralegal degree and is now considering the next step toward becoming an attorney. The paralegal path is an example of a path followed by many Lincoln students when they first discover their passion for the law as they are working alongside attorneys, judges, and other legal professionals.

Many of our students begin their careers as paralegals, legal assistants, court staff, and office administrators. Law school isn't a departure from the legal profession. It's the next step on a path they are already walking.

As I drove home that afternoon, I found myself thinking that this is exactly where Lincoln should be: spending time with the legal professionals who strengthen our courts and law offices every day, celebrating their contributions, and meeting the future lawyers who are already among them.

Thank you, Rod, and everyone at SCCLPA, for your warm hospitality and for reminding us that the legal profession is built not only on knowledge and skill, but also on friendship, mentorship, and community.

Here's one way you can strengthen the Lincoln community this month



Become a Lincoln Mentor

In just a few days, we'll welcome another class of students into the Lincoln family. As they begin law school, one of the most valuable resources we can offer them isn't found in a casebook. It's a mentor.

We're looking for attorneys, judges, alumni, and experienced legal professionals who are willing to encourage a Lincoln student during the coming academic year.

Our mentoring program is intentionally simple. We ask mentors to meet with their student twice each semester. The student takes the initiative to reach out and schedule the meetings, making it easy to fit mentoring into a busy schedule. When possible, we also encourage mentors to introduce their student to the broader legal community by inviting them to a professional meeting, bar association event, Inn of Court, SCCLPA gathering, or another legal program.

Sometimes a single conversation changes the direction of a career. We believe every Lincoln student benefits from knowing someone who has already walked the path they're beginning.

Think back to the people who opened doors for you. This is your opportunity to do the same for someone else.

If you'd like to become a mentor, I'd love to hear from you.

Mary Fuller

President and Dean

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