



**KELLEY LASHLEY BANNON** acts as Partner at Calleton, Merritt, De Francisco & Bannon, LLP. She graduated from Cal Poly with a degree in Political Science in 1995.

## **ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT**

*Kelley Lashley Bannon*

Kelley Lashley Bannon's deep appreciation and interest for history and law began at a young age. While in high school, her athletic talent caught Cal Poly's eye. In 1991 she was admitted to the university as a student-athlete majoring in history. During her first year at Cal Poly she took an American and California government course and fell in love with politics and the legal aspect of American history. She quickly decided to change her major, declared her concentration in pre-law, and joined the Pre-Law Society.

After earning her bachelor's degree, Kelley attended Santa Clara Law School. Kelley states, "athletics shaped [her] world" and her passion for sports did not fade while in law school. She had the opportunity to intern with the in-house legal team for the Oakland Raiders, during which the owner of the team was involved in four controversial lawsuits against the National Football League. Throughout the experience, she discovered her love of working on collective bargaining agreements. This led her to apply to professional and major league sports teams across California that opted to institute in-house legal teams.

Kelley later returned to San Luis Obispo where she joined the Sinsheimer, Schiebelhut & Baggett law firm, the largest in the county for business litigation. She realized that she had talent for transactional work and entered state

and tax planning law. A few years later, she took over her grandfather's firm in Pasadena. Since her arrival, the firm has more than tripled in size. Additionally, she became highly involved in Five Acres, a nonprofit organization in Los Angeles County that is concerned with foster care and adoption, as the Vice Chair of Advancement.

Although Kelley now resides in Southern California her love for Cal Poly has not wavered. She remains highly involved in students' educations by aiding students completing senior projects in the recreation, parks, tourism and administration and journalism majors by offering seniors hands-on experience at her firm and acting as their mentor. Additionally, when Kelley first returned to Cal Poly she realized that an alumni chapter for athletics had yet to be established. She then established the alumni chapter and instituted the Varsity Club. She has served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors since 2011 and is head of the Spirits and Traditions Committee, which consists of both former and current student-athletes whose main goal is to increase campus spirit for Cal Poly sports.

Kelley suggests that prospective law students take as many writing classes as they can while at Cal Poly, as well as challenge themselves to write something every day. She also says being involved in unique extracurricular activities, such as community service, Greek life, leadership positions, athletics, and work experience, help establish well-rounded and unique perspectives. She emphasizes that personal growth is key to being successful when taking the next steps after undergraduate education. Kelley advises, "Hearing others say that your dreams are impossible should only fuel your fire."