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The VALOR Guide

According to the students who worked with him, Adam Siegler ’84 is a visionary. “There was a real need to create something that would assist local veterans and those who serve them find legal aid—a guide to help veterans navigate through the disorganized system of existing legal services,” said Siegler, major, judge advocate, U.S. Army. In 2001, he partnered with the law firm of Alesterday, Alapinto & Blum at his firm, Greenberg Traurig LLP, and a few dedicated members of Loyola’s Military Veterans Justice Project, Siegler’s vision became a reality. The VALOR Guide: Veterans Access to Legal Organizations & Resources gathers together in a single reference all known providers of free legal services for veterans in Los Angeles County. The book provides veterans with a roadmap to the legal services they need and have earned through their military service to this country.

Making the guide was no easy task. Siegler chose two dedicated Loyola students, Jama Abare ’12 and Max Liget ’12, to join his team. The first phase of the project was gathering information from organizations, finding appropriate services that meet the legal needs of veterans and putting all of that information in one place. Abare and Liget worked to ensure that the services were currently available to local veterans, what areas were underserved and what legal services were most important according to the veterans themselves. “At first, we were challenged by the sheer immensity of the task,” said Liget. “However, as we walked the streets of Los Angeles’ Skid Row, spoke to homeless veterans and visited VA facilities to speak with the people who serve veterans, we became more concinned of the need for a project such as ours, and became more encouraged to produce an adequate resource.”

The second stage of the project was figuring out the best way to organize the guide and present it to its users. In an effort to make the guide is user-friendly as possible, all of the resources listed are organized by region and type of practice. Loyola students and alumni who intended to make sure this guide gets in the hands of all local VA and veteran offices in order to make the guide accessible to as many veterans as possible. “Users can pick it up and they know right where to go; it’s that easy to use.”

With the support of generous donors, Loyola’s Military Veterans Justice Project is publishing printed guides at veteran centers throughout Southern California. Abare said “the goal is to make sure this guide gets in the hands of all local VA and veteran offices in order to facilitate better referrals for Los Angeles area veterans.” Siegler hopes that the VALOR Guide will act as a model for future guides and that other law schools in California and across the nation replicate this project in order to help expand access to legal aid for our veterans.

The Military Veterans Justice Project is currently soliciting donations for a second printing and continued distribution. To make a donation online, visit www.alumni.lls.edu/giving or call Barbara Schwelb at 213.736.1130. A digital copy of the VALOR Guide is located online at http://llslaw.us. llslaw/docs/ValorGuide.pdf. If you would like to include your donation in the VALOR Guide, please send an email to sieglera@gtlaw.com.

Military Veterans Justice Project Introduces The VALOR Guide

During his first year at Loyola Law School, Brenden Hamme ‘12 learned a lot, but he felt that one disturbing fact required immediate action. “Young adults, particularly minorities, were being targeted by the police at a tremendously disproportionate rate, taking them out of the schools where they belonged and into the criminal justice system’s revolving door,” Hamme said. He believed that if someone were to educate local minority youth about their civil rights, then they would have a better chance of staying out of the criminal justice system. And so he decided to be that someone.

At the end of his first year at Loyola, Hamme founded the Juvenile Rights Project, the newest venture of Loyola’s Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF). The project brings specially trained Loyola Law School students into high school classrooms in the Los Angeles area to inform students of their civil rights during police encounters through a series of role-playing activities and classroom discussions.

The Juvenile Rights Project is one of many student-run groups currently supported by PILF. The General Relief Advocacy Project (GRAP), in its 10th year at Loyola, is also a PILF supported project. Students travel to Department of Public Social Services offices around Los Angeles with supervising attorneys from Public Counsel or volunteer attorneys from local law firms and assist people who are applying for governmental aid. Often, the clients are homeless and unaware of the benefits available to them. GRAP participants guide them through the process and advocate on their behalf for immediate results—like ensuring they get dinner or a place to stay that night.

“We all have an obligation to each other, especially to those who aren’t making it in society,” says GRAP Coordinator Patricia Ford. “Ford adds that it is not always about giving; the students who participate in GRAP also gain a lot from the experience. “The goal of GRAP is to help the clients, but I think the program is mutually beneficial. For law students, I think GRAP forces us to deal with real societal issues and pushes us to think of things beyond the world of outlining and finals.”

Clinical Professor Sande Buhai, director of the Public Interest Law Department, couldn’t be happier with the interest Loyola students show in helping others. “PILF has grown stronger in the last 10 years due to student-leadership initiative.” But student-run PILF is just one way that Loyola supports involvement in public interest; it also has one of the strongest public interest law departments in the nation.

Loyola’s Public Interest Law Department awards six full-tuition scholarships each year to incoming students who show great commitment to public interest. Even more students benefit each year from the Public Interest Summer Grant Program. By awarding summer work stipends, Loyola gives students the invaluable opportunity to devote their summers to public interest work, while providing public interest employers with legal assistance that they otherwise would not be able to afford.

The core message is: Every lawyer is a public interest lawyer. We have an ethical duty to give back to the community, and Loyola students and alumni everywhere are doing wonderful things for the public!”

In 2009, PILF gave out $40,000 for such summer employment. The funds are raised throughout the year through various PILF events and through donations from generous alumni and members of the local community. The Ami Silverman ’87 Endowment PILF Fund, started in 2007 by Sterling Franklin ’75, a trustee of the Morris S. Smith Foundation, awards additional summer stipends to public interest law students in honor of Silverman’s work with the Loyola Law School Alumni Association Board of Governors.

Loyola does not stop supporting public interest after students graduate. Every year, Loyola offers post-graduate fellowships in public interest. These fellowships were established in order to create job opportunities in public interest for Loyola graduates and provide legal services to underrepresented groups. This year’s fellows are involved in exciting projects, aiding the needy both locally and abroad. One fellow, Rachel Brewer ’10, has created a project for Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County (NL-SLA) that provides direct legal representation at foster care proceedings, serves low-income residents, provides legal services to underserved groups. This year’s fellows are involved in exciting projects, aiding the needy both locally and abroad. One fellow, Rachel Brewer ’10, has created a project for Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County (NL-SLA) that provides direct legal representation at foster care proceedings, serves low-income residents, provides legal services to underserved groups. This year’s fellows are involved in exciting projects, aiding the needy both locally and abroad.

Another fellow, Jenna Gilbert ’10, empowers refugees throughout Ecuador to assert their rights through the development of a mobile legal aid clinic and training of local community legal advisors with Asylum Access. Her project will help to protect refugees from unlawful or unjust detention, deportation, torture and death and will help provide the necessary tools for refugees to rebuild their lives. “Not only has the fellowship allowed me to pursue my interest in this area of the law post-graduation, but receiving PILF grants and public interest employment funding both summers in law school allowed me to gain the experience necessary working as an immigrant and refugee rights advocate.”

Professor Buhai best summarizes Loyola’s philosophy regarding public service. “The core message is: Every lawyer is a public interest lawyer. We have an ethical duty to give back to the community, and Loyola students and alumni everywhere are doing wonderful things for the public!”
11th Annual Bob Cooney Golf Tournament (D)
Sunday, September 12, 2010
Coyote Hills Golf Course – Fullerton, CA

Alumni Mixer at the State Bar Annual Meeting
Saturday, September 25, 2010
Monterey Marriott – Monterey, CA

Vis Team Dinner (E)
Thursday, October 7, 2010
Red Lion – Glendale, CA
Honoree: Gerald T. MaLaughlin, dean and professor emeritus

Orange County Alumni Luncheon (F)
Friday, October 8, 2010
Seasons 52 – Costa Mesa, CA

CLASS OF 1990 EVENING DIVISION REUNION (G)
Sunday, October 10, 2010
McCormick & Schmick’s – Los Angeles, CA

Student and Mentor brunch (H)
Sunday, October 10, 2010
Loyola Law School – Los Angeles, CA

Public Interest Casino & Auction Night (I)
Saturday, October 16, 2010
Loyola Law School – Los Angeles, CA

Academic Awards Breakfast and California State Bar Searing-In Ceremony (J)
Wednesday, December 1, 2010
Loyola Law School – Los Angeles, CA

Administration of Oaths:
Federal Senior Judge and Chief Judge Emeritus Terry J. Hatter, U.S. District Court, Central District of California
State: Judge Maureen Duffy-Lewis ’74, Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
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Stubbs Adelbert & Markides, LLP
Towe Dennis Smith & Mariscalco LLP
White & Case LLP

2010 Grand Reunion – A Timeless Tradition
November 4, 2010, Montage Beverly Hills

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS:
The Honorable Ima J. Brown Dillon ’73
California Superior Court, Los Angeles County

Roman M. Sibert / ’74
Managing Partner
Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Cressi LLP

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF GOVERNORS RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENTS:
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Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP

Laurie L. Levenson
David W. Burham Professor of Law in Ethical Advocacy
Loyola Law School

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1994 Frederick H. Obai joined Bowman and Brooke LLP as senior counsel, and developed the product liability and construction defect, business and complex business and commercial litigation.

1995 Christopher P. Brodersick joined the Los Angeles office of DLA Piper as partner, practicing in all aspects of intellectual property law with an emphasis on litigation. Kirk Cypel was appointed to the position of chief executive officer at Equastone Real Estate Investment Advisors in San Diego, CA. Alan M. Lenke joined Seifarth Shaw LLP as a partner in the litigation department. Lenke focuses on patent and other intellectual property matters. Victor D. Noblitts, a member of Loyola Law School’s alumnus faculty, was named national secretary of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. Harri R. Raffalgo hired a new associate to the Los Angeles firm, focusing on bankruptcy practice on insolvency and corporate restructurings. Vicki Vander Woude joined the litigation group of Baker Hostetler in Costa Mesa, CA.

1997 David H. Ben-Meir joined Alton & Bird LLP’s intellectual property practice specializing in complex technologies patent claims. Jennifer Schack Demency became an associate at the Boise, ID, litigation firm of Bandfield Woodard Schwartzman, PLLC. She also serves as director of Idaho Walnay Lawyers and volunteers with the Boise refugee community. Mark Grombank is an attorney, arbitrator, dispute resolution manager, andDepends on distribution, and career restructurings. Vicki Vander Woude joined the litigation group of Baker Hostetler in Costa Mesa, CA.

1999 Jennifer K. Dougher was appointed by U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder in August as a federal immigration judge with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in Memphis, TN. Colette V. Garbolzioishi was sworn in as a federal immigration judge with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in Denver, CO. Hon. Carol D. Golding of the California Superior Court, County of Orange, was confirmed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth District. Hon. Michelle D. Boeckstrom of the California Superior Court, County of Los Angeles, was confirmed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth District. Hon. Robert W. Fisher was confirmed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth District, County of Los Angeles. Hon. Michael J. O’Toole was confirmed to the California Superior Court, County of San Diego.


2002 Joseph H. Marahon joined the office of the General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in Washington, D.C. He is attorney advisor in the labor and employment law division of DHS’s Federal Protective Service. He joined the department following seven years of active duty as an Air Force judge advocate general officer, and continued to serve with the JAG reserves at Vandenberg Air Force Base.

2003 Fiona A. Chaney became an associate at the Washington, D.C. office of Perkins Coie LLP and focuses on insurance coverage advice and litigation. Kymеле M. Chang of Duane Morris LLP, Los Angeles, was appointed executive vice president of the Southern California Lawyers Association.

2004 Michael E. Adler joined Greenberg, Whitcomb & Takushin, LLP, as counsel, providing strategic and consultative support to the firm’s banking, corporate, and bankruptcy practice groups. Aleksandra S. Filmer was appointed director of business and legal affairs at The Tennis Channel, Inc. A 24-hour television network dedicated to professional tennis. Michael A. Gatto was elected to the California State Assembly District 43, which includes Burbank, Glendale and North Hollywood, CA; Gatto took office in mid-June after winning a series of special elections. Adam Gardiner returned as an associate to Nadel & Lopez, LLP, a family law firm. Brad A. Hohv joined Baker & Hostetler LLP in Costa Mesa, CA.

2005 Timothy W. Fredrickson is an associate with Winget, Spiderlin & Schwartzberg, LLP, focusing primarily on professional liability, securities, and financial services law. Aaron Kahn and Lauren Pullo of White & Case LLP in Los Angeles were members of the trial team representing Logan Chubin and Michael Alpert in a pre-trial lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the U.S. military’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy.

2006 Raina Boyars is an associate with Glaser Weil Fink Jacobs Howard & Shapiro LLP, focusing on corporate and business law at the law firm’s Los Angeles office. Stacey W. Winner has been named vice president and general counsel for ITT Systems Integration. Most recently, Winner was the associate general counsel for ITT Systems Integration. At the Los Angeles Business Journal Center was appointed secretary of the Southern California Lawyers Association.

2007 Steven M. Rosenfeld was elected to the Los Angeles office of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. Rosenfeld is a member of the Los Angeles County Bar Association’s Construction Law Section, and serves as a member of the National Association of Black Lawyers. Rosenfeld is a member of the California Bar Association. For his pro bono work, Rosenfeld was named “Lawyer of the Year” by the Los Angeles Times.

2008 The Apprentice, season 8, won the grand prize winning photograph. The Apprentice, season 7, was named corporate counsel at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, a corporate transactional boutique firm in Century City, CA.

2009 Foundation

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Laurie L. Levenson
David W. Burham Professor of Law in Ethical Advocacy
Loyola Law School

JUDICIAL
Hon. Theodore R. Howard ’68 joined the California Superior Court, County of Orange. Hon. Dennis S. Coutye ’72, who retired, is a renta-judge following 16 years as a deputy district attorney and 21 years on the bench. Glenn B. Alder ’79 was appointed to the California Superior Court, County of Orange. Hon. Thomas J. Bents ’79 was elected president judge of the California Superior Court’s Court of Appeal, County of Orange. Hon. Rebecca R. Hall ’79 was appointed by U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder in August as a federal immigration judge with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in Memphis, TN. Colette V. Garbolzioishi was sworn in as a federal immigration judge with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in Denver, CO. Hon. Carol D. Golding of the California Superior Court, County of Orange, was confirmed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth District. Hon. Michelle D. Boeckstrom of the California Superior Court, County of Los Angeles, was confirmed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth District. Hon. Robert W. Fisher was confirmed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth District, County of Los Angeles. Hon. Michael J. O’Toole was confirmed to the California Superior Court, County of San Diego.

IN MEMORIAM
The Law School regretfully announces the passing of the following alumni. Please visit alumni.la.edu to read about their lives and contributions.

Frank L. Hirst ’41
Gerald M. Hiby ’50
Paul M. Smith ’77
Philip H. Jackson ’40
Robert A. Mcgrue ’64
John M. Ruiz ’81
Roger A. Sawyer ’51
Charles E. O’Donnell ’33
Lisa M. Lee Ley ’85
Charles K. Park ’70

Visit alumni.la.edu to read about birth and marriage announcements

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alumni.la.edu/giving
David W. Burcham has been an integral part of the Loyola Marymount University (LMU) community for nearly 30 years, and now the Loyola Law School alumnus has become the University’s leader. After a nationwide search, the Loyola Marymount University Board of Trustees unanimously elected Burcham as the 15th president of the University, making Burcham the first Loyola Law School graduate to hold the position in the institution’s 100-year history.

Board Chairman R. Chad Dreier called Burcham “the best person to lead LMU.” During a speech given at the Law School, Burcham thanked his supporters and expressed his gratitude to the Law School community for their continued support and commitment to excellence: “I’m very honored to be the 15th president, and I really appreciate the trust and the respect that you had for the process and the confidence you have in me.”

Burcham acknowledges that his Loyola Law School education prepared him for his new position as president. “At its core, legal education and legal analysis is about problem solving—breaking down an issue or a problem to component parts,” he noted. “And that’s exactly what you do as an administrator of a university.”

The staff and faculty at the Law School supported the board’s nomination of Burcham. “With limitless enthusiasm and passion, Dave Burcham oversaw an era of extraordinary growth at the Law School—both academic and fiscal. He is absolutely the right person to lead LMU as it continues to grow,” said Victor Gold, Fritz B. Burns Dean.

In 1981, Burcham commenced his legal career as a student at the Law School. He was chief articles editor of the Loyola of Los Angeles Law Review and received numerous academic honors, including the William Tell Aggeler Award for attaining the highest cumulative grade point average in his class. He served as a law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Byron R. White and then worked in private practice before returning to the Law School in 1991.

As a professor, Burcham taught several courses, including Constitutional Law. “It’s incredibly rewarding and exciting to help students navigate through the subject. There is no job that I can think of where you get more rewards than teaching,” said Burcham. He continued teaching while he served as associate dean for academic affairs from 1998-2000 and also after he was appointed the 15th dean of Loyola Law School in 2000—a position he held for eight years.

LMU appointed Burcham to the newly created position of executive vice president and provost in January of 2008. He most recently served as interim president following the resignation of Father Robert B. Lawton, S.J. During this transition, Burcham has continued to spend time in the classroom teaching an undergraduate seminar on the U.S. Supreme Court along with Professor Emeritus Christopher May.

Burcham acknowledges that his Loyola Law School education prepared him for his new position as president. “At its core, legal education and legal analysis is about problem solving—breaking down an issue or a problem to component parts,” he noted. “And that’s exactly what you do as an administrator of a university.”