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2009 Summer Public Record

Loyola Law School - Los Angeles
Head of the Class: Loyola’s Professors Receive National Recognition

By Diana McCulloch

It’s been common knowledge for decades at Loyola Law School, and in recent years the rest of the nation has been catching on. Here’s the open secret: Loyola Law School ranks among the best classroom experiences in the nation.

So confirms the Princeton Review in its 2008 and 2009 publications of Best 174 Law Schools, where Loyola was rated No. 1 and No. 2, respectively, in the “Best Classroom Experience” category.

The Princeton Review, one of America’s best-known tutorial and graduate school test-preparation companies, added to their list of “best” in 2008 the category of “Best Classroom Experience.” Loyola Law School shot to the top right out of the gate, and remains within a hair’s breadth the year after, ahead of Stanford, Chicago, Georgetown, Duke and Northwestern.

“Best Classroom Experience” is based on student assessment of professors’ teaching abilities, balance of theory and practical skills in the curriculum, tolerance for differing opinions in class discussion, and classroom facilities. “There are many schools of thought on what type of classroom experience is best for learning the law,” said David Soto, Princeton Review representative. “And a good way to find that out is to ask the students.”

The Princeton Review succeeded in this task by getting assistance from the law schools’ administrations to distribute the polling electronically. The list was “fairly well received since it has been introduced,” Soto said, noting the top 10 schools represented some top-tier schools and, coincidentally, also reflected a regional diversity.

Loyola evening student Kyle Tracy ‘10 voiced indignance at the news that Loyola was rated No. 2 this year. “We’re totally number one!” Tracy said, adding that all his professors, from 30-year veterans to those just entering the profession, are simply “amazing.” Their passion for teaching and caring for students is evident in the way they wax themselves, whether it’s spending 30 minutes after class to answer additional questions, sometimes well past 10 p.m., or making time after office hours, even on the weekends. This is a practice, Tracy said, that busy students like him truly appreciate.

Tracy’s career choice was easily inspired by his professors, Dean Kennedy ’89, Cyn Yamashiro ’93 and Michael Schultz ’91, men he calls “big-time public defenders, the cream of the crop.” Kennedy is a federal public defender, and former Los Angeles public defenders Yamashiro and Schultz are also executive director and clinical director, respectively, of the Center for Juvenile Law & Policy at Loyola.

Giving Back Makes a Difference

By Diana McCulloch

If the Loyola Law School alumni were a blockbuster summer movie, their tag line might be, “All for one and one for all!”

That is to say, many, many dedicated alumni pitch in year after year, reaching out to current Loyola Law students. The alumni span the support base—to great success—in several school program endeavors, including: prepping the students for moot court competitions, mentoring by forging one-on-one personal relationships, coaching the trial advocacy teams, and most recently, guiding the students through the maze of the prized post-graduate judicial clerkships.

For as long as Loyola Law School has been around, its graduates have shared this common refrain: that they got a great education, that they loved the supportive and inspiring faculty, and have made great friends of their classmates. Loyola is miles apart from the other law schools where, the stories go, cutthroat competition during final exams results in pages torn from books and reference materials at the law library, and worse. Loyola’s alumni, in fact, would forever sing the praises of its “sense of community.” And it is to this place they fondly remember that they return, time and again.

Recent ’06 graduates Kat Macfarlane and Joel Richlin flexed their alumni muscles by taking to a new level in just one year the judicial clerkship placement program on which Professor Laurie Levenson, advisor to the Post Graduate Judicial Clerkship Committee, has toiled for many years.

A judicial clerkship is a must if one wishes to pursue an academic career, and it is also viewed as a great asset by law firms. Its supporters call it a veritable “gold star on the resume.” The three-year-old committee now boasts 24 alumni and four professors, and has tripled its clerkship placement numbers.

Macfarlane knew first-hand that her Loyola classmates were well-educated and competent, and that it was simply a matter of getting more Loyola graduates’ feet in the door. She correctly believed that a greater number of successful clerkship placements and, as a result, better and wider spread reputation among the judicial community, would lead to even more clerkships for future Loyola graduates.

The clerkship committee guides the Loyola applicants on everything from writing a good resume and cover letter to courtroom etiquette, salaries, tips on individual judge’s personalities and styles. “We support the alumni basically forever!” said Loyola staff member Linda Wysocky.

“We are better than 55 percent placement for our applicants, and that’s unheard of,” said Wysocky. “The figure is considerably higher than other Southern California law schools, including those at University of California, Los Angeles, and University of Southern California, she said.

About 20 Loyola graduates are headed for the highly competitive clerkships this year, thanks to the committee. And the committee exerts its notable influence because alumni like Richlin and Macfarlane couldn’t say enough good things about their time at Loyola Law School.

“We feel indebted to the school,” said Richlin, who recalled supportive classmates and teachers. “I just happened to mention in passing to Professor Barbara Blance that I was applying for a temporary clerkship, and she knew of this judge, so she was willing to go out of her way for me.” After that temporary stint ended, Richlin’s next clerkship came as a direct result of networking over lunches with his former classmates who were clerking at the same and nearby downtown court buildings.

Macfarlane, who completed her two-year clerkships with the District of Arizona and the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, now works as a third-year associate at Quinn Emanuel in downtown Los Angeles. The clerkships years counted toward associate years at law firms, and the experiences were “invaluable when you come out of law school,” she said. “You start to feel like a general practitioner because you’re exposed to every kind of case under the sun, from beginning to end, especially at the appellate level, where everything gets whittled down.”

Third-year student Courtney Voegele counts herself lucky to have gained an ally via Loyola’s alumni mentorship program. Shahram “Shawn” Haghighi ’00 already had under his belt the successful big-firm career she was aspiring to, and was willing to share his insights and experience. Haghighi, a former associate at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher’s New York and Los Angeles offices, also gave valuable interview tips to Voegele, who, coincidentally, got her summer associate job at the firm’s Orange County office.

(Continue Page 2)
Diane Cassidy was recognized as one of the 2003 Southern California Super Lawyers. Prior to joining Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, she was a partner and chair of the Employment Practice Group at Mullins, Holen & Smith LLP.

David C. Grant, a partner at Grant, Genowee & Barratt LLP in Irvine, and classmate Patrick G. Rogan, a principal at Rogan Lehman LLP in Santa Monica, have been inducted as fellows in the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Kenneth L. Waggoner was elected to the board of directors, and appointed vice president and general counsel, of ChinaTel Group. Kenneth L. Waggoner was elected to the board of directors, and appointed vice president and general counsel, of ChinaTel Group.

John Moran, Jr. was appointed to the Nevada Gaming Commission, a five-member organization regulating the Nevada gaming industry.

Paul Eisner's article, "Weighing the Consequences of Section 308 Offers to Compromise," was published in Los Angeles Lawyer magazine in June.

Angi Morris-Jones was promoted to Yuba County counsel. She served in county counsel departments in Merced, Fresno and El Dorado counties before coming to Yuba in 2005 as deputy county counsel.

Dennis K. Ames, managing shareholder of Laffitte Johnsonدمري، has been inducted as a fellow in the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel.

Greg Gottlieb is director of the USAID Mission in Windhoek, Namibia. He is a member of the Senior Executive Service of the federal government and has served as a partner at Greenberg Traurig in Washington, D.C. as deputy assistant administrator of USAID for Humanitarian Assistance. He has coordinated official USAID responses to the Darfur crisis, the Asian Tsunami, the Pakistan earthquake and other natural and man-made disasters. Gottlieb has traveled extensively throughout Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Asia. John Hanna headed the Community College League of the California, acting as chancellor of the Orange County's community college districts.

Jane Frankel Schau was induced into the International Academy of Mediators in New York, a selective group of preeminent mediators from around the world.

William W. Carter is chief of staff for Los Angeles new city attorney, Carmen Trutanich. Carter was a partner with Massey, Peakler & Seidman in Los Angeles before joining the city attorney's office. Carmen Trutanich is a registered patent attorney with the State Bar of California. He is the newly appointed general counsel of the California Department of Managed Health Care, where he advises on legal general counsel, public policy, corporate and financial matters, and acts as liaison to the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. Craig S. Peledow was elevated to partner at Brod & Gross LLP in Sherman Oaks, where he focuses on family law. He is a member of Loyola Law School's Alumni Association Board of Directors. He currently chairs the board's budget and grand reunion committees.

Brian A. Arnold is now a partner with Thomas, Whitlall & Tolbin in Irvine, specializing in property litigation. Andrew B. Holmes was pro-rated to Liner, Dreyer, Bataille & Tyler LLP in Irvine, focusing on intellectual property litigation.

Kathryn W. Tate, who served as professor of law at Loyola Law School and is Philadelphia-born, is the new US attorney for the Middle District of Georgia. Tate was born in Fort Wayne, IN. She was a NYCA administrator in New York and Illinois, and a social worker in Kansas City, before attending Arizona College of Law—where she earned her law degree with high distinction and the US attorney's training.

After law school she worked in Washington, DC for nine years, first as a judicial law clerk for the U.S. District Court of the Northern District of California, working as an assistant U.S. attorney. Professor Tate joined Loyola as an associate professor in 1997. In 2000 she was appointed full professor in 1993. Teaching corporations, securities regulations, and ethics, counseling and negotiation. Professor Tate is a member of the International Bar Association and in China, where she taught American Company Law. Professor Tate served on numerous committees at Loyola Law School. She was held in high regard by students, staff and colleagues. Professor Tate enjoys camping, crafts and Western American history. She is survived by her husband of 42 years, Jay.

In Memoriam is with great sadness that we announce the passing of a former beloved Loyola Law professor.

Judith A. Rosen, who practices personal injury law, became a member of American Board of Trial Advocates.

Tom K. Ara joined Manatt, Phelps & Philips, LLP in Los Angeles and specializes in entertainment transactions, intellectual property and entertainment law.

Stuart Linder, managing partner of Liner, Dreyer, Bataille & Tyler LLP in Irvine, focuses his practice on construction law and litigation.

Jean Liao was named among the 10 most dependable family law lawyers in the Los Angeles Magazine April edition.

The Law School regretfully announces the passing of the following alumni:

Jonathan T. Jones, 32, of 32 Bethesda, MD, a graduate of Southern Methodist University and founder of Simply Amor, a boutique provider of handwritten, personalized thank you notes for brides, expected parents, graduates, and bar and bat mitzvahs.

Barbara Braverman was appointed a district attorney for the Los Angeles County district attorney's office. Braverman was also appointed county counsel for the City of Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Agency.

Dennis K. Ames was deputy mayor for Homeland Security and Public Safety for Los Angeles, where he was responsible for overseeing the city's response to the Darfur crisis, the Asian Tsunami, the Pakistan earthquake, and other natural and man-made disasters. Gottlieb has traveled extensively throughout Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Asia. John Hanna headed the Community College League of the California, acting as chancellor of the Orange County's community college districts.

John A. DiGiacomo 1979 3% University of Southern California Gould School of Law 103 9% Southwestern Law School 77 7% University of California—Los Angeles School of Law 32 3% University of San Diego School of Law 20 2% University of California Hastings College of the Law 18 1% University of California Berkeley School of Law-Berkeley Hall Law School 16 16% University of Southern California Gould School of Law 79 79% Loyola Law School 20 20% University of California Santa Barbara School of Law 6 6% University of Southern California 19 19% University of Southern California 19 19%

Claudia Trevisan is now a partner at Thomas, Whitelaw & Young, where she focuses on environmental law.

Stephanie Hammers graduated from Loyola School of Law in 2007. She also served as a legal recruiter at Indianapolis International School.

Jeffrey A. Lehman was formerly a deputy assistant administrator of USAID for Humanitarian Assistance. He has coordinated official USAID responses to the Darfur crisis, the Asian Tsunami, the Pakistan earthquake and other natural and man-made disasters. Gottlieb has traveled extensively throughout Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Asia. John Hanna headed the Community College League of the California, acting as chancellor of the Orange County's community college districts.

John R. Van Dam '03 and his wife Jennifer announce the birth of their first child, Peter Thomas Van Dam, born August 28, 2003. John Van Dam has retired from law, following 25 years of service with the Orange County Public Defender's Office, and is an engineer with International Sculptors '01 and wife Erin celebrate the birth of their son, Christian, born on March 12, 2006, Gregory Townsend '16 and his wife Anna Coulouris, along with their son Kai, welcomed Miles Coulouris Townsend, born March 30, 2006, to their family. Townsend heads the office at the Special Court for Sierra Leone for Craig S. Peledow was elevated to partner at Brod & Gross LLP in Sherman Oaks, where he focuses on family law. He is a member of Loyola Law School's Alumni Association Board of Directors. He currently chairs the board's budget and grand reunion committees.

2002 Diana Wicks was named an associate attorney with Nachshin & Rosati as of counsel, specializing in patent litigation.

Larry Oppenheimer, a partner in the plaintiffs' personal injury firm of Alvarado & Rice in Long Beach, was named among the 10 most dependable family law lawyers in the Los Angeles Magazine April edition.
Giving Back Makes a Difference
(Continued from Cover)

Haghighi was not directly involved with getting Voegele her summer job, but having already made the career trajectory, he was able to guide her law school career from the beginning. He first met Voegele when she signed up for the program in her first year.

Voegele said, “He talked about how important grades were, kind of helped me plan out a study schedule for finals. He calmed my nerves…. He really helped, he made a difference.”

For Haghighi, returning to Loyola began simply when he responded to the alumni newsletter, which said the school was looking to add to its Alumni Board of Governors. Since joining up, mentoring the students has been a natural and easy step.

He shared that oft-repeated refrain among Loyola graduates: “I got a good legal education that got me good jobs and got me started in my career,” said Haghighi, vice president at Oaktree Capital Management, L.P. in Los Angeles. “I had a good experience at Loyola. I made a lot of friends, enjoyed the faculty, so I stayed in involved.”

In his mentor role, Haghighi sees himself as an additional resource to the students. He says their discussions address a variety of career questions: Should they go into private practice, attorney’s office, or “law firm A” or “law firm B?”

That would be Kat Macfarlane, who is pulling double-alumna duty in mentorship and clerkship programs. “I truly believe my job offer was a direct result of Kat’s help. I seriously can’t thank her enough for everything she has done,” said Pashley, who will start with McGuire Woods in Century City. Pashley credits Macfarlane for excellent advice on interviewing, resume and cover letter, business etiquette, and nurturing professional relationships. “She is smart, to the point, and truly an awesome woman.”

Loyola Law School has had a long tradition of producing great trial lawyers, counting several high-profile attorneys among its alumni ranks.

Kristin Walker ’99, a confident litigator herself, is working hard to make sure the tradition continues. She began coaching Loyola’s Byrne Trial Advocacy Teams the year after she graduated. There was just one team when she started, but now there are two—a direct result of Walker’s assistance to Professor Susan Poehlis ‘89, the team advisor who wanted to see the program expanded.

“It’s a very good program,” said Walker, who is with the Orange County office of Severson & Werson. “I appreciate what the school and Susan’s program did for me, and the only way to bolster the school’s reputation is to keep the program strong.”

Professor Poehlis, in her 20th year as head coach of the Byrne Trial Advocacy teams, has guided the teams to 17 regional championships, including one this year, and two national championships.

This sort of training becomes even more specialized for the Hispanic La Raza Moot Court Competition. Carlos Cruz ’96, believes that Latino students, in particular, need additional assistance to the students. He says their discussions address a variety of career questions: Should they go into private practice, attorney’s office, or “law firm A” or “law firm B?”

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Justice and fairness are not only taught, but evidently practiced in the classroom. When the controversial death penalty is debated in Kennedy’s class, Tracy said, even if 75 percent of the students share a liberal viewpoint, the professor would step up and present the opposing side. “You can’t have a one-sided debate,” Tracy said. “I really admire their ability to not let their personal views dictate how they teach.”

William Coskran ’59 experienced Loyola to its fullest, first as a student then as a professor. (Noting that he had taught at Loyola for nearly 40 years, Coskran cracked wise: “My God, am I that old?”) The Loyola years have been productive for Coskran, who has been teaching commercial and residential leasing, as well as other issues in the real-property field.

“The most important thing I found as a student and as a teacher is the practical use of theory,” he said. “Something that I felt as a student and carried all the way through private practice—and as a teacher—is a deep respect for the difficult job that lawyers have.”

Coskran has imparted for decades in his students the “importance of developing independent effort. Nobody is going to hold your hand when you’re a lawyer,” he said.

A “superb” Coskran student was Allan Ides ’79, who went on to clerk for U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Byron White. Ides himself so admired Loyola Law School professors that he joined their ranks. “They’re the best teachers I’ve ever had.”

The constitutional law and civil procedure professor recalled a group of Loyola professors, starting in the 1960s, who seared into the Loyola Law School DNA a dedication to teaching. “That’s a culture that’s been passed on,” Ides said. “When new teachers are hired, they see the role models in the senior faculty members, and the students have come to expect it. The pressure is there for the new teachers to perform.”

In addition to the subject at hand, Ides believes his job is to teach his students to thoroughly analyze the legal issues and to be creative in solving them. “If you can think carefully and assess facts and problems in your life, you are a more successful person, and that’s what good lawyers do in the context of legal problems.”

Though in his 28th year of teaching, Ides is still as fresh as a newcomer. He was spending the beginning of his summer vacation preparing for the fall curriculum. “I love teaching,” he said. “I can’t believe I get paid to do this. And it is nice to be recognized by the students.”

Professor Therese Maynard calls herself “a true believer” of Loyola Law School. Once a practitioner of securities litigation, she now teaches securities law. “We really do care about the students,” said Maynard, who began teaching at Loyola in 1983. She believes the Princeton Review ranking reflects the long-standing commitment by Loyola faculty. “We’re committed to not only imparting substantive knowledge, but to communi- cate and instill confidence in the students so that they’ll pass the Bar, and will be prepared first day on the job.”

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Simply put, Maynard says, “We make them into damn good lawyers.”

Head of the Class (Continued from Cover)

There is clear evidence of a concerted effort by the Loyola faculty to bring about the results their students so publicly praise.

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12th Annual Bob Cooney Golf Tournament
Sunday, September 13, 2009
Coyote Hills Golf Course
Fullerton, CA
Benefiting the Cancer Legal Resource Center at Loyola Law School

Bob Cooney is out of the woods and onto the GREEN!
We’ve cut down on our paper strokes this year. So, now there’s one more tree lining the fairway!

SIGN-UP ONLINE
to register an individual, foursome or firm.
www.alumni.lls.edu/events

10:30 am Registration & Putting Contest
11:00 am Shotgun Start with Scramble Format
1:00 pm Reception, Awards and Dinner
5:00 pm Special Contests & Prizes
11:00 pm Golf Law Firm Challenge
6:00 pm Putting Contest
6:30 pm $1 Million Shootout