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Loyola Law School - Los Angeles

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Military Veterans Justice Project Introduces 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 with legal aid—a guide to help veterans navigate through the disorganized system of existing legal services,” said Siegler, major, judge advocate, 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, Jamaica Abare ’12 and Max Ligot ’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 Ligot worked to find what legal 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 overwhelming amount of work,” said Abare. “However, as we walked the streets of Los Angeles’ Skid Row, spoke to homeless veterans and visited Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities to speak with the people who serve veterans, we became more convinced of the need for a project such as ours, and became more convinced 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 hopes that the result was just what they intended. “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 producing printed guides at veteran centers throughout Southern California. Abare said “the goal is to make sure this guide gets into the hands of all local VA and veteran officers 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, visit www.alumni.lls.edu/giving or call Barbara Schwedel at 213.736.1120. A digital copy of The VALOR Guide is located online at intranet.lls.edu/docs/ValorGuide.pdf. If you would like to include your organization in The VALOR Guide, please send an email to sieglera@gtlaw.com.

Celebrating Loyola’s Long-Standing Commitment to Public Interest Law

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 ’12. 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.

Citing 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 (NLS-LA) that provides direct legal representation at foster care benefits administrative hearings, as well as advocacy and education to foster care children and their caregivers to ensure the receipt of the proper level of benefits.

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 AyAum Access. Her project will help to protect refugees from unlawful or unjust detention, degradation, 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!”
13TH 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

VISE TEAM DINNER (E) Thursday, October 7, 2010 Red Lion – Glendale, CA
Honoree: Gerald T. McLaughlin, 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 SWARING-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

1967 Janet Dubb of Jones Vargas in Reno, NV, was selected for inclusion in the Mountain States Super Lawyers list for 2010.

1968 Terry R. Fields was appointed president, CEO and director of FormCap Corp., an emerging exploration and development company in the oil and gas sector.

1972 Lee Karen Albert, the founding member of Alpert, Grant & Horvitz in Boston, CA, unanomously elected for a second term as president of the City of Los Angeles Board of Water and Power Commissioners.

1973 Richard W. Wright was appointed a distinguished professor of law at Chicago-Kent College of Law; the appointment is the highest faculty rank at the university; Wright joined the faculty in 1985 and teaches tort law, jurisprudence, law and economics, and law and artificial intelligence.

1974 Gary Paul of Waters, Kraus & Paul in El Segundo, CA, was appointed president-elect of the American Association for Justice, the world’s largest trial bar; Paul is past president of both the Consumer Attorneys of California and the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles; Roman M. Silverfield, managing partner of Robins, Kaelan, Miller & Greis LLP, Los Angeles, was elected to the board of directors for the International Academy of Trial Lawyers.

1978 Thomas P. Beck of Thon, Beck, Vanni, Callahan & Powell in Los Angeles, was appointed to the board of directors for the 2010-2011 Southern California Super Lawyers in the February issue of Los Angeles Magazine; named as a “Top Litigator” by Pasadena Magazine 2009 and 2010.

1990 David S. Ettinger of Honnold & Levy LLP ran the Harriet Buah Community Service Award for his commitment to providing equal access to justice. Paul H. Irving of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP was appointed to the board of directors of West Bancorp, Inc., the parent company of West Bank. James J. Pettit was appointed as lead counsel in a mercury contamination class action in New Jersey and was appointed to Digital MS's Plaintiff Steering Committee.

1992 Patrick C. Haden was named the University of Southern California’s athletic director, overseeing the university’s 19 women’s and 16 men’s teams. Haden also lectured and teaches at the USC Marshall School of Business and the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. Terry C. Lasoni joined Rosennam as a partner specializing in insurance coverage litigation.

1993 Greg J. Karns, a partner at Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP, manages the Los Angeles firm’s Pacific rim practice group; Karns also was a finalist for the 2010 Asian Business Awards. Malcolm S. Bihrl, chair of the international practice group at Fox Rothschild LLP in Los Angeles, was presented with the International Association of Young Lawyers’ inaugural lifetime achievement award at its annual conference in Charlotte, NC. Richard W. Maurer joined Winget Spadafora & Scherber & Partners in Los Angeles, specializing in securities litigation and arbitration as well as securities regulation and compliance. Lisa T. Soffner, a partner at Brown & Kelly LLP in Buffalo, NY, became a fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America.

1994 Daniel W. Ames received State Bar of California certification for High-level, a certified lawyer referral service specializing in personal injury cases. Steve M. Eden became vice president and general counsel for SAGE Publications, Inc. in Thousand Oaks, CA. SAGE is an international publisher of journals, books and electronic media. Adam Singer joined the Santa Monica, CA, office of Greenberg Traurig LLP as of counsel; he previously served in Baghdad, Iraq as a major in the U.S. Army Reserve.

1995 Thomas R. Bertino was named managing director of the Los Angeles office of True Partners Consulting LLC, one of the largest law-only firms in the U.S. Scott N. Wieston joined Fox Rothschild LLP as a partner, practicing family law.

1996 Robert W. Combs joined Littler Mendelson P.E. as a shareholder in the Orange County office, representing employers in all aspects of labor and employment law. Kathleen S. Thompson Parmenter has re-entered the practice of law, specializing in corporate and individual restructuring.

1997 Susan B. Loeb-Goffen has started My Mom ’n Pop, an elder care consulting business. Jon Wallack and Vickie Michael Wallack ’80, formerly of Wallack & Wallack in Ventura County, have moved with their three children to Vermont and are the new owners of The Wafted Inn. Michael Zwebek joined the Los Angeles office of the international law firm Neos Paulovski P.A., as partner in the government investigations and white collar crime practice group; recently of Savethree Shaw LLP, Zwebek served for 18 years with the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

1999 John A. Atzen joined the downtown Los Angeles office of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP as a partner in the firm’s corporate practice group. Nancy Deneen-Wells, a new media and Internet law attorney with Wildman, Harrold, Allen & Dixon LLP, was named a “Top 100 Power Lawyer” for 2010 by The Hollywood Reporter. Deneen-Wells was lauded for the successful marketing of the Twilight series through sweepstakes, promotions and contests.

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2010 Suzanne M. Cate-Jones joined the Costa Mesa, CA, office of California business transactional litigation firm Theodora Drininger Miller & Richman PC as a senior attorney. John M. Polack, a partner in the Irvine, CA, office of Fish & Phillips LLP, was selected to “The Best Lawyers in America 2010”, an annual peer-review survey, for his work in labor and employment law. A. Brooks Graham joined McGuireWoods LLP in Los Angeles as a partner with the complex commercial litigation group. John B. Grobe of Liner Grobe Stein Yablonsky Sunshine Reinfeld & Taylor LLP was named a 2010 “Top 100 Power Lawyer” by The Hollywood Reporter for his work in complex finance dealings. Timothy J. Yapp, a commercial litigation and bankruptcy attorney, joined Levine, Neale, Bender, Yo & Brill LLP in Los Angeles as a partner.

2011 Mark S. Devine, who practices criminal law in Irvine, CA, and is one of a few practitioners handling both trials and appeals, has secured two reversals from the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division Three in Santa Ana, CA, and a reversal from the Orange County Superior Court, Appellate Division. Leigh A. Kimmes left the partnership of Honey LLP in San Francisco to work for plaintiffs-side asbestos firm Karaan, McGinn, Lyons, Greenwood & Harley, PLLC. Rami S. Yanni became senior vice president of business and legal affairs at Saban Brands LLC, overseeing contractual, intellectual property and compliance matters.

In a July 19, 2010 opinion certified for publication, the California Court of Appeal affirmed in full the $22.4 million judgment obtained by Gary J. Goodstein in the 2008 case Palm City Solid Waste Services, Inc. v. City of Compton. Represented by Goodstein & Beerman LLP, Compton was also awarded its costs on appeal.
### Alumni Grand Reunion

**Loyola Law School Thanks the 2010 Alumni Grand Reunion Sponsors**

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**2010 Grand Reunion – A Timeless Tradition**

November 4, 2010, Montage Beverly Hills

**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS:**

- Honorable Ima J. Brown Dillon ’73
- California Superior Court, Los Angeles County

- Roman M. Sibert 74
- Managing Partner
- Roman, Kaplan, Miller & Crespi LLP

**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF GOVERNORS RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENTS:**

- Jack Daniels
- Mediator and Arbitrator

- Patrick M. Kelly ’69
- Partner
- Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP

- Laurie L. Levenson
- Professor of Law in Ethical Advocacy

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**JUDICIAL**

- Hon. Theodore R. Howard ’58
- Joined the California Superior Court, County of Orange. Hon. Dennis S. Chouteau ’72, senior, retired; in a rent-a-judge following 16 years as a district deputy attorney and 21 years on the bench. Glenn R. Adler ’75
- Appointed to the California Superior Court, County of Orange. Hon. Thomas J. Morris ’79
- Was elected judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court, County of Los Angeles. Hon. Rebecca L. 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. Hon. Collette G. Garibaldi ’80
- Was sworn in this September to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, which covers Oahu, HI. Hon. Carol D. Godfey ’76
- Sworn in as the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth District. Hon. Michelle L. Bachofner ’89
- Appointed to the California Superior Court, County of Los Angeles. Hon. Robert W. Dwyer ’74
- Appointed to the California Superior Court, County of San Luis Obispo.

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**IN MEMORIAM**

- The Law School regretsfully announces the passing of the following alumni. Please visit alumni.lausd to read about their lives and contributions.

  - Frank L. Hirst ’41
  - Gerald M. Hiby ’50
  - Paul M. Smith ’77
  - Phillip H. Jackson ’40
  - Robert L. McGuire ’64
  - John M. Ruiz ’61
  - Roger A. Sava ’51
  - Charles O. Otho ’52
  - Lin M. Le Hay ’55
  - John C. Gaye ’54
  - Chester Wimmer, ’73
  - Charles K. Park ’70

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alumni.lalaw.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.”

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.”