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Two Endowed Chairs Launched to Honor Loyola Leaders

During their long tenures at Loyola Law School, Professor William G. Coskran Jr. ’59 and Dean Frederick J. Lower, Jr., ’64, both graduates of Loyola Marymount University (LMU) and Loyola Law School, often strolled the campus together, debating everything from the fundamentals of a legal education to the best way to serve students in a changing world. So it only seemed natural that the legendary professor with a passion for surfing and the distinguished former dean should receive Loyola’s highest honor together. In the fall of 2009, Loyola announced the establishment of two endowed chairs in the professors’ names. These chairs will allow Loyola to retain and recruit top professors to the campus within the next year whose quality will reflect that of their namesakes.

Dean Lower, a former Marine Corps officer, 1956 graduate of LMU and 1964 graduate of Loyola Law School, was twice selected to lead the Law School. Lower, who joined the faculty as an adjunct professor in 1966 and went on to become Loyola’s 10th dean in 1993, took the lead in planning campus expansion and reaching out for the considerable financial resources to build it. During his six years as dean, additional land was procured and the world-renowned Frank Gehry became the campus architect. Lower also created 15 alumni chapters throughout the country and formed the school’s Board of Visitors (now the Board of Overseers), which consists of members of the legal and business community who offer the dean assistance with outreach and fundraising. In 1990, he agreed to serve as interim dean when the current dean left suddenly to run for governor. As Ken Ott, associate dean for advancement, noted, “This is a man who stepped up to help the school in critical times.”

In 1981, Lower said goodbye to Loyola to begin a new life as a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge. “Fred Lower had his hand in leading our law school for over 48 years. He served as dean during a most important and critical time in the school’s development. He has also been a mentor for all subsequent deans,” said David W. Burcham Jr., the executive vice president and provost of LMU and Loyola Law School.

When Adam Grant ’10 joined Loyola Law School’s Innocence Project, he was eager to leave the safety of the classroom behind for a bit of real-world action. But the fourth-year evening student did not know just how real that action would be until he was sitting inside a Southern California prison, interviewing a hardened felon who was a reluctant witness to a 15-year-old murder that may have sent an innocent man to prison.

That’s when it hit Grant. “This is not like class, where we are studying what has already been resolved. Everything we do out here in the field impacts an actual defendant,” said Grant. “This might be our one chance to get an innocent person out of prison for something we are convinced the convicted party didn’t do.”

Grant is one of three Loyola students who spent the fall semester working in tandem with the Northern California Innocence Project on a habeas petition to free a client they believe received an unfair trial. In addition to drafting petitions and strategizing with attorneys, the trio fanned out across the region, interviewing anyone with insight into the case. “These guys have talked to everyone from pimps to police,” said Professor Laurie Levenson, holder of the David W. Burcham Chair in Ethical Advocacy, who oversees the students. “It doesn’t get more hands on than that.” And that’s the whole idea.

Loyola has long been committed to providing students a unique, stimulating education with a strong emphasis on experiential learning. Here, faculty and administrators measure success by how fast graduates hit the ground running as first-year attorneys. “Loyola students are not the type to be content to sit back and accept a passive education or rest on their laurels,” said Dean Victor J. Gold. “They are hungry to be heard and make their mark.” To that end, all Loyola students are encouraged to supplement their class work with seminars, workshops, externships and professional-development groups.

Levenson’s Innocence Project is just one of several advocacy programs of its kind at Loyola designed to give students real-world lawyering experience. From the widely praised Center for Juvenile Law and Policy, which allows students to serve as counsel for minors in the Los Angeles juvenile justice system, to new initiatives focused on immigration and restorative justice, Loyola provides a multitude of opportunities for students to become more involved with advocacy and social justice.

With a steadily growing number of such programs, Gold recently announced the fall 2010 opening of an Advocacy Institute to serve as a headquarters for these practical-training initiatives. Under one roof, advocacy programs and their faculty leaders will be able to easily share information and collaborate on new projects and programs. The institute will be led by an administrator and a board of directors made up of both faculty and alumni.

“Three things are distinguishing our approach,” Gold said. “First, it is all hands on deck. We have alumni who really are the leaders in trial advocacy. These are nationally prominent trial lawyers who are considered to be leaders in the field everywhere you go.” And “we need to take advantage of their connection to this school and all they can offer our students.” And because of Loyola’s rich tradition of turning out top trial advocates, Gold says he is also exploring the idea of offering certificate programs for students who want to graduate with an emphasis in civil, criminal trial or appellate advocacy.

Interested students would have to complete a specific course load. “This program would not be for everyone,” he said. “But we have such a wealth of programming and courses, it makes sense to take it to the next level and create a curriculum for our students with a certificate that notes the student has a special focus and they’ve gone above and beyond.”

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Gold feels a certificate program made more sense than adding specialized LLM programs, especially in a tight economy. “We don’t want..."
**Direct Examination**

2009 Neal Pereira retired from the Shasta County Public Defender’s Office, which he established in 2004.

1998 Patrick M. Kelly, western regional managing partner with Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker, LLP, was elected to the California State Bar Board of Governors for a three-year term.

2009 Richard Hanlin celebrates 20 years of practice with his law partners, including Marnie Christine Cody ’90, in celebration, the business and real estate litigation firm’s name was changed from Richard Hanlin & attorneys to Hanlin, Cody & Moore. E. Robert “Bob” Fussell edited UndoneCowboy, a memoir by the late grandfather taught B. Fussell accepted the W.Joel Roden Medal Award for outstanding achievement in the publishing of Western literature and film.

1972 Mitchell J. Dowson, a principal with Dowson, Tilm & Gole, was elected president of the Rotary Club of Beverly Hills. Dowson is also a 15-year member and former president of the Maple Counseling Center.

1979 Gloria Allred addressed the National Women’s Political Caucus and was presented with her Woman of Courage Award at the organization’s biennial convention in Newport Beach, CA, in August; Duane L. King joined California United Bank’s West Los Angeles regional office as vice president of commercial banking.

1985 Nancy M. Salzman joined Chapman University in Orange, CA, as dean of extended education.

1990 Roberta A. Conn, now retired and formerly a senior vice president with The Capital Group Companies, was appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to the California Acupuncture Board of Commissioners. Thomas B. Walper, previously a partner of 10 years with Murchison & Cumming, LLP, joined the firm after two years as head of corporate restructuring for the investment firm Plainfield Asset Management in Downey, CA.

1993 Gregory D. Scher, who joined the City of Hope as chief deputy general counsel in 2004, was promoted to general counsel for the biomedical research, treatment and education institution.

2002 Paul Weisman, a tax and sports law attorney in Encino, CA, was appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to the Los Angeles City Employee Retirement System Board of Commissioners. Antonio Villaraigosa to the Los Angeles City Employee Retirement System with The Capital Group Companies, was appointed by Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa to the Los Angeles City Employee Retirement System Board of Commissioners.

1982 Michael Lebovitz ’84 joined Jeffer Mangels Butler & Marmaro LLP in Los Angeles, focusing on employment and labor law.

1985 Gordon E. Bosserman, a partner with the Los Angeles office’s government contracts group. Stephen J. Scott was profiled in the American Bar Association’s “The Best Lawyers in America 2010.”

2008 Stamer recently joined the Dallas, TX firm of Curran Tomko Tarski LLP, where she is a partner practicing labor and employment law.

2009 Jeffrey J. Hughes was profiled in the American Bar Association’s “The Best Lawyers in America 2010,” an annual peer-review survey of attorneys. Ellen M. Tipping joined Marshum & Curran, LLP in Santa Ana, CA, as a partner in the firm’s healthcare, professional liability and employment law practice.

2009 Wendy Wen Yun Chang was recently appointed to a three-year term with the State Bar of California’s Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct, and was named one of the “Best Lawyers Under 40” for 2009 by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. J. Scott Tiedmann co-manages the Los Angeles office of Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, and will take over as sole managing partner in October 2010—only the third in the firm’s 30-year history.

2009 Aram Orduzian joined the Los Angeles office of Arnet Fox LLP as a partner in the bankruptcy and financial restructuring group.

2009 Joanne G. Daryanian was elected to partner with Lofa & Lofa LLP in Los Angeles, focusing on employment and labor law.

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and admired teacher of Property who would often enchant his students into an engaging experience. He captivated the class and kept them on the edge of their seats. He was known for his ability to make complex legal concepts accessible and understandable. No one has ever been better at teaching and scholarship for all faculty for years to come.

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Tw o Endowed Chairs Launched to Honor Loyola Leaders
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and the 15th dean of Loyola Law School. “A chair in his name will celebrate his contributions as a distinguished leader and professor.”

William (Bill) C. Coskran’s ties to Loyola were forged when the young man pursued an undergraduate degree at LMU and then moved on to Loyola Law School in 1959. Coskran spent two years working for the U.S. Air Force Infantry Battalion; he was also selected as a rising star in Superior California Super Lawyers magazine.

2001 R. Todd Zink was promoted at the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office and recently took command of a U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Infantry battalion. Zink was selected as a young star in Southern California Superior Lawyers magazine.

2001 Monica Q. Vo was selected as an associate focusing on commercial and general litigation. Vo practiced at Robert & Associates when she was appointed by Gov. Schwarzenegger to the California Law Revision Commission; she was named to the Board of Governors for Loyola Law School and as an ambassador to the Samurai Jordan Center for Penn Studies and Culture at the UC Irvine School of Humanities.

2003 James W. Gilliam was elected to the board of directors for the National Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Bar Association and the California Conference of Delegates, and chaired the Los Angeles County Bar Association’s delegation to the 2003 Conference of Delegates. Sau-Pei Lu was appointed the board of directors for the Executive Committee of the Regional Chamber of Commerce - San Gabriel Valley.

2004 Heather D. Mcgunigle, of the Disability Rights Legal Center’s Inland Southern California office, was hired as an associate at Los Angeles-based plaintiffs’ intellectual property law firm.

2009 John Lee was hired as an associate at the Los Angeles-based plaintiffs’ firm Forman Burnetti & Allen, LLP. Lee focuses on mass torts, catastrophic personal injury and labor and employment matters.

2009 Andrea A. Alarcon was appointed by Mayor Villaraigosa’s office to the Los Angeles Board of Public Works Commissioners, which oversees city services including school construction and street lighting. Laura M. Blau has joined the Los Angeles office of Knobbe Martens Olson & Bear, LLP, an intellectual property law firm.

JUDICIAL: Hon. William P. Clark, Jr., ’04, former associate justice on the California Supreme Court, served as grand marshal for the 2003 Ventura County Fair Parade. Hon. Henry W. Hall ’75 of La Crescenta, CA, was appointed by Gov. Schwarzenegger to the California Superior Court, Los Angeles County. Hon. Robert F. Perry ’72, trial judge for the California Superior Court, Los Angeles County, first served on his book, “A Lawyer’s Guide to the California Civil Code,” in October 2009.

MARRIAGES
Amy Baker ’08 married Matthew M. Fife on October 3, 2009, with classmate Alyssa Cariati ’08 serving as a bridesmaid.

BIRTHS
Miranda McCredie ’90 and husband Bill announce the arrival of daughter Addylynn Kay, born April 3, 2009. Kevin Rex ’98 and wife Carina are now parents to their second child, Maxie Roe, born July 29, 2009.

MERIT
Barbara Ullman Schwirin ’87 and husband Bill announce the arrival of daughter Alexandra Lechter, born May 16, 2009.

IN MEMORIAM
The Los Angeles Bar Association today, the Los Angeles County Bar Association, and the California Conference of Delegates announced that the Loyola Law School regretfully announced the passing of the following alumni. Please visit alumnillx.edu to read about their lives and contributions.

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to do anything that’s going to cost our students any more money or keep them out of the workforce any longer than necessary,” he said.

This year, the Law School welcomed two new practical-training programs, the Immigrants’ Rights Practicum and the Center for Restorative Justice, to provide students with an increased level of specialized training without additional cost. The Immigrants’ Rights Practicum, created by Associate Professor Kathleen C. Kim, partners with the National Immigration Law Center to educate students about the tenets of immigration law before sending them to various public-interest firms with solid immigration practices. This spring, the program’s first eight students will begin externships at some of the most prominent immigrants’ rights organizations in the nation, including the American Civil Liberties Union, Asian Pacific American Legal Center and the Esperanza Immigrants Rights Project.

“Loyola couldn’t be in a better position to take on a project like this,” said Kim. “We are literally in the geographic center of immigration rights work.” Kim expressed that the program meets the demands of a growing number of students who plan to devote their careers to immigration work. “What makes this program so wonderful is that these students really came to school for immigration rights,” said Kim. “A lot of our students come from immigrant families themselves, have their own stories of immigrant migration or grew up with their families’ stories.”

Professor Scott E. Wood formed the Center for Restorative Justice after attending a conference of California’s Jesuit institutions. The organization requested that all member institutions teach students about non-retributive approaches to crime and punishment—concepts such as fair-sentencing laws, prison healing circles and victim restitution. The program begins with a seminar exploring the principles of non-punitive punishment to resolve conflict and repair emotional damage for both victims and perpetrators of crime.

Wood also provides students the opportunity to work on several restorative projects, such as the Fair Sentencing for Youth Project, a non-profit dedicated to changing mandatory sentencing laws for men and women who are serving life sentences for crimes committed in their youth. His plans ultimately call for a victims’ rights clinic on campus that will have students provide services for crime victims and their families, such as helping them track cases as they move through the legal system. “My goal is to have every Loyola student complete restorative justice training,” Wood said. “I know this is a program that will stick with students whether they decide to go into criminal law or not. The focus of any case they will ever have is about broken relationships and the need to repair them.”

Loyola also has plans for another ambitious advocacy project. In fall 2010, Loyola will open the Alarcon Center, a capital habeas litigation program that will pair students with criminal defense attorneys working on appeals in death-row cases. Named in recognition of the Hon. Arthur L. Alarcon, senior circuit judge with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the center also aims to train new lawyers to work capital cases. “I think there will be a phenomenal interest among students and new lawyers. They are hungry to do something that matters in real life,” said Professor Laurie Levenson, who will oversee the Alarcon Center.

For Gold, the addition of the Alarcon Center will be another stepping stone paving the way toward his vision for the future. “My secret goal is for Loyola to be the number one school for advocacy in the country,” he said. “I guess it’s not a secret anymore.”

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Wishes you and your loved ones peace, health, happiness and prosperity in the New Year.