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Click! Connect! Community!

By Anthony Napolitano ’03

On behalf of Loyola Law School’s Alumni Office and Alumni Association Board of Governors, I am pleased to announce and welcome you to Loyola Connect, the new secure online community for the alumni of Loyola Law School. While at Loyola, we made many valuable friendships and shared in many wonderful experiences. Loyola Connect provides our alumni with a valuable tool to continue those relationships, foster new ones and share professional experiences.

ALUMNI NOTES
Loyola Connect allows alumni to share major milestones in their lives, such as weddings, promotions and birth announcements.

CLASS GIVING
For those alumni who wish to donate to the Law School, Loyola Connect will provide an easy to use tool for making such donations online.

Loyola Connect puts you in touch with your friends, fellow alumni and the Law School in a new, dynamic way. Our alumni have always wanted this type of resource, and Loyola Law School and the Board of Governors are very excited to provide you with Loyola Connect. Remember, Loyola Connect will only be as effective as we make it. Please take time to visit alumni.lls.edu to update your information on Loyola Connect. We look forward to seeing you online.

ACCESS LOYOLA CONNECT AT http://alumni.lls.edu

Loyola Connect is a joint effort funded by the Alumni Association Board of Governors and the Alumni Office. Executive Director of Advancement Carmen Ramirez says: “The Board of Governors worked very hard to provide a useful tool that connects alumni to Loyola Law’s greatest resources—its alumni. We could not have launched Loyola Connect without the tireless efforts, dedication, invaluable input and direction of the following board members: John Horn ’96, Donna Curtis ’95, Anthony Napolitano ’03, Aaron Kahn ’05, Shahrar Haghighi ’00, Hon. John Meigs ’78, David Daar ’56, Nerice Zavala ’99 and Barbara Schwerin ’87.”

Alumni Association Board of Governors’ New Leadership Aims to Boost Alumni Involvement

Barbara Ullman Schwerin ’87 is a standout in her long-time commitment to Loyola Law School. Her latest role is the new president of the Alumni Association Board of Governors.

After 10 years in private practice, Schwerin returned to the law school in 1997 and founded the Cancer Legal Resource Center (CLRC), a joint program of Loyola Law School and the Disability Rights Legal Center. The CLRC provides education and resources for cancer patients, their families, health care providers and others impacted by cancer. Schwerin also served as an adjunct professor, teaching a Cancer Rights Law Seminar.

Currently as Loyola Law School’s director of development, Schwerin is charged with securing funding for scholarships and other school programs. Fundraising has its challenges, especially in these tough economic times, but no one could be more up to the task, as Schwerin is industrious, dedicated, passionate and committed to Loyola Law. The school is a part of who she is, and Schwerin is determined to succeed.

As a part of her longstanding commitment to the school, Schwerin has served on the Board of Governors since 2002, and now it’s her new president. “I can’t think of a better way to give back to Loyola,” she said. Her priority is to strengthen and renew the ties between the Law School and its alumni.

The Board of Governors, under Schwerin’s leadership, is rolling out “Loyola Connect” (http://alumni.lls.edu) a new website created to benefit Loyola Law’s alumni. It will connect them to employment opportunities and also serve as a social networking site. “I’ve worked with a wonderful group of alumni who have been very dedicated to designing a user-friendly, workable website,” Schwerin said. “I hope that our fellow Loyola alumni will use this new website function to reconnect and re-engage!”

Schwerin has long participated in civic activities and served on the boards of many community organizations. But her founding of the Cancer Legal Resource Center, in particular, underscores her leadership and productive relationship with Loyola law.

“My history with Loyola Law School has been a wonderful partnership,” Schwerin said. “It began from my time as a student, then administrator, faculty member and volunteer. I am delighted to be able to give back to the school!”
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The Law Firm Challenge is a unique event designed to raise funds for the Law School while giving back to the community. Participating firms compete to raise the most funds through a variety of activities such as sponsored events, auctions, and other fundraising efforts.

The event is open to all law firms, including those that previously participated in the Challenge. Firms can participate individually or in teams to compete for prizes and recognition. The deadline for registration is January 31, 2009.

Visit alumni.lls.edu/events for more information and to register.
Installation of Victor J. Gold as the 16th Dean of Loyola Law School

(Excerpt from Victor Gold’s message at his installation as dean on January 30, 2009)

The Loyola ideal was born in 1920 at a time when Catholics and Jews typically were excluded from other law schools, when women and people of color were virtually unheard of in the legal profession. From its earliest days, Loyola opened its doors when others closed theirs. From the start, Loyola helped students who could not afford a legal education. This ideal of opportunity survived a great depression, when Loyola’s evening division gave working men and women the chance to pull themselves up out of poverty. The ideal thrived when Loyola gave opportunities to a generation that returned home from war, went back to school, and then used their legal education to transform America by helping to build the strongest economy the world had ever seen and fighting for legal rights that today are the bedrock of our democracy.

Throughout all these decades of achievement, the school has remained true to its ideal, never losing sight of the fact that what is most important at Loyola is to provide opportunity, teach the skills needed to seize that opportunity, model the values that give that opportunity meaning, and then live those values through service.

But after all these years, we cannot take anything for granted. The Loyola ideal now is in jeopardy. The legal job market is the worst in decades. Families who planned to finance their son’s or daughter’s education through home equity have seen that equity vanish. The cost of legal education continues to climb, while the ability to repay student loans hinges on the precarious job market. Our evening division grows smaller as the economy worsens and working men and women are forced to forgo dreams of a professional education. And as another generation of young Americans return home from war with dreams of going back to school, this time they come home to a GI bill that, shamefully, provides fewer educational opportunities than their grandparents received after WWII.

We face the greatest challenge to American legal education I have seen in my career.

I pledge to you that we will meet this challenge and the Loyola ideal will be preserved. But I need your help. To our alumni, when you are in your office, take a look at that Loyola degree on the wall. Think of the doors that it opened for you. Now help open doors for others. Work with me to create student scholarships. Hire our graduates. Help me to forge a network of Loyola alumni and friends that will make that degree grow in value through the next generation. I am the most fortunate of men. I work with people I love and respect. In my 24 years at Loyola, I have been privileged to take part in building something that I believe in. I accept the responsibility of dean of Loyola Law School as I would accept the responsibility of caring for a member of my own family. Most of all, I am grateful for all who have, in our long history, worked to make Loyola what it is today, one of the finest law schools in the nation.

I look forward to serving as dean and working with you in keeping the Loyola ideal alive.
Laurie L. Levenson named first chair holder of the David W. Burcham Chair in Ethical Advocacy.

Award for Superior Performance. Additionally, she received commendations from the FBI, IRS, US Postal Service and DEA.

Professor Levenson attended UCLA School of Law, where she was the chief article editor of the law review; she received her undergraduate degree from Stanford University. After graduating law school, she clerked for the Honorable James Hunter III of the US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. She is married to Douglas Mirell, a partner at the law firm of Loeb & Loeb LLP. They have three great kids: Solly and Havi, who attend Stanford University, and Daniela, who rules the fourth grade at Sinai Akiba Academy.

Laurie L. Levenson is a professor and William M. Rains Fellow at Loyola Law School, where she has taught criminal law, criminal procedure, ethics, trial advocacy and evidence since 1989. Professor Levenson served as associate dean for academic affairs from 1996-1999. She is currently director of the Loyola Center for Ethical Advocacy. In 2003, Professor Levenson received Professor of the Year awards from both Loyola Law School and the Federal Judicial Center.


Professor Levenson served as volunteer counsel for the “Webster Commission” and is a special master for the LA Superior Court and US District Court. She has been a member of the LA County Bar Association’s Judicial Appointments and Judiciary Committees. She also served on a special commission that investigated the LA Police Department’s Rampart scandal.

A frequent legal commentator, Professor Levenson has been quoted in more than 10,000 newspaper articles. She has served as an expert legal consultant for CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN and NPR. One of her favorite quotes is, “I love the law and I love Loyola Law School.”

Prior to joining the Loyola Law faculty, Professor Levenson worked for eight years as an assistant US attorney in LA. She served as chief of the Training Section and chief of the Criminal Appellate Section. In 1988, she received the attorney general’s Director’s Award for Superior Performance. Additionally, she received commendations from the FBI, IRS, US Postal Service and DEA.

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