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LOYOLA LAWYER
LAW SCHOOL | LOS ANGELES

ALUMNI, STUDENT, FACULTY & CAMPUS UPDATES 2011

NEW CENTERS LAUNCHED
• ADVOCACY INSTITUTE P.4
• ALARCON ADVOCACY CENTER P.8
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Building for a New Era in Legal Education
We are going to shove it up your #@$*&!! and you are going to like it and I'll @*#$!! any Republican I can.

ALL ABOUT REDISTRICTING
Professor Justin Levitt’s guide to drawing the electoral lines

See the All About Redistricting website at http://redistricting.lls.edu
A Note from the Dean

By Victor J. Gold
Fritz B. Burns Dean

Recent articles in the New York Times called on law schools to give students practical training and more exposure to public interest work. While Loyola has been doing both for the better part of its 92 years, in 2011 we dramatically increased our efforts. During the fall semester, Loyola opened two new centers devoted to public advocacy that will give students hands-on experience.

In August, we opened the Loyola Public Interest Law Center, located at 800 S. Figueroa Street in the heart of downtown. The new offices house three clinics: The Center for Conflict Resolution, the Disability Rights Legal Center and our Cancer Legal Resource Center. This new facility, just blocks from the courts and the city’s major law firms, gives Loyola students additional opportunities for practical skills training and public interest work.

In August, we opened the Loyola Public Interest Law Center, located at 800 S. Figueroa Street in the heart of downtown. The new offices house three clinics: The Center for Conflict Resolution, the Disability Rights Legal Center and our Cancer Legal Resource Center. This new facility, just blocks from the courts and the city’s major law firms, gives Loyola students additional opportunities for practical skills training and public interest work.

Just a month later, Justice Anthony Kennedy dedicated Loyola’s new Alarcón Advocacy Center, named for the Hon. Arthur L. Alarcón. The center contains two clinics engaged in criminal law defense, the Capital Habeas Litigation Clinic and the Project for the Innocent. (A third clinic is in the works.) In October, Project for the Innocent students made national headlines for their work securing the release of a man who served 17 years in prison for a murder he did not commit.

The Alarcón Advocacy Center is part of the recently created Loyola Advocacy Institute, which is led by an alumni advisory board of top trial lawyers and judges.

In the spring of 2011, the faculty engaged in a radical reorganization of the curriculum around Concentration Programs for 10 major practice fields: Civil Litigation (Immigrant Advocacy Sub-Concentration), Criminal Justice, Corporate Law, Public Interest, Tax, International Law, Entertainment/Media Law (Sports Law Sub-Concentration), and Environmental Law. A Concentration in Intellectual Property will be added soon. Each Concentration emphasizes practical, real-world learning experiences and provides networking opportunities to help students deal with a challenging job market. The faculty also changed the first-year curriculum to permit students to take an elective course that corresponds to a Concentration.

Loyola has also bolstered its academic support initiatives to ensure that students excel inside the classroom and pass the bar exam. Our new Academic Success & Bar Programs are aimed at improving on our already excellent first-time pass rate (84 percent on the July 2011 exam, 84 percent on the July 2010 exam and 85 percent on the July 2009 exam).

Loyola continues to advance in many other ways. Our rankings by U.S. News improved again, putting us at No. 51 out of 195 accredited law schools. In addition, U.S. News now ranks Loyola seventh in the nation for trial advocacy and 10th for tax law. And we reconfigured our physical space to allow for greater opportunities for advocacy training. We created three new classrooms on the fourth floor of the Casassa Building for use in courses like the new Civil Litigation Skills Practicum. We also added a new 24-hour study space to the first floor of the library.

In 2012, Loyola will begin a Master of Laws (LLM) degree program for foreign lawyers. The program is aimed at meeting a need created by globalization — in order to advance professionally in their own countries, lawyers from around the world increasingly seek a U.S. law school credential. Because we are located in a city with both enormous business and cultural connections to nations throughout the Pacific Rim and beyond, Loyola is perfectly situated to attract lawyers from around the world to our Los Angeles campus. And because many of our JD students have strong family ties in other countries and a desire to establish professional connections abroad, the new program will provide reciprocal networking and mentorship opportunities for both JD and LLM students.

All of these enhanced offerings would not be possible without the participation of our alumni. Loyola alumni play a pivotal role in the Law School’s growth. I want to thank each of you for your advice, mentoring and financial support. As we navigate a new era in legal education, our alumni are a valuable resource. We hope that our curricular innovations and the development of our national profile benefit you by adding value to your degree. I look forward to continuing on this path of growth with your help.

By Victor J. Gold
Fritz B. Burns Dean

Dean Gold is pictured in one of the Law School’s new state of the art Trial Advocacy Classrooms in the Casassa Building. These rooms host skills-based courses such as the Civil Litigation Skills Practicum.
Curriculum Advancement:
Preparing Students to Practice in the Ever-Changing Legal Environment

Concentrations Beyond the Classroom

The Law School’s new Concentrations combine rigorous intellectual training with cutting-edge clinical and experiential learning components, which are supplemented by significant alumni mentoring. Students enrolled in a Concentration will participate in at least one semester-long live-client experience or simulation (externship, Semester-in-Practice, etc.). This innovative curriculum signals to employers that Loyola students will provide immediate value because they can perform effectively as soon as they enter the profession.

Concentrations:
- Civil Litigation and Advocacy
  - Sub-Concentration: Immigrant Advocacy
- Corporate Law
- Criminal Justice
- Entertainment/Media Law
  - Sub-Concentration: Sports Law
- Environmental Law
- International and Comparative Law
- Public Interest Law
- Tax Law

www.lls.edu/academics/concentrations
For more than 90 years, Loyola Law School students have learned about the law by putting it into practice. The Law School’s tradition of providing lawyers with practical skills, readying them to pull up their sleeves and work in the trenches, continues today with a dynamic curriculum that is structured to provide students with cutting-edge instruction and real-world simulation in the classroom. The 2010-11 academic year was an active and innovative one for the Loyola faculty. We adopted numerous measures that will enhance the academic experience of students and better prepare them to practice in the ever-changing legal environment.

The 2010-11 academic year was an active and innovative one for the Loyola faculty.

We have always been focused on preparing students to hit the ground running, and with the changes made to the curriculum, students will have an even greater opportunity to learn the practical skills needed to be a lawyer. The curriculum modifications that began in fall 2011 reshaped the current semester schedule from 14 to 13 weeks, decreasing conflicts between programs and providing us the opportunity to offer short courses during winter break. The required number of Constitutional Law units was reduced from seven to four, giving students more flexibility to pursue their interests while continuing to ensure that essential bar material is covered.

In addition to refining current offerings, we have added new courses like the Civil Litigation Skills Practicum. In the fall semester, it featured guest speakers like the Hon. Frederick J. Lower ’64, former dean and Loyola’s first Judge-in-Residence, who conducted a mock case-management conference and held hearings on discovery motions with students. All of these measures reflect our commitment to creating a rich, stimulating academic experience for our students and a curriculum that prepares them for practice in the 21st century.

Through it all, Loyola students have continued to make major contributions to the community, gaining vital experience while giving back. Last year, we placed 253 students in judicial chambers, government agencies and public-interest law firms. Those students collectively provided almost 57,000 hours of legal services. And we were on track to top that during the 2011-2012 academic year. Moreover, Law School students gave about 2,400 hours of their time to helping indigent and other clients through Loyola’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

We are also excited for the launch of new innovative subject-matter Concentrations that will allow students to delve deeply into a subject area and provide them with a related experiential component and opportunities for alumni mentoring, enhancing their command of the subject and better preparing them for practice. Prior to graduation, students enrolled in a Concentration will participate in at least one semester-long simulation or live-client experience. This signals to employers that Loyola students will provide immediate value as they can perform effectively as soon as they enter the legal profession. These Concentrations reflect our commitment to providing a curriculum in which legal theory and doctrine intersect with practice.

Beyond changes to the curriculum for current students, the faculty created a new LLM program directed toward foreign lawyers, with an anticipated entering class in the 2012-13 academic year. We are excited about having students from around the world in our classrooms and on campus and pursuing our mission of increasing access to the study of law.
Dean Victor Gold refused to let the worst economy in generations stop him from advancing the scope of a Loyola Law School education. Gold recognized that to best prepare students for a very difficult legal market, he could call upon the school’s greatest strength: turning students into real lawyers.

Many of the top trial lawyers in the nation are Loyola Law School alumni. More than 200 Loyola grads currently preside as trial court judges in Southern California — more than from any other law school. Student advocacy teams regularly win regional, national and even international awards. The broad advocacy curriculum is taught by professors at the forefront of the field, while campus facilities, including courtrooms, are outfitted with the most modern instructional technology available.

However, Gold knew the school could not rest on its laurels. He pushed forward to form Loyola’s Advocacy Institute.

What is the Advocacy Institute?
The Advocacy Institute was established to create the best advocacy program in the nation by enhancing the Law School’s emphasis on real-world experience and practical skills training, which students can use immediately upon graduation. The Advocacy Institute includes:

- Concentration programs in Civil Litigation and Criminal Justice
- Advanced courses during and between every academic semester
- Enhanced clinical opportunities, including a Semester-in-Practice
- Mentoring and networking opportunities with leading trial lawyers
- Participation in advocacy competitions in the U.S. and around the world
- An enormous array of programs serving students and the community

What are the New Advocacy Concentrations?
The Law School has instituted subject-matter Concentrations for the first time in the history of our curriculum, with separate tracks for Civil Litigation and Criminal Justice. Students will earn recognition on their law school records for completing intensive classroom and clinical training in either track. Loyola’s new Concentrations combine rigorous intellectual training with cutting-edge clinical and experiential learning components that are supplemented by significant alumni mentoring. This combination of focused course work and hands-on skills training better prepares students to enter the legal profession. Students who receive grades of A- or higher in the advocacy curriculum Concentration will receive an honors recognition.

The New Civil Litigation Skills Practicum
The Civil Litigation Skills Practicum is a yearlong, six-credit course that teaches litigation tactics used to prosecute and defend a case from the pleading stage through settlement. However, the course is not merely a study of statutes and legal theories. The rules will be studied in the context of a simulated dispute. Students will have the opportunity to draft pleadings and write discovery motions and settlement agreements, individually and in a “law firm” setting. The course is designed to fit into the Civil Litigation and Advocacy Concentration as well as the Certificate Program, but it is recommended for any student intending to pursue a career in civil litigation.

As part of the practicum, students will receive training directly from leading trial lawyers and judges who promote the highest
standards of ethics, believe passionately in justice, and devote themselves to the service of others.

Nationally renowned trial attorney Larry Feldman '69 is our first Practitioner-in-Residence. He is available on campus as a mentor to students enrolled in the advocacy focused Concentrations. Feldman is impressed with the quality of scholarship he witnessed as a guest lecturer in the Civil Litigation Practicum. "I have absolutely enjoyed every minute of interacting with the most amazing, enthusiastic students. I look forward to the next classroom experience," Feldman said.

The Hon. Frederick J. Lower '64 (Ret.), former Law School dean, is our first Judge-in-Residence. He has spoken to Professor Cindy Archer's Civil Litigation Skills Practicum class, which is held in one of the new advocacy-training classrooms. Judge Lower, who served on the California Superior Court, Los Angeles County, provided insider tips on courtroom procedure, ethics and other matters. Lower appreciated the level of engagement from his students. “There is an intense student interest in a judge’s perspective on effective civil case management, aka ‘fast track’. During wide-ranging question-and-answer sessions, I discovered an equal interest in a judge’s view of building and retaining a lawyer’s reputation for honesty, preparedness and professionalism. These students are serious.”

**The New Semester-in-Practice Externship**
Modeled on the American Board of Trial Advocates’ Fellows program, this externship has been developed as a capstone experience for those intending to practice in the civil litigation context. Students are placed in top Los Angeles trial practice firms. The benefits are multifold, but highlights include: an assigned mentor in the firm, deposition attendance, client meetings and court appearances. In its inaugural semester, 19 students were placed at 17 firms. Demand for this innovative externship is expected to grow based on positive feedback from students like Rachel Gradstein ’12.

“The Semester-in-Practice externship provides an excellent bridge between the academic and professional settings. It gives law students the confidence to succeed but also makes them more marketable to employers who may not appreciate the learning curve.”

**Who are our Supporters?**
The Advocacy Institute has resonated with our alumni and friends alike. Their concrete ideas and financial support have been extensive and allowed us to implement and expand the offerings of the Advocacy Institute in a very short period of time. We look forward to expanding the Institute’s Founders, Advisory Board, Founding Fellows, Judicial Advisory Board and Judicial Fellows.

**Our Focus**
Loyola Law School has earned its reputation by providing students not only a thorough examination of law theory, but also the opportunity to test those theories in the real world. The Advocacy Institute will allow faculty, administrators and students to continue to achieve these goals in the most advanced, efficient way possible, while also adhering to the school’s mission. In so doing, Loyola Law School is quite literally breaking new ground, and defining law school education in the 21st century.
Welcome to the bloodsport that is redistricting. The words above were offered, on the record, by a legislative committee chair to his colleague. They were a small slice of a process that a federal judge described in 2001 as “so far short of representing the electorate that it seems the citizens . . . were not so much as an afterthought.” The venue was Madison County, IL, but both the sentiment of the insiders and the external appraisal could well describe the redistricting process in thousands of jurisdictions across the country. The only significant variations are the parties — and profanities — of choice.

California, however, may well have found a way out.
Redistricting is the decennial act of redrawing political districts to determine which voters elect which representatives. District lines used to be relatively static. But given American mobility patterns and birth rates, that meant that districts grew at wildly different rates. By the 1960s, for example, the state senator from Los Angeles County represented 422 times as many people as the senator from California’s smallest district.

Then, in a landmark series of cases, the Supreme Court ruled that equitable representation requires districts with roughly equal populations. And so, after each national census tells us how many people live where, districts are redrawn to ensure that each has roughly the same number of occupants.

This decennial redistricting process is underway right now for federal, state and local districts across the country. At press time, final maps for California’s federal and state districts had overcome the first of several threatened challenges; controversial districts for Los Angeles County had been released, with substantial disclaimers about their likely legality; and the Los Angeles City Council’s redistricting process was just getting underway. Loyola alumni or faculty have been intimately involved with each of these efforts.

The timing, process and rules of the road differ, jurisdiction by jurisdiction. (Loyola Law School hosts the country’s most up-to-date and user-friendly guide to the entire enterprise, with extensive state-by-state information about how it all works. See the All About Redistricting website at http://redistricting.lls.edu.)

But one common thread ties most of these processes together: In most of the country, redistricting is a legislative act. This means that the legislators who are elected from districts are generally in charge of deciding what those districts look like. And that means trouble.

More than anything else — more than any single policy issue, more than campaign finance laws or rules about the election mechanics — the composition of a district drives whether a candidate is more likely to win or more likely to lose an election. Candidates can, and do, adjust to the rest. But if a district is made up of the sort of people who are naturally likely to vote for you, that paves the way for a far smoother election. Put differently: For those in office, the composition of the district is probably the single biggest factor in determining whether or not they keep their job.

In this context, it’s not particularly surprising when legislators with the opportunity to redraw their own districts’ lines end up conflating personal and partisan interest with public interest. Districts are often drawn to reward legislative allies and punish opponents and challengers, rather than to reflect shared public concerns.

California used to work this way, too. In 2000, 30 of California’s 32 Democratic members of Congress each gave the party’s redistricting consultant $20,000 in order to custom-design their individual districts. As one representative explained: “Twenty thousand is nothing to keep your seat. I spend $2 million [campaigning] every year. If my colleagues are smart, they’ll pay their $20,000, and [the consultant] will draw the district they can win in. Those who have refused to pay? God help them.” “God help them” is an intriguing shorthand for: “Their jobs will depend on how they respond to their voters.”

In 2008, and again in 2010, California voted for a new approach. A public initiative gave control of the state and federal redistricting process to an independent commission: five Republicans, five Democrats and four not registered with either major party, all carefully (some say overly) screened to ensure that none is beholden to any sitting legislator. On August 15, 2011 — after eight months of work, 34 public hearings, more than 2,700 live speakers and close to 20,000 written comments — the commission released district maps for Congress, the state legislature and the Board of Equalization.

The job’s not done just yet. Redistricting is a complex exercise, and given California’s size and diversity, it may be the most complex state in the country to redistrict. Ensuring that districts are equally populated is the relatively easy portion. Districts must also comply with the nuanced requirements of the Voting Rights Act, justly deemed one of the country’s most important pieces of civil rights legislation. Districts must reflect the integrity of counties and cities and neighborhoods and local communities. And where possible, districts must be relatively compact, reflecting the demographic spread or clustering of the population. These criteria are sometimes mutually reinforcing, but they are also sometimes mutually exclusive.

This complexity is a breeding ground for a lawsuit. Death and taxes may be certain, but redistricting litigation is close behind: In the last cycle, 37 out of the 50 states saw litigation. As this piece went to press, in this redistricting cycle, 36 states had finished drawing either state or federal lines or both. At the same time, 140 lawsuits had already been filed. (That’s not a typo.)

So the jury is still out on the final maps produced by California’s new statewide commission. Still, initial feedback is largely, though not exclusively, favorable. And though there is no silver-bullet solution that can — or should — be replicated without considering local context, the basic model has attracted immense attention, including right here at home.

Los Angeles County, for example, is one of the many jurisdictions that allow incumbent officials to redraw their own districts’ boundaries. In 1990, in litigation prompted by that process, then-Judge Alex Kozinski of the Ninth Circuit wrote, “When the dust has settled and local passions have cooled, this case will be remembered for its lucid demonstration that elected officials engaged in the single-minded pursuit of incumbency can run roughshod over the rights of protected minorities.” I have testified publicly about my concerns that the same may have happened once again.

It’s not something that Angelenos are accustomed to hearing. But in deciding how political districts are drawn, the statewide process in Sacramento may now represent a cutting-edge model for the whole country to consider. 

See the All About Redistricting website at http://redistricting.lls.edu
Who needs my help today?” As U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy noted during his keynote speech at the Sept. 28 dedication of the Arthur L. Alarcón Advocacy Center, that is the question that Judge Arthur L. Alarcón encourages law students to ask. The dedication, which featured speeches by Dean Victor Gold, Professor Laurie Levenson, LMU President David W. Burcham ’84 and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa, served as the official launch of a new center that is designed to help students answer that question by providing opportunities for public advocacy.

The center’s offerings include the Capital Habeas Litigation Clinic, in which Loyola students work alongside attorneys and investigators at the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Central District of California. It also includes the Project for the Innocent, in which Loyola students pursue the claims of petitioners who allege that they are factually innocent. In October, students working on the Project for the Innocent secured the release of their first client, Obie Anthony, who served 17 years in prison for a murder he did not commit. In development are an immigration clinic and a pro se Ninth Circuit appellate clinic that will help defendants represent themselves in appeals. The center will expand its scope by opening a continuing-education initiative for lawyers from around the country to burnish their advocacy skills. Furthermore, the center will work to shed light on civil rights violations of prisoners in the California penal system.
Not many law students have the opportunity to interview prisoners on death row in California’s San Quentin State Prison or assess crime scenes as part of a legal defense team, but that is all in a day’s work for the Loyola students involved with capital habeas petitions as part of the Capital Habeas Litigation Clinic. The students work on individual cases with a supervising attorney, paralegals, investigators and clerks.

“These are record-based claims that are developed in state court, and now we’re going to present them in federal court. They might need updated law, some clarification, or maybe things have changed,” said Gail Ivens, adjunct professor and the deputy federal public defender who heads the clinic. Ivens believes that this type of practical experience offers students a vital big-picture perspective. “They get a real sensitivity to what it means to represent the unrepresented, the people who 100 percent must rely on you.”

That practical experience includes more than just legal research. “We go out and do field work, and we have team meetings once a week,” explained Bryan Mack ’12. Students also participated in field and juror interviews and listened to oral arguments in cases that helped their cause. As Ivens tells it, students are encouraged to hit the ground running. “We really do throw the students in. They are getting the real experience,” she said.

The stakes in capital cases could not be higher, but for those interested in public service, that’s exactly why they are here. “This is someone’s life you’re dealing with. It’s really scary at first, but you get used to it,” said Andrew Dinh ’12.

Brittney Cunningham '12 said she did not know what to expect before travelling to San Quentin, which houses California’s male death-row prisoner population, to meet one of the Federal Public Defender’s clients. However, her client visit proved to be a true learning experience. “He couldn’t have been nicer. When we said goodbye, he told me, ‘Talk more next time!’” Cunningham continued, “I’m not entirely sure he did what he was convicted of. What worries me is that someone’s going to be put to death when no one will really know.”

Public interest work is at the core of the Alarcón Advocacy Center’s mission. Alarcón, a justice on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, served as an adjunct professor at Loyola from 1993-94 and has long-standing ties to the Law School. Judge Alarcón thought that “Loyola would be the right place to house an advocacy center that would train attorneys to practice in areas where they are most needed,” said Adjunct Professor Paula Mitchell ’02, who clerks for the judge. “He considered Loyola’s long-standing commitment to public-interest law and the high caliber of Loyola Law School students he has worked with in recent years.”

Levenson, David W. Burcham Professor of Law in Ethical Advocacy, said of Alarcón, “He is a legend of the legal community and has been so instrumental nationwide. We’re really fortunate to have his name on the center.” Thanks to a successful fundraising campaign initiated with seed donations from Alarcón’s law clerks and externs, the center will give students more opportunities to fight for justice in practical ways while developing real-world skills.
Roman Silberfeld ’74

Not many people can say they always knew what type of career they wanted to pursue. But it’s easy to see after talking to Roman Silberfeld that he had a passion for the law from a young age, and that passion was focused on litigation. And litigation is exactly where Silberfeld has excelled.

Silberfeld’s multifaceted career includes cases spanning several industries: business and technology, healthcare, entertainment and media, and life-sciences intellectual property, just to name a few. And as a leader in his field, Silberfeld said, “My preparation began at Loyola, my top choice when looking at law schools, because I was determined to be a trial lawyer focused on torts, and Loyola had the best reputation for training top trial lawyers.”

As a student, Silberfeld was motivated to work hard and take on the challenges of law school and working in the legal field prior to graduation. He credits his classmates for supporting and challenging each other to do their best. “I know so many successful people who were my classmates, and each of them had an amazing work ethic that really inspired each of us to keep pushing through.” Silberfeld stayed busy during law school as a member of the staff of the Loyola of Los Angeles Law Review and worked at a law office during his second and third years. Silberfeld found this on-the-job experience critical to his success in the early years of his career. He also credits professors like Bob Sulnick, who was Silberfeld’s Torts professor, for providing a solid, practical education and the guidance he needed to be ready for the real world.

Early in his career, Silberfeld was able to fulfill his passion of taking on challenging lawsuits. He worked successfully on behalf of the plaintiffs on several mass tort asbestos cases, carrying on this work from 1976 through 1992. During the same period, Silberfeld was also a lead counsel in several suits involving Diethylstilbestrol (DES), a drug given to pregnant women that was later found to cause significant adverse medical complications to women and their children, leading to litigation in both California and New York. In 1995, Silberfeld once again took on a new leadership role, opening the Los Angeles office of Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi, L.L.P. And his leadership didn’t stop there.

Silberfeld was part of the Robins, Kaplan team that challenged the tobacco industry. They were the first firm in history to take on the industry independently, instead of through a joint suit with other plaintiffs’ firms. Their hard work produced a $7 billion settlement and paved the way for other firms to take on this bold approach. This was an exciting win for Silberfeld. It fueled his passion to look for tough cases that spanned industries he was yet to touch. Following the settlement, Silberfeld switched gears toward cases in the entertainment industry, which led him to representing the production company Celador International in Celador International, Ltd. v. The Walt Disney Company, a groundbreaking case focused on profit sharing and Disney’s responsibility to deal fairly and in good faith with Celador. This case truly exposed the longtime practice of “Hollywood accounting” and illustrated that when cases like this go to trial, it is unlikely for a jury to believe that popular, long-running television shows do not generate a profit.

But lawsuits aren’t Silberfeld’s only passion. He has always felt that public service is important for everyone in the community. “At Loyola, I felt the school really instilled the importance of public service in all of us as students, and I took that spirit with me into my career.” As managing partner of the Los Angeles office for Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi, L.L.P., Silberfeld has made it a priority to create a culture of volunteerism, and the firm has the numbers to back this up: The firm is among the “Top 10 Law Firms” in The American Lawyer’s 2011 Pro Bono Survey. Silberfeld walks the walk through his many volunteer activities, including serving on the advisory board for Loyola’s newly launched Advocacy Institute. He was excited to get involved with the Advocacy Institute because he recognizes that while cases are different in each of the many industries with which he has worked, no matter what the case, trial skills are needed. “It’s really tough for new grads to excel and distinguish themselves, and the Advocacy Institute helps them to do just that,” he said. Silberfeld enjoys serving on the board and finds it a great way to reciprocate for all that has been given to him and to fulfill the responsibility of preparing Loyola students for the legal profession.
Carol Codrington ’84

The Hon. Carol D. Codrington envisioned herself on the bench long before she became the first African-American justice on the Fourth District Court of Appeal, District Two in Riverside, CA and the only African-American female justice in California. As a sixth-grade student on a field trip to the California Superior Court, Los Angeles County, Codrington was drawn to the bench. “I walked into the courtroom, and everyone stood up for the judge in the black robe. I said, ‘That’s the job for me!’”

As it turns out, she was right — and for reasons well beyond the courtroom formalities. She has thrived on the bench, receiving a myriad of accolades and several elevations during her career. She credits her litigation experience on both sides of the aisle with preparing her to preside over trials. “I started out doing plaintiffs’ work and liability cases, then plaintiffs’ class actions, then representing municipalities in claims. I’ve always gone back and forth,” she said. “It makes for a very well-balanced lawyer. It’s important that you have a breadth of experience. As a jurist, it helps to be familiar with a variety of disciplines.”

Long a champion of the underdog, Codrington has spent much of her career helping children and people with disabilities. She serves as a judge in Riverside County Youth Court, in which real juvenile defendants participate in trials that feature youth attorneys and jurors. Parents attend, and the youth jurors mete out real sentences, such as visiting a jail or writing an essay. “It gives them an opportunity to see what the criminal justice system is like, and hopefully it scares them straight,” she said.

Witnessing first-hand the challenges experienced by two brothers who required wheelchairs, Codrington has fought for disability rights. She taught Disability Law as an adjunct professor at Loyola, and she served as the director of litigation at what is now the Disability Rights Legal Center. Codrington is particularly proud of her work advocating for freeway call-box accessibility for people with hearing impairments, as well as eliminating caps on insurance coverage for people with AIDS. However, there was an adjustment period. “It was weird coming back as an alumna and going into the faculty lounge, and people calling me Professor Codrington!”

Protecting the rights of those who are underrepresented has been a cornerstone of Codrington’s career. She specialized in civil rights, serious personal injury and other litigation as an associate and then partner at the law firm of Mallory, Brown-Curtis & Mallory. She handled complex civil rights and employment litigation as a member of the Office of the L.A. City Attorney. While there, she led continuing legal education classes on disability law. She also advised the L.A. Police Department on compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. She took that passion for helping the underserved to the L.A. Unified School District, where she was associate general counsel and led the special education team. She later founded the Law Offices of Carol D. Codrington, where she represented public and private clients in a variety of practice areas.

Elected as a court commissioner in Riverside County in 2006, Codrington began her time on the bench as a judicial officer presiding over a range of cases that included limited civil, traffic violations and unlawful detainers. Later, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger elevated her to a judgeship in Murrieta, CA. As a judge on the California Superior Court, Riverside County, she handled a “vertical felony calendar” department that included everything from arraignments to preliminary hearings and motions to sentencing. She also presided over drug court and family court, where she implemented the first domestic-violence court in the region.

Codrington credits her penchant for community service to Loyola Law School. “Loyola instilled in me the importance of community service, giving back and paying it forward,” she said. Her laundry list of volunteer activities is proof. Codrington annually helps disabled and repeat exam takers prepare for the bar exam, and she has volunteered in several free legal clinics. She also served as a judge pro tem on the California Superior Court for many years while practicing in Los Angeles County.

Codrington worked three jobs while attending classes in Loyola Law School’s Evening Program, but that did not stop her from forming lasting connections. She remains connected to Loyola, counting among her friends David W. Burcham ’84, LMU president and a former section classmate. And Loyola students and alumni maintain a presence in her courthouse; one of her two highly respected research attorneys is a Loyola alumna.

Throughout her career, Codrington has remained committed to diversity in the bar and on the bench. As a student, she was president of the Black Law Students Association, from which she received a Distinguished Alumni Award. As a practitioner and jurist, she has volunteered with the Black Women Lawyers’ Association, of which she was president, and the John M. Langston Bar Association, which named her Judge of the Year. She has also volunteered with the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles and the California Women Lawyers, among others. The California Association of Black Attorneys presented her with its Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Legal Community.

Increasing diversity on the bench is a priority for Codrington, who would like to continue to build on the progress already made. “We should really work hard to continue to identify well-qualified minority, women and disabled candidates and encourage them to pursue judicial appointments. Diversity only serves to enrich our judicial perspective. Our state courts serve a broad range of constituencies and an increasingly diverse public. A diverse judiciary increases the public trust in the concept of ‘justice for all.”

“Loyola instilled in me the importance of community service, giving back and paying it forward.”
In 2009, Lt. Cmdr. Col. Russell Todd Zink ’00 left his job as an L.A. County deputy district attorney to become the commander of the 1st Battalion, 23rd (Marines), Afghanistan, otherwise known as the “Lone Star Battalion,” which consists of approximately 1,000 Marines from Texas and Louisiana. Their mission includes humanitarian efforts, emergency response, low-intensity conflict, counter-insurgency, security operations and conventional warfare.

1| **How has your experience as a district attorney helped you as a battalion commander?**

In Afghanistan, there are competing tribes, power brokers, underlying corruption, warlords, Taliban sympathizers, competing entities within the Marine Corps and an enemy that counters our every move. So you have to navigate to find a solution to important problems like security, governance, rule of law and essential services. It is akin to the skills required as a district attorney handling a complex trial with varying and often competing interests of the judge, jury, witnesses and, of course, the defense counsel, who is also attempting to counter your every move.

2| **What is your leadership philosophy?**

Leadership is the art of persuasion. Civilians think we just order soldiers around at our beck and call, but this misses the essence of leadership. To lead well, the Marines must know their leader cares for their well-being. When decisions are made, people can get behind a decision they do not fully agree with, as long as they understand why it was made. Through understanding, people come to accept it and eventually embrace it as their own.

3| **What is the most challenging aspect of your job?**

It does not come from securing a region that has only known war for the last 30 years, or dealing with a determined insurgency in the Taliban. It comes from within the Marine Corps itself. As the only reserve unit in the country, we are stereotyped as less than capable, and we have to work twice as hard to earn the active-duty component’s respect. Despite these internal challenges, the Marines continue forward while keeping a positive attitude and a high level of determination that ensures success. The battalion does not let this distract from their focus and the simple satisfaction of being able to contribute.

Leigh A. Kirmssé ’92 recently joined The Farrise Law Firm after working as a partner at Kazan, McClain in Walnut Creek, CA. She is a seasoned trial lawyer, with her latest verdict coming in Gordon and Emily Bankhead v. Allied Packing & Steel, where the jury returned a verdict of $3.9 million in compensatory damages and $13.5 million in punitive damages in favor of her clients. Kirmssé served her country as a signal-security specialist, Intelligence and Security Command (formerly the National Security Agency), in the U.S. Army.

1| **What inspired you to become a lawyer?**

I was serving as an elected member of the student government at San Jose State when the athletic board canceled the school’s wrestling, track and field, women’s field hockey and cross-country programs. Neither the student government nor any of the athletes involved had any idea that such a decision was coming, nor that a meeting was going to be held to vote. The cancellation of women’s field hockey, which was the largest women’s sports program at the time, seriously impacted the ratio of men’s and women’s sports. The track
and field program, whose alumni included Olympic medalists and social activists Lee Evans, John Carlos and Tommie Smith, was a long-standing and legendary program. What bothered me the most, though, was the impact on the lives of these students and the lack of notice to either them or the student government. After a long debate, the student government retained counsel and, along with the individual students, sued the university for violations of the Brown Act and other civil rights statutes. We didn’t win, but we stuck up for what we felt was right. It was during that process that I decided to go to law school.

2 | How did your military experience affect your law school and professional careers?

My military experience affected my life in very positive ways. I grew up in an apartment in southern New Jersey and attended college on the Veterans Bill of Rights. Absent my military experience, I doubt I would have had the means to attend college. The military taught me the value of hard work, and that if I can run five miles with a heavy rucksack and a gas mask, everything else is easy.

3 | How did Loyola affect your perspective on advocacy?

Loyola taught me that ferocious, ethical advocacy is the duty of every good trial lawyer. I have a very vivid memory of arguing with Professor Bill Hobbs about his 15-minute limit on cross-examination of a witness in his Trial Advocacy class. “I can’t do it in 15 minutes,” I told him. “I can’t; there is too much to go over.” But stick with it he did, and I learned an important trial lesson I use today: If you can’t do it in 15 minutes, you haven’t decided what is important and not important about your case. When I first outline a case, I force myself to keep it short. It forces me to focus on the themes of both sides and what is important. I still don’t usually make it in 15 minutes. Sorry, Professor Hobbs.

Joseph Manahan ’02 is currently enjoying a “civilian” career working as an attorney-advisor for the Department of Homeland Security while also serving in the Air Force Reserve at Vandenberg Air Force Base near Santa Barbara, CA. Previously, Manahan was on active duty in the Air Force Corps for seven years while working as a Judge Advocate General (JAG) attorney, an area-defense counsel and a litigation attorney.

1 | What were your responsibilities as a JAG attorney?

In my first two years in the JAG Corps, while stationed at the base legal office at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, I served as a criminal prosecutor in court-martial trials. I prosecuted airmen who committed offenses ranging from AWOL and drug use to online enticement of minors and rape. I also provided legal assistance to airmen, their spouses and retirees. This included drafting wills and helping clients with family law and consumer issues. In addition, I was responsible for advising commanders on disciplinary matters within their units and ensuring deploying members were briefed on the laws of armed conflict.

2 | How did Loyola’s commitment to public service coincide with your military aspirations?

It inspired me to serve in the Air Force. As a student at Loyola High School, I learned the Jesuit principle of becoming a “man for others.” Loyola Law School offered me the opportunity to further develop that principle, and I enjoyed serving at the on-campus Disability Mediation Center. When I began my Air Force career, I found Loyola’s commitment to public service consistent with the Air Force core values of “integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do.”

3 | What’s an interesting place you’ve been while in the Air Force?

My last assignment on active duty moved me back “stateside” to the East Coast, but at one point, I deployed to Forward Operating Base Shield in Baghdad, Iraq, where I served on the Law and Order Task Force for six months. After going through combat skills training, I lived and worked with a team of JAG attorneys and paralegals from all the military branches as well as partners from the State Department and other federal agencies. We assisted Iraqi judges and attorneys in improving their legal system, post-Saddam Hussein.
Mark Lamia ’95

They don’t teach you how to fend off blood-thirsty zombies in law school. **Mark Lamia ’95** learned that skill on the job.

As studio head of Treyarch, an Activision studio, Lamia’s teams have been responsible for a string of video-game hits. He is perhaps best known for his work on the blockbuster *Call of Duty* series, including *Call of Duty: Black Ops*, which scored record-breaking sales of more than $1 billion. The games are at the forefront of the genre known as “first-person shooters,” which are action games where a player’s experiences are from the first-person perspective and utilize weapons-based combat.

A regular day at the office for Lamia can involve everything from coordinating deals for voice-over work with a Hollywood star – actor Sam Worthington is among those featured in the latest *Call of Duty* release – to meeting with combat veterans for technical advice. Treyarch’s *Call of Duty* games have been built on historical fiction (except for the zombie mode of the game, of course). “We bring in veterans who help us with our weapons selections and as inspiration for our game design. With *Call of Duty: Black Ops*, a member of a Black Ops team talked to all the designers about his experiences during the Vietnam era. It’s one thing to make a game about it; it’s another to hear how they trained for missions. We want to create something that has enough elements of authenticity to immerse players in the fiction.”

The problem of veteran unemployment influenced Activision Blizzard’s CEO, Bobby Kotick, to form the Call of Duty Endowment, which helps soldiers transition to civilian careers after military service by providing funds to organizations that focus on job placement and training. The endowment has provided more than $1 million in grants to help place veterans in jobs and is funding a scholarship at Loyola for a second-year day or third-year evening student who has been honorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces. “It’s the right thing to do to give back to people who have served and their families, and the fact that Loyola has set out on a specific mission to help veterans is fantastic,” Lamia said.

One of the things that Lamia really appreciates about Loyola is its commitment to philanthropy. As a student, he participated in a pro bono legal clinic helping those with employment-related issues. “It was a great experience for me to get my head out of a text book and in front of someone with a real problem so that we could actually help them,” he said. “I’m proud that Loyola is so actively involved in providing pro bono services. Loyola does this on many fronts, and instilling the value of giving back is great, especially given how privileged we all are.”

Lamia values the problem-solving skills he honed in his classes at Loyola. “We were taught to think on our toes, critically appraise situations and then argue a point of view,” he said. “Those are skills you can build a foundation on. Those are skills I use every day in my job as a studio head. Spotting issues and working toward resolution — I feel like having those skills in every position I’ve had has given me an edge. It has been of great value in running a studio.”

Before Lamia was a videogame maker, he was a fan. He worked in the computer lab as an undergraduate student at the University of California, Santa Barbara. It was then that he first considered gaming as a pursuit beyond a pastime, working with a professor to use the game *Sim City* as a learning tool for a public policy-planning course. Later during law school, he was inspired by *Doom 2*, one of the early first-person shooter games.

After graduating from Loyola in 1995 and taking the bar, Lamia pursued an entry-level job at Activision Studios, where they started him out burning CD-ROM discs for games in development. He worked his way up the ladder, becoming an associate producer, producer, executive producer and then vice president of North American studios in 2000. While vice president, he worked on the creation of the *Call of Duty* franchise. He moved to Treyarch in 2006 and became its studio chief a year later. He now leads a studio organization of more than 200 game developers and oversees all studio functions, from creative development to business development deals and everything in between.

Lamia marvels at how the industry has evolved and grown over the years, now attracting top Hollywood actors, writers and composers. “To get them to work with us is a testament to how far gaming has come in the last 15 years,” he said. “It’s now mainstream entertainment that Hollywood wants to participate in.”

When it comes to free time, Lamia’s family takes precedence. His wife is alumna Rhea Lamia ’95, whom he met in their first-year section. The couple married after their second year at Loyola and now have twins. But even when he’s not at work, Lamia still plays videogames for fun.
Akemi Arakaki ’98

The Hon. Akemi Arakaki sees an unlikely parallel between two of her passions: basketball and the law.

“I’m four-foot-nine – the most unlikely person to ever be successful on a basketball court or a court of law,” she said. “But if you work really hard at something you love, you can be successful. I have a lot of tenacity, and I’m scrappy. In both courts, I had to work really hard to become good.”

She has found that her philosophy applies to the bench as well as the bar. “As an advocate, you get caught up in your case; you’re trying to convince people you’re right even if you’re not,” she said. “As judge, you get to consider all the arguments and all the law, and bring an unbiased opinion to a situation. It’s challenging; we all have to check ourselves now and again and make sure we’re looking at each case and the law with fresh eyes.”

Appointed to the California Superior Court, Los Angeles County bench in 2010 by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger after more than 10 years as a public defender, Arakaki has continued to grow in her transition from litigator to adjudicator. Now in Antelope Valley and removed from the peer group she cultivated in Eastlake Juvenile Court, she has found the new setting liberating. “I was able to define myself as a judge without the baggage,” she said. In her role as judge, she handles felony preliminary hearings in cases ranging from petty theft with priors to rapes and murders.

Arakaki plays basketball three times a week. Her favorite pastime is a carry-over from her law school days, when she played pick-up games with fellow members of the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association, an organization she led as president. At the same time, she was honing her trial skills in an entirely different court as a student in the Hobbs District Attorney Clinic, which she credits with giving her practical skills.

“Professor Hobbs really trained young people to be litigators, to be comfortable in the courtroom and to feel confident in the skills we were learning,” she said. “It was no longer theory; it was putting everything we learned in the classroom to practice. I actually tried two cases and did two preliminary hearings before I finished my time there.”

Raised in a family of teachers, Arakaki felt called to help kids from an early age. Growing up, her friends had brushes with police. After considering a career as an educator or social worker, she centered on the law. Early on, she had a strong desire to become a juvenile public defender. “I was a kid who got into some trouble, and I had a lot of friends who got into trouble and ended up in the delinquency system,” she said.

Some of Arakaki’s most rewarding memories as a deputy public defender in the Los Angeles County Public Defender’s Office stem from her time working at Eastlake Juvenile Court. She recalled spending a year and a half on the case of a female youth charged with multiple counts of kidnapping and false imprisonment. Arakaki and her team ultimately succeeded in securing the girl’s release from state educational placement. “It’s a huge feeling,” Arakaki said. “As a practitioner, you have to remember it’s the small victories. You can’t just look at your track record by wins and losses.”

Prior to serving in the public defender’s office, Arakaki worked as an attorney for the Law Offices of Steve Escovar, a former public defender she opposed while prosecuting a case as a student in the Hobbs Clinic. Impressed by her trial work, he told her to call him when she graduated. She did, and the rest is history.

Outside of the courtroom, Arakaki has had a full plate of civic involvement. She was president of the Japanese American Bar Association, and she sits on the board of the Little Tokyo Service Center, a Community Development Corporation.

But if you work really hard at something you love, you can be successful. I have a lot of tenacity, and I’m scrappy. In both courts, I had to work really hard to become good.”

Arakaki credits Loyola Law School with giving her the skills necessary to excel on the bench. “I was in the best section,” she said, naming her list of first-year professors: Linda Beres; David Burcham ’84, president, Loyola Marymount University; Dean Victor Gold; and Chris May.

“My time at Loyola was three of the most rewarding years of my life,” she said. “I really enjoyed law school. I got to meet and work with wonderful people. I’m still friends with them. I really believe Loyola trains true practitioners of the law. It’s a great place to learn to be a lawyer, and it prepared me to be a judge.”
2011 was a banner year for academic and social events at Loyola Law School, Los Angeles. Key events included the dedication of the Arthur L. Alarcón Advocacy Center, which featured a keynote address from Associate Justice Anthony M. Kennedy of the U.S. Supreme Court. Earlier in September, Loyola Law School’s Center for the Study of Law and Genocide honored former Israeli Supreme Court Justice Gabriel Bach with the inaugural Raphael Lemkin Award. In June, Gary Greene ’75 conducted the Los Angeles Lawyers Philharmonic during the “Loyola Bowl” in Girardi Plaza.

We also hosted a variety of networking events both on and off campus, including regional lunches, happy hours, class reunions, award dinners, law firm lunches, receptions, lectures and symposia. These events allow alumni to reconnect with each other, friends and faculty, while also hearing from world-renowned experts and scholars.

I encourage everyone to attend an event this academic year. Please visit alumni.lls.edu for a list of upcoming events. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Carmen Ramirez
Executive Director, Advancement
6 | Oct. 8, 2010
Orange County Alumni Lunch
Seasons 52, Costa Mesa, CA

8 | Oct. 10, 2010
Class of 1990 Evening Division Reunion
McCormick & Schmick’s, Los Angeles, CA

9 | Oct. 16, 2010
Public Interest Casino & Auction Night
Loyola Law School

10 | Oct. 22, 2010
The Business of Sports in a Troubled Economy (Sports Law) Symposium
Loyola Law School

11 | Nov. 11-13, 2010
Ninth-Annual Greene Broillet & Wheeler LLP National Civil Trial Competition
Loyola Law School

7 | Oct. 10, 2010
Alumni Mentor Brunch
Loyola Law School
Events

**Nov. 17-18, 2010**
Western Conference on Tax Exempt Organizations
Omni Hotel, Los Angeles, CA

**Dec. 1, 2010**
12a-b
12a

12b

**Dec. 1, 2010**
13

13

**Jan. 5, 2011**
14

14

**Jan. 14, 2011**
15

15

San Francisco Alumni Reception
Constellation Wines U.S., San Francisco, CA

**Jan. 14, 2011**
Starving the Hidden Beast: New Approaches to Tax Expenditure Reform (Symposium)
Loyola Law School

Class of 2010 Order of the Coif Induction and Awards Breakfast
Loyola Law School
Jan. 28, 2011
Grand Avenue Gang Luncheon
Loyola Law School

Feb. 10, 2011
Law Day: St. Thomas More & St. Ignatius of Loyola Awards Dinner & Lecture
Loyola Law School

Feb. 15, 2011
David W. Burcham Chair in Ethical Advocacy Donor Plaque Dedication and Inauguration of the Advocacy Institute
Loyola Law School

Feb. 23, 2011
Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr. Public Service Award Reception
California African American Museum, Los Angeles, CA

Feb. 28, 2011
Paparazzi Law in a Flash: Examining California’s Past, Present and Future
Loyola Law School
March 11, 2011
Remnants of Genocide: Reclaiming Art and Other Heirlooms Lost in Atrocities
Loyola Law School

March 24, 2011
Happy Hour Mixer, Class of 2005-2010
Rock Sugar Pan Asian Kitchen, Los Angeles, CA

March 25, 2011
Fritz B. Burns Scholars Lunch
Loyola Law School

April 8, 2011
Fidler Institute on Criminal Justice
Loyola Law School

April 13, 2011
Public Interest Law Foundation Awards Reception
Loyola Law School
April 14, 2011
Outlaw Alumni and Student Chapter Reception
Loyola Law School

April 27, 2011
Dedication and Presentation of the David P. Leonard Chair
Loyola Law School

May 12, 2011
Class of 1991-20th Year Reunion
Hotel Angeleno, Los Angeles, CA

May 15, 2011
2011 Commencement Ceremony
Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA

May 19, 2011
Orange County Alumni Awards Reception
The Balboa Bay Club and Resort, Newport Beach, CA
Events

31 | June 2, 2011
Class of 2001 Reunion
Katsuya at L.A. Live,
Los Angeles, CA

32 | June 25, 2011
Loyola Bowl
Loyola Law School

33 | Sept. 15 & 16, 2011
Raphael Lemkin Award Dinner &
Perspectives on Genocide Symposium
Award Dinner: Four Seasons
Hotel, Beverly Hills, CA
Symposium: Loyola Law School

34 | Sept. 28, 2011
Alarcón Advocacy Center Dedication
Loyola Law School

35 | Sept. 30, 2011
Seventh-Annual Champions of Justice Tribute Dinner
The Beverly Hills Hotel,
Beverly Hills, CA
Grand Reunion

Nov. 4, 2010
Alumni Grand Reunion
Montage, Beverly Hills, CA
From Podium to Page:
Loyola’s Law Reviews Host Captivating Symposia

During the 2010-2011 school year, Loyola’s three law reviews hosted a wide array of symposia on a variety of topics both drawn from the headlines and rooted in historical conflicts. The *Loyola of Los Angeles Law Review*, the *Entertainment Law Review* and the *International and Comparative Law Review* organized a compelling series of campus conferences on topics ranging from the crisis in California government to the death penalty in California to the retrieval of art purloined during times of atrocities. In the process, they also made their own headlines for their groundbreaking scholarship on cutting-edge issues and influence on legislation.

**Loyola of Los Angeles Law Review**

The LLR published two high-profile issues in 2011. The Volume 44 special issue, “Rethinking the Death Penalty in California,” received widespread attention when it was published in July 2011. The article, “Executing the Will of the Voters?: A Roadmap to Mend or End the California Legislature’s Multi-Billion-Dollar Death Penalty Debacle” by Judge Arthur L. Alarcón and Adjunct Professor Paula Mitchell ’02 was the subject of numerous news stories and ultimately inspired SB 490, a state bill seeking to end the death penalty in California. The issue is available online at http://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/llr/.

More recently, the LLR published its inaugural Supreme Court issue in Volume 44 Issue 3. The issue focused on the court’s 2009-2010 term. The issue was dedicated to Justice John Paul Stevens and included tribute letters and essays from Justice Stevens’s former law clerks, many of whom are now law professors or serve within the Justice Department. President Bill Clinton, Justice Sonia Sotomayor and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg also published tribute letters. Justice Stevens included a short thank-you note for the dedication. The issue also included student-written case comments analyzing nearly 20 cases from the court’s 2009-2010 term.

Additionally, the LLR hosted “Rebooting California: Initiatives, Conventions & Government Reform” on Friday, Sept. 24, 2010 to dissect the fiscal and political problems faced by California. Four panels — Fiscal and Budgetary Problems/Reforms, Electoral & Structural Reforms, Mechanisms for Constitutional Reform and The Future of Direct Democracy: Reforming the Initiative Process — featured in-depth discussions by top political and legal minds. Former California Gov. Gray Davis delivered the lunchtime keynote address.

The symposium, organized by Professor Karl Manheim and Adjunct Professors John Caragozian and Don Warner, featured several members of the Law School faculty: Professor Allan Ides ’79, Visiting Associate Clinical Professor Jessica Levinson ’05 and Associate Professor Justin Levitt. The LLR issue generated by the symposium is available at http://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/llr/vol44/iss0.

**Loyola of Los Angeles Entertainment Law Review**

The ELR presented “Paparazzi Law in a Flash: Examining California’s Past, Present and Future” on Friday, Feb. 25, 2011. The symposium examined AB 2479 (“the anti-stalking law”), the law making it a misdemeanor to tailgate or drive recklessly to capture a photo or tape recording of an individual for commercial purposes. It represented California’s most recent attempt at addressing the storied problem of striking the proper constitutional balance between the First Amendment’s protections for news gatherers and an individual’s right to privacy. Attorney Mark Geragos ’82, principal, Geragos & Geragos, delivered the lunchtime keynote address. Participants included leading practitioners, scholars and recently admitted entertainment lawyers who played a central role in the ongoing debate of what is permissible, constitutionally protected activity as opposed to activity giving rise to criminal and civil liability. The ELR issue generated by the symposium is available at http://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/elr.

The ELR and Loyola Law School’s Center for the Study of Law and Genocide (CSLG) hosted “Remnants of Genocide: Reclaiming Art and other Heirlooms Lost in Atrocities” on Friday, March 11, 2011. Top international experts in art retrieval discussed the recovery of art confiscated by Nazis during World War II and the reacquiring of cultural treasures taken during the Armenian Genocide, as well as art restitution in general. The panels included “Nazi Looted Art Recovery” moderated by Professor Stan Goldman ’75, director of the CSLG; “The Armenian Genocide and Recovery of Looted Cultural Objects” moderated by Visiting Professor Michael Bazyler; and “Other Issues in Art Restitution.” The luncheon keynote address was delivered by Geragos and Brian S. Kabateck ’89, managing partner, Kabateck Brown Kellner LLP, Los Angeles. The two attorneys have been involved in the recovery of artifacts confiscated during the Armenian Genocide.
New International Program:
Loyola Launches LLM for Foreign-Trained Attorneys

When the entering class arrives in fall 2012, Loyola’s already diverse student body will become just a little more so. That will be due to the addition of a new one-year LLM program geared toward educating foreign-trained attorneys in the U.S. legal system. The presence of the foreign students may not be immediately noticeable, but they are sure to add another dimension to the richness of knowledge and experience that Loyola students bring with them into the classroom.

During the 2010-2011 academic year, an ad hoc faculty committee investigated the possibility of adding the new degree. Associate Deans Sean Scott and Michael Waterstone — along with Professors Judy Fonda, Michael Gutten tag, Karl Manheim and Ted Seto — researched similar programs at other law schools, and they saw many reasons to develop an LLM for foreign attorneys at Loyola Law School. Foreign LLM students bring insights from the legal systems of their home countries, benefiting JD students and professors alike. The LLM students will increase enrollment in the specialized JD courses, which will allow the administration to offer those types of courses to the JD students with greater regularity. The addition of foreign LLM graduates to the Loyola Law School alumni network will also expand overseas job opportunities for JD graduates.

After the faculty approved the new LLM program, the Law School hired Joel Mosemann as director. Mosemann has performed administrative duties at several California law schools over the past five years, most recently as an academic coordinator for international law programs at the University of California, Davis, where he managed two LLM programs for foreign attorneys. Mosemann is licensed to practice law in both California and Pennsylvania, his home state. He received a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from New York University, an MBA from the Rochester Institute of Technology and a JD from Temple University. When asked why he sought this position, he responded, “I love working with international students, and it will be exciting to help build a new program from its start.”

Mosemann has been working to build the program since he arrived on campus at the end of June. His first major task was requesting and securing acquiescence from the American Bar Association, which the ABA has granted, allowing Loyola to move forward with accepting applications for the fall of 2012.

There was interest in the new program even before its official public announcement. Loyola Law School and Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, South Korea, signed a memorandum of understanding under which Loyola Law School will accept up to five visiting Hankuk students each fall for one semester. Those students will later be eligible to return to Loyola Law School as Hankuk graduates and complete the LLM degree in one additional semester.

The program is designed to be completed in two semesters. Students must take two required courses: Introduction to American Law and American Legal Research & Writing for Foreign Lawyers. A third new course, Professional Responsibility in the United States, will be available to the LLM students. Twenty-four units are required to complete the LLM degree, and the remainder of the LLM students’ course selections will come from the JD curriculum. The only courses closed to LLM students will be those that are required for JD graduation.

Visit the program website at www.lls.edu/amlaw

International and Comparative Law Review
The ILR and the CSLG examined the historic Israeli trial of Nazi officer Adolf Eichmann for his role in the Holocaust during the symposium “Perspectives on Genocide: The Adolf Eichmann Trial – Looking Back 50 Years Later” on Friday, Sept. 16, 2011. It featured a keynote presentation by the Hon. Gabriel Bach, senior prosecutor in the 1961 trial. Top international Eichmann and Holocaust experts assessed the importance and impact of what has been described as “the greatest trial of the 20th Century.”

The symposium was preceded by a dinner honoring Bach, the last surviving member of the Eichmann prosecution team, with the inaugural Raphael Lemkin award for his work combating genocide. In his acceptance speech, Bach vividly recalled trial details and noted that Eichmann “was responsible during the war for every minor detail of the Holocaust.”
Loyola Law School is one of the premier schools in the country when it comes to preparing students for careers in advocacy. In 2002, Director of Trial Advocacy Susan Poehls ’89, William C. Hobbs Clinical Professor of Law, decided to build on that tradition by creating the National Civil Trial Competition (NCTC), which has placed Loyola at the forefront of trial advocacy programs and trained a generation of courtroom leaders.

Loyola hosts the annual competition, which attracts teams from top-tier law schools across America to compete against Loyola’s own student litigators. Poehls says her reasoning for creating a civil trial tournament was two-fold. “We found that we competed in a civil tournament in the spring, but there wasn’t a corresponding fall tournament. Also, because Loyola has so many great alumni who are civil litigators in Los Angeles who we could bring in as judges, we thought that was a perfect combination.”

Because the tournament is by invitation only, Loyola is able to select schools with a demonstrated commitment to trial advocacy. Past attendees include Stanford University, Loyola University of Chicago, University of Maryland, University of Wisconsin, Pepperdine University and Washington University in St. Louis.

Poehls says students interested in becoming trial lawyers should strongly consider competing in the NCTC because it will provide them with real-world experience above and beyond that of their classmates. “These students usually try the case dozens of times before they even get to the competition, so when they go out for a job, they can say, ‘I’ve tried this type of case, and I’ve appeared in front of these judges, and I’ve dealt with these kinds of legal issues.’ It’s a huge advantage.”

After the competition, students also have the opportunity to meet with the experienced civil litigators and members of the bench who serve as judges and receive feedback on their arguments. Additionally, Poehls is quick to tout the way the NCTC has integrated technology into the courtroom. “We’re encouraging students to use PowerPoint and document cameras in the rounds, and really get hands-on training with the technology that is being used regularly today in civil litigation.”

Competition is fierce to secure a coveted spot on the team, and Loyola students must first compete against other candidates in a spring tournament on campus. “Last May, we picked 14 of the best students out of about 80 who competed for a spot,” says Poehls. Accepted students are put through a summer civil litigation boot camp, and team members begin doing trials on the first day of classes. During the first two weeks of the semester, students perform two trials a week while Poehls and her six alumni coaches monitor their progress. Based on their assessments, students are then divided up with some participating in spring competitions, and others in fall. Only four will have the opportunity to argue at the NCTC because of the tournament’s structure, which sees each team member arguing both sides of the case in addition to serving as defendants and witnesses.

The firm of Greene, Broillet & Wheeler (GB&W) has sponsored the event since its inception. Loyola alumnus Timothy Wheeler ’78, the managing partner of GB&W, spoke of his firm’s commitment to the competition. “Each year, the interesting and challenging case file selected by Professor Poehls pushes student participants to think outside the box and fully test their knowledge of the law, as well as their skills in the courtroom. GB&W recognizes how important it is for law students all over the country to be given the opportunity to form a clear understanding of what will be asked of them when they answer ‘ready’ to try their first case, and for this reason, we have happily continued sponsoring the NCTC.”

Competition sponsors also include CourtCall and Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP.
Sitting in a stately meeting room in the lobby of the Richard H. Chambers Courthouse in Pasadena, CA, Ali Mojibi ’09 discussed what drove him to secure three clerkships in as many years. “The opportunity to talk to a judge before he’s made up his mind” is a major attraction, he says. “To see that whole process is really incredible.

Mojibi, who co-taught the Clerkship & Advanced Legal Writing Seminar that debuted last summer, recently started his third successive clerkship, this time for Judge Sharon Post at the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. He last clerked for Judge Ferdinand Fernandez of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Previously, Mojibi clerked for Judge R. Gary Klausner ’67 on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

Federal clerkships attract the top students from every law school in the country, especially on the Ninth Circuit. “Many of the justices on the Supreme Court hire clerks from the Ninth Circuit, and there are very well-known judges here,” said Mojibi. Professor Laurie Levenson, who oversees Loyola’s Clerkship Committee, says this competition makes “our students’ accomplishments even more amazing if you look at the numbers.”

And the numbers are striking. During the 2010-2011 academic year, 16 students secured clerkships for the 2011-2012 academic year, with another student securing an advance clerkship for 2012-2013 on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Fifty-Five percent of the Law School’s applicants obtain clerkships, which ranks Loyola among the highest placement rate of any southern California law school. In 2011, Loyola graduates held more clerkships than both UCLA and USC in the Central District of California.

Preparation is a main factor in Loyola’s success. Few schools have a support system in place like Loyola’s to ensure each student will not only be a successful applicant, but a successful clerk. The on-campus network consists of Levenson and the entire faculty clerkship board, faculty assistant Linda Wysocky and Brooke Loesby, assistant director of the Office of Career Services. They work with applicants every step of the way to prepare cover letters, resumes and recommendations, as well as hone their interview skills and remind them of important deadlines. They even assist students in mailing their application packets.

Loyola’s alumni provide a nationwide network that is equally valuable. Every summer, applicants attend a speed-interview session at Levenson’s home, giving current students a chance to interact with alumni who are current and former clerks. “The applicant gets a taste of what it’s like to be interviewed, and we get to know them and have a mental note of each person,” said Mojibi. Each student is then paired with an alum who helps them find the best judicial match for their career interests and personality. “There’s nothing like having an insider to give you good tips,” Mojibi explains.

That was exactly the idea behind Mojibi’s summer clerkship seminar, which is designed to provide prospective clerks with the requisite training for the many memoranda they will be drafting for judicial review. “It’s very different from writing in the role of an advocate,” he says.

Mojibi acknowledges that the application process can at times seem overwhelming, and he praises Loyola students for their perseverance. “Self-belief and motivation are really important, and that’s where Professor Levenson has shined. She has really communicated to students that this is something they have to fight for,” he says.

What’s Mojibi’s parting advice for students? “I know many people who got clerkships after trying for one or two years,” he says. “If you get rejected, you cannot get discouraged. The only way to ensure that it’s impossible is not to apply.”

From left to right: Vartan Madoyan ’11, Arsen Kourinian ’10, Kate Unger ’10, Cathy Wi ’09 and David Hackett ’09 attend a clerkship speed-interview session at Professor Laurie Levenson’s home.
Extraordinary Scholarship

By Michael Waterstone
Associate Dean for Research and Academic Centers

This was another extraordinarily productive year for Loyola’s faculty. Collectively, we continued to publish articles in the top law reviews in the country, including the NYU Law Review, the Notre Dame Law Review, the Iowa Law Review, the California Law Review, the Emory Law Journal, the Cornell Law Review and the Northwestern University Law Review. We published books and book chapters with leading publishers, including Cambridge University Press and the University of Chicago Press. And we continued to influence the next generation of lawyers and redefine how law school is taught with top casebooks in almost every field, including criminal law, criminal procedure, civil procedure, evidence, business planning and torts.

Legal scholarship has been challenged for not having a real-world impact. Not so with our faculty, whose work continually helps drive key legal and policy debates. By way of example, Professor Laurie Levenson’s article, “Conflicts over Conflicts: Challenges in Redrafting the ABA Standards for Criminal Justice,” published in the Hastings Constitutional Law Quarterly, grows directly out of her participation in an ABA task force’s work on redrafting the ABA Standards for Criminal Justice. Similarly, Associate Professor Justin Levitt’s scholarship in the area of election law, with an emphasis on redistricting, led to his invitation to testify before the United States Senate’s Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Human Rights at a hearing on “New State Voting Laws: Barriers to the Ballot?”

Professor Alexandra Natapoff’s nationally recognized work on jailhouse informants (including her award-winning book by NYU Press, Snitching) led to her testifying as a witness for the California State Assembly Committee on Public Safety in support of SB 687, which would prohibit the use of jailhouse informant testimony without corroboration.

And Professor Kathleen Kim, who had been one of the architects of the Cal. Civil Code 52.5, providing a civil remedy for human trafficking victims, authored an amicus brief in Yusuf v. Tija, one of the first cases applying this statutory provision.

Our intellectual community has never been stronger or more vibrant. We have recently been fortunate to host distinguished visiting professors from other top law schools who have enriched our campus by making presentations to our faculty and teaching classes for our students. These visitors include Professor (and former Dean) Saul Levmore from the University of Chicago Law School, Professor Ron Krotoszinski from the University of Alabama Law School, Professor Tom Morawetz from George Washington University Law School. Our workshops and colloquia series bring top scholars to our campus every week, including faculty from NYU Law School, Stanford Law School, University of Pennsylvania Law School, Georgetown University Law Center and Columbia Law School. Loyola has become a “go-to” hub of activity on the West Coast for a diverse range of professors to share their work and become a part of our scholarly community.

Our faculty also had a significant impact on the general public’s understanding of the law. From NBC’s Today Show to the New York Times to NPR to the Huffington Post, Loyola professors explained complex legal issues on a wide variety of platforms. Loyola professors generated about 3,000 media hits over the last year in hundreds of outlets, reaching millions of readers, viewers and listeners. They dissected a range of important legal issues such as electoral redistricting, the constitutional implications of President Obama’s healthcare legislation and matters of complex civil litigation such as the Toyota product-liability class action. They also fielded questions on criminal-law matters like the high-profile trial of Conrad Murray and prison re-alignment in California.

We are proud to be a community of scholars who use our work to influence the world we live in. To learn more about our faculty and our scholarship, please visit our faculty blog, Summary Judgments at summaryjudgments.lls.edu

In his role as associate dean for research and academic centers, Waterstone fosters the scholarly mission of Loyola.
Expanding Our Reach
Loyola Opens New Downtown Public Interest Law Center

By Mary Britt '06
Assistant Director of Operations, Center for Conflict Resolution

The Law School continues its tradition of seeking to educate men and women who will be leaders of both the legal profession and society, demonstrating in their practice of law and public service the highest standards of personal integrity, professional ethics and a deep concern for social justice with the opening of the Downtown Public Interest Law Center in the heart of Los Angeles at 800 S. Figueroa Street.

The center is home to Loyola’s Center for Conflict Resolution (CCR), as well as the Disability Rights Legal Center (DRLC), which includes the Cancer Legal Resource Center (CLRC), a joint program of the DRLC and Loyola Law School. Together, all three clinics are part of Dean Victor Gold’s vision of a Public Interest Law Center that provides hands-on clinical opportunities for students while providing increased access for those with the greatest need in our community.

Since the CCR opened its doors in 1993, it has served nearly 40,000 people by helping them resolve their disputes through mediation and has expanded its target demographic from the monolingual Spanish-speaking community around the Law School to everyone in Los Angeles County. The majority of the center’s casework is handled by student externs under the supervision of staff mediators. The students are trained by Associate Clinical Professor of Law and Center Director Mary B. Culbert ’84 at the beginning of each semester, and then are allowed to manage their own caseload. They, along with seasoned professionals on staff, actively resolve disputes both over the phone (conciliation) and face-to-face (mediation). Students become so successful at the process that the best and the brightest are often hired back as regular staff. Assistant Director of Operations Mary Britt ’06 noted that the students “care about what they do, they love what they do, and it shows.”

Britt expressed that, “The CCR’s new digs, with nearly triple the square footage, provide the opportunity to do more of what we do best. We have significantly expanded our capacity for student externs, and are now able to enroll up to 28 students at any given time, rather than eight.” This both allows more students to learn about and experience mediation, as well as allowing the CCR to serve more people at any one time. CCR staff members now have individual work spaces, which gives them more capability to mentor student externs one-on-one. And the new space also enables the CCR to hire on several more full-time mediators and explore new satellite projects.

Scheduling mediations has also become less of a delicate dance with three mediation rooms to choose from. In addition to being able to hold more than one mediation at a time, we also have an intake room where we are able to host walk-ins, which have increased to an average of two per day at the new downtown location. We also have a 30-person classroom to teach mediation skills and training to law students, legal and community services, and the community at large.

In addition to targeting the monolingual Spanish-speaking population, the center has reached out to veterans, the elderly and people with disabilities, and other groups who historically have had limited access to the traditional justice system. The possibilities for serving Los Angeles’ disenfranchised communities through direct service and strategic partnerships are limited only by our imagination. Any and all ideas are welcome from Loyola’s alumni. Feel free to contact Culbert at Mary.Culbert@lls.edu.

For Loyola, which has been a downtown fixture for more than 90 years, bolstering its presence in the center of the city was a natural fit for the CCR and DRLC (including the CLRC). The move reinforces the Law School’s focus of providing students with a wide variety of clinical experiences to better prepare them to be practice-ready at graduation and to hit the ground running as they embark on their legal careers.

Any and all ideas are welcome from Loyola’s alumni. Feel free to contact Mary B. Culbert ’84 at Mary.Culbert@lls.edu.
Nicole Papincak ’11

For someone who is used to being on stage as the member of three different musical groups, you might think Nicole Papincak ’11 was born to be in the courtroom. Not so, according to the new Law School graduate. “I don’t want to litigate. I want to sit behind a desk and draft contracts. I love paper!” she said with a smile. “Contracts are like a puzzle. All the pieces are thrown around the desk, or are in people’s heads, and you need to extract them and memorialize them. I love that process.”

Papincak’s student career at Loyola has been a similar assemblage of puzzle pieces. In 2010-11 alone, she served as Day Student Bar Association (DSBA) vice president, senior production editor of the Loyola of Los Angeles Law Review, secretary of the Entertainment and Sports Law Society (second term) and Section 1 representative on the Class Gift Committee, to name a few. Papincak’s second-year commitments were equally ambitious; they included serving as president of OutLaw (Loyola’s gay-straight alliance law group), board member for Diversity Week and staff member of the Law Review.

Though politics was far from her mind during her first year, Papincak accepted an invitation to join the campaign of Samuel Liu ’11 for DSBA leadership. “It hadn’t crossed my mind. I’m not a political person,” said Papincak. Despite her initial reservations, she accepted Liu’s invitation to run as his vice-president, and they won. “My 2L year was busy, to say the least,” she said. But Papincak wouldn’t have had it any other way; she firmly believes that extra-curricular activities play a crucial role in helping students connect with their classmates, school and community. “I went from being just a student to loving Loyola Law School, and what did that was getting involved. I love that I got to create relationships with so many people on campus, and it makes me love coming back.”

Community is a theme that runs through Papincak’s years at Loyola, and it is a legacy she will leave behind for generations of students to come. One of her major initiatives as vice president of the DSBA was helping create Community Week to commemorate the inauguration of President David W. Burcham ’84. “First, we thought about one event, like a neighborhood cleanup day, but then it just exploded into a weeklong event involving every single club on campus,” Papincak said. “Everything we did helped a specific organization benefit its community, from care packages for the homeless to greeting cards for troops overseas, to a shoe drive and making blankets for Gay and Lesbian Elder Care patients.”

Despite her long list of campus activities, Papincak still finds time for her other passion: music. Papincak performs in a two-person band called “VictorVictoria,” which she formed with a good friend. The duo play what Papincak describes as “mash-up” music at small venues around Los Angeles such as Hotel Cafe and the Cat Club. She is also a member of the Angel City Chorale, an L.A.-based gospel choir, and an a capella group. “It’s something fun to do, and I love it. It’s great to flex that muscle and play a show before I have to go read about corporations.”

As for her career interests, Papincak developed an affinity for transactional law while working as a senior legal assistant and director of film delivery for Business Affairs, Inc. from 2005-2008, after graduating from Smith College with a BA in sociology. Business Affairs, Inc. is a boutique entertainment law firm in Santa Monica, CA that represents producers in the motion picture industry. Papincak credits this work experience with helping her grow not only as a professional, but as a person, while learning to be independent and self-reliant. “Leaving the academic world to gain some perspective is so important. It was the best decision I ever made,” she said. Papincak’s belief was validated when the firm offered her an associate attorney position earlier this year. “I’m really proud to be going back there, and to carry my Loyola degree with me.”

“Leaving the academic world to gain some perspective is so important. It was the best decision I ever made.”
A number of attorneys and former summer associates from Loyola have come through Latham, and they had great things to say about their time here.”

Michael Jaeger ’12

When Michael Jaeger ’12 first embarked upon the frenzied preschool application process for the eldest of his two daughters in 2007, little did he know it would change his life in more ways than one. Jaeger and his writing partner both had children the same age and found themselves commiserating often about their many preschool-induced headaches. “We would tell each other these stories about parents who were only pregnant being put on a four-year waiting list. Then, your kid has to take an entrance exam when they’re 2 ½ years old.”

Rather than simply sitting and stewing, Jaeger and his partner channeled their frustrations into a comedic screenplay called The Best and the Brightest, which farcically chronicled a couple’s journey through the process and eventually grew into a broader social commentary on New York high society. Four years later, after quite a few ups and downs, their movie premiered in Hollywood and can now be found on DVD and Netflix. It stars Neil Patrick Harris, Amy Sedaris and John Hodgman. “It’s been a long ride,” Jaeger says. “I graduated from Yale in ’93, so I had spent 17 years trying to turn that showbiz corner.”

While at Yale, Jaeger was a theater and American studies double major, graduating Phi Beta Kappa. After cutting his teeth as a director in off-Broadway theater in New York for five years, Jaeger and his actress wife decided to head west to Los Angeles. “We came out here in ’99. I assisted directors in movies and TV shows, did some theater, but it’s a very tough racket to break into.”

Even after the ink was dry on The Best and the Brightest, it took years for any producers to show interest, and there was no guarantee that it would be made. Jaeger grew disillusioned looking for a break that might never come. “I started re-evaluating where I was in life, and where I wanted to be. I started to think, ‘I have a family now, and I can’t deal with that level of uncertainty.’ This led Jaeger to ask himself, “What’s a higher paying career that is worth doing and I’m excited about?”

He didn’t have to look very far to find the answer: law. Jaeger has been working as the recruiting coordinator at Latham & Watkins since 2004, and started at the firm as a legal assistant in 2000. He discovered an interest in the environmental law and land-use work at Latham due to his love of politics and urban planning. This led Jaeger to apply to Loyola’s Evening Program. “I didn’t do this as a back-up plan. I decided to move into a second career wholeheartedly,” Jaeger says.

Loyola’s Evening Program was a big draw for Jaeger because his family was firmly rooted in Los Angeles, and his job made it impossible to take day classes. “A number of attorneys and former summer associates from Loyola have come through Latham, and they had great things to say about their time here.” Ideally, Jaeger would like to pursue environmental litigation, and hopes to return to Latham as an attorney after graduation. He says the education he has received at Loyola has exceeded his admittedly high expectations.

Luckily, Jaeger has been able to use some of his screenwriting skills in his classes at Loyola. “There is a bit of a stylistic overlap in terms of writing a memo and, particularly, a brief, and screenwriting: You have to capture the reader’s interest. If you don’t have a good story to tell, no matter how much the law is on your side, it’s going to be hard to justify it.”

On top of his family and law-school commitments, Jaeger still found time to be the trailer supervisor for The Best and the Brightest, which put him into practice using his newfound expertise to oversee several licensing agreements. While he didn’t expect to be so heavily involved in post-production, Jaeger says he’ll do “whatever it takes” to get people to see the film. Why? “Because we love it.”
Marcy Strauss


Strauss is also a nationally recognized expert in the area of constitutional law, and has written and spoken extensively on the topic of torture. Her work includes, “Torture,” for the New York Law Review, and “The Lessons of Abu Ghraib,” for the Ohio State Law Journal.

After receiving her bachelor’s degree with highest distinction from Northwestern University, Strauss received her JD from Georgetown University, graduating on the dean’s list. She then worked as an attorney at Horvitz & Levy LLP, one of the top appellate firms in the country.

Tennis is a lifelong love for Strauss, as it is for her youngest son, who played junior tennis. As a way to give back, she volunteers for the Southern California Tennis Association, sitting on a committee that deals with disciplinary and sportsmanship issues.

Strauss is especially honored to receive this distinction from the evening students, whom she credits with providing a “valuable, real-world perspective,” to her class discussions.

Douglas NeJaime

Professor Douglas NeJaime was appointed to the Loyola Law School faculty in 2009. He teaches Family Law, Law and Sexuality, and Ethical Lawyering. Previously, NeJaime was the Sears Teaching Fellow at the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law. After graduating cum laude from Harvard Law School, NeJaime worked as a litigation associate at the firm of Irell & Manella, LLP in Los Angeles. NeJaime received his BA with honors from Brown University.

NeJaime is a leading researcher and national commentator in the rapidly evolving field of sexual-orientation law, with a primary focus on same-sex marriage issues. This dovetails with one of his other core areas of expertise: the study of law and social movements. Currently, NeJaime is working on an article entitled “The Legal Mobilization Drama” for the Emory Law Journal. It analyzes the process to repeal California’s Proposition 8 in the federal courts from a social-movement perspective. He is also authoring an article called “Marriage Inequality,” which discusses religious objections to same-sex marriage and sexual-orientation equality.


Because he writes on such hot-button issues, NeJaime is very appreciative of the support he has received from the Loyola community, which he says has embraced his work as part of the school’s “progressive, social justice mission.”

NeJaime also sits on the board of the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice, which provides free legal services in housing and family law to women in domestic violence situations and high-conflict custody cases.
The students in Professor Kathleen Kim’s Human Trafficking Seminar have the benefit of learning from one of the nation’s leading experts in the field. Prior to joining Loyola, Kim was a Skadden Fellow and a pioneer in civil litigation. She worked as a civil rights attorney at the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights in San Francisco, where she launched a groundbreaking project focusing on civil rights litigation for human trafficking victims in 2002. Concurrently, Kim worked as an immigration lawyer and started her teaching career. In 2005, Kim became the inaugural Immigrants’ Rights Teaching Fellow at Stanford Law School. This experience led her to discover that she belonged in the classroom as well as the courtroom. She found a great fit at Loyola Law School, Los Angeles.

“Loyola takes immigration law seriously,” Kim explained. “Over the last few years, Loyola has increased its offerings in the area, and this year we began to offer an immigration elective for first-year students.” Kim said more students are coming to Loyola with plans to study immigration law because, “they see so much is happening in this part of the law and they know that, especially in Los Angeles, which has the largest undocumented population in the U.S., immigrants will very likely be part of their clientele and that immigration issues will be touching almost every other type of law they might practice.”

Kim is currently co-director of the Anti-Trafficking Litigation Assistance and Support Team and is a gubernatorial appointee to the California Alliance to Combat Trafficking and Slavery. She has published several works on the impact of United States policies and practices on the rights of immigrants and human trafficking survivors. Kim received her JD from Stanford Law School, where she was an associate editor of the Stanford Law Review and a Judge M. Takasugi Public Interest Fellow.
Hiro Aragaki

Months before teaching his debut class at Loyola, Associate Professor Hiro Aragaki was half a world away lecturing about alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in the People’s Republic of Bangladesh to some of the country’s highest ranking justice officials. Aragaki and Mary Culbert ’84, director of Loyola’s Center for Conflict Resolution, presented ADR solutions to judges and attorneys, and they met with high-ranking justice officials to discuss how ADR could alleviate Bangladesh’s overburdened legal system.

It was all fitting for Aragaki, Loyola’s newest associate professor, who is teaching Advanced Topics in Alternative Dispute Resolution along with Contracts. And it was part of what attracted him to Loyola. “The faculty here is collegial and forward-thinking, and Loyola is dedicated to further developing its conflict-resolution and ADR offerings.”

For Aragaki, choosing to teach was easy. “I’ve always had a passion for teaching,” he said. “Even during my years of practice, I thought of things on an academic or theoretical level.”

Aragaki spent the last four years as an assistant professor of law and ethics at the Fordham University School of Business. He has also taught courses in negotiations and mediation at UC Hastings College of the Law and San Francisco Law School, in addition to teaching international business law in Paris.

His diverse experience in front of the classroom is matched only by his own scholastic endeavors. He earned his JD from Stanford, where he was associate editor of the Stanford Law Review. He received a master’s degree in social and political theory from the University of Cambridge, after earning a bachelor’s in philosophy from Yale, from which he graduated magna cum laude.

Aragaki has worked in nearly every capacity of the legal field. He clerked at the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, was an associate and then of counsel at a top firm and even struck out on his own, starting a practice specializing in mediation and arbitration. “I saw the piles of briefs, documents and discovery that get churned out case by case, year after year — most of which were quite unnecessary. I saw the need for ADR — mediation, negotiation, arbitration. Once I started exploring these fields more, I got hooked.”
Georgene Vairo

Professor of Law and William M. Rains Fellow Georgene Vairo is the first holder of the David P. Leonard Chair created in memory of the late David P. Leonard, associate dean and professor of law. Vairo was a junior–high math teacher before pursuing advanced degrees. After obtaining her master’s in education and then graduating first in her class at Fordham University School of Law, Vairo went from the classroom to the courthouse. She served as the first law clerk to the Hon. Joseph M. McLaughlin, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, when he served on the District Court for the Eastern District of New York. She also was an associate specializing in antitrust law at the New York offices of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom.

Vairo joined the Loyola faculty in 1995 after a distinguished career at Fordham that included being appointed the Leonard F. Manning Professor of Law and a stint as associate dean. Vairo teaches Civil Procedure, Complex Litigation in Federal Courts, Mass Tort Litigation and International Litigation, among other subjects. A prolific writer and scholar, her law review articles include “Developments in the Law: International Litigation” in the Loyola of Los Angeles Law Review and “Why Me? The Role of Private Trustees in Complex Claims Resolution” in the Stanford Law Review.

Vairo shines when it comes to explaining complex issues of civil procedure. She is a member of the editorial board of Moore’s Federal Practice, for which she has written dozens of essays on topics such as summary judgment. A widely cited expert in newspapers on subjects related to civil litigation, she is a regular op-ed contributor to the Los Angeles Daily Journal and the National Law Journal. Additionally, she is a member of the board of overseers of the RAND Institute for Civil Justice and a member of the American Law Institute.
John E. Anderson Sr. ’50

John E. Anderson Sr. passed away on Friday, July 29, 2011 at the age of 93. As an alumnus, professor and benefactor, Anderson left an indelible imprint on the Law School.

Anderson graduated cum laude from Loyola’s Evening Program in 1950 after serving a tour of duty in the Navy during World War II. From there, he founded the firm Kindel & Anderson with 1940 Loyola alumnus James H. Kindel Jr. Anderson taught Tax Law and Legal Accounting at the Law School and was the founding chairman of Loyola’s Board of Visitors, a Law School advisory board that was the precursor to the school’s Board of Overseers. He also established and funded the John E. Anderson Chair in Tax Law.

He attended UCLA on a hockey scholarship and later received his MBA from Harvard. After law school, he went on to become chairman of Topa Savings.

Professor Ellen Aprill noted that, “A year or so after I was appointed to his namesake chair (John E. Anderson Chair in Tax Law), I called Anderson to tell him that everywhere I went in the community, I received such a positive reaction when people learned of the title of the chair. His goodwill in our region will continue to be recognized by future generations.”

Professor Robert W. Benson

Dedicated to his tireless pro bono work for underrepresented peoples, Professor Robert “Bob” Benson impacted and inspired students during his tenure of more than 37 years with Loyola.

While studying law at the University of Madrid in 1965, he met the love of his life, Lesley Ann Higby, and the two wed after receiving their law degrees from UC Berkeley in 1968. The couple spent a year in Brazil, and Benson was a dedicated Boalt Hall/Ford Foundation Fellow and taught legal aid to slum dwellers.

In 1973, he joined the Loyola faculty. The courses he taught reflected his lifelong mission to aid victims of oppressive corporate and governmental policies. He gave frequent pro bono legal advice to various environmental and human-rights groups. “Some lawyers are lucky enough to have jobs in which they take their consciences to the office with them and work for social justice every day,” he once said. Benson also founded Loyola’s Summer Program in Central America.

Benson was instrumental in the decision to choose the avant-garde architect Frank Gehry to redesign the law school in 1978. In homage to Gehry’s design, he published a book in 2010 entitled Frank Gehry’s Loyola Law School. He passed away on June 16, 2011 and is survived by his daughters, Clea and Amy, his grandsons, Elias and Oliver Brown, his mother, Betty; and his brother Bruce.

Joseph E. Rawlinson ’58

Joseph E. Rawlinson, the president and chairman of the Fritz B. Burns Foundation, was a generous benefactor and longtime friend of the Law School and Loyola Marymount University. He passed away on Sept. 30, 2011 at the age of 96.

Rawlinson earned his BA at the University of Utah in 1936. He worked as a certified public accountant and for several years at the IRS. He also started his investing career in 1946. Following his success in the financial industry, Rawlinson embarked on his legal career. He graduated from Loyola’s Evening Program as Order of the Coif. He took the California Bar Exam and was told by the dean of his law school he passed it with the second highest score in the state of California. In 1959, he became a full partner in Serene, Koster, and Barbour. Thereafter he left Serene, Koster, and Barbour to practice law on Highland Ave. in Los Angeles.

Rawlinson met Fritz B. Burns in 1952, and they soon became business partners and close confidants. Rawlinson became a trustee of the Fritz B. Burns Foundation in 1978 and began serving as president in 1980. In addition to many student scholarships, the Burns Foundation has funded faculty endowments, lecture series and major projects including, the Fritz B. Burns Academic Center and Student Plaza at the Law School.

He is survived by his wife, Elaine, and nine children, 21 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.
Monitoring the Legal Issues
WITH LOYOLA

1. SNITCHING BLOG
Professor Alexandra Natapoff monitors police use of confidential informants.
swithching.org

2. SUMMARY JUDGMENTS FACULTY BLOG
Professors weigh in on emerging legal issues.
summaryjudgments.lls.edu

3. POLAWTICS
Associate Visiting Clinical Professor Jessica Levinson’s perspectives on election and campaign finance law.
polawtics.lls.edu

4. HEALTH CARE JUSTICE BLOG
Professor Brietta Clark keeps tabs on access issues.
healthcarejusticeblog.org

5. ALL ABOUT REDISTRICTING
Associate Professor Justin Levitt’s comprehensive guide to drawing the electoral lines.
redistricting.lls.edu
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