

For Immediate Release
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LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM TO ADDRESS TENSIONS BETWEEN BUSINESS AND CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM

"Access to Justice: Can Business Coexist with the Civil Justice System?" will bring together over forty experts with broad range of views on Oct. 1, 2.

Judges, lawyers, business leaders, journalists, scholars will discuss current issues in tort reform and civil justice.

LOS ANGELES (Sept. 13, 2004) –Tensions between business and the civil justice system will be explored in a two-day symposium, *"Access to Justice: Can Business Coexist with the Civil Justice System?"* at Loyola Law School on October 1 and 2. The seminar will bring together more than forty leading jurists, lawyers, business leaders, journalists and academics with a broad spectrum of views to discuss current issues in tort reform and the civil justice system.

"Access to Justice" is presented by the newly created Civil Justice Program at Loyola Law School and the Consumer Attorneys Public Education Fund, a program of the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles.

"This event is a unique and timely opportunity to bring together renowned experts to discuss the role of the civil jury system in our modern American democracy only a few weeks before the 2004 presidential election," said William Daniels, attorney and chair of the symposium planning committee.

Five panel discussions and a Mock Trial of a product liability case will be presented. There will also be a luncheon on Friday with a featured speaker.

"Our goal for the symposium is two-fold," said John Nockleby, law professor and director of the Civil Justice Program at Loyola Law School. "First is to take "hot button" tort reform issues and discuss them in a balanced and thoughtful setting; and the second is to reach as many people as possible with this information."

The symposium will be streamed on the Internet and videotaped for possible future broadcast. The *Loyola Law Review* will publish participant contributions.

Symposium participants include the following:

Jurists:

- Hon. William A. MacLaughlin, Assistant Presiding Judge, Los Angeles Superior Court
- Hon. Dennis M. Perluss, Presiding Justice, Division Seven, California Courts of Appeal
- Hon. Eric C. Taylor, President, California Judges Association

Journalists:

- John Emshwiller, Reporter, *The Wall Street Journal*
- Floyd Norris, Columnist, *The New York Times*
- Henry Weinstein, Legal Affairs Writer, *Los Angeles Times*

Business Leaders:

- Jeffrey Beyer, Vice President, Corporate Communications, Farmers Insurance Group
- Steve Hantler, Vice President and Assistant General Counsel, DaimlerChrysler
- Philip K. Howard, Author, Founder Common Good

Academics:

- Anthony Champagne, Professor, University of Texas at Dallas
- Michael Rustad, Professor, Suffolk School of Law
- Neil Vidmar, Professor, Duke University

Attorneys:

- David Casey, President, Association of Trial Lawyers of America
- Bill Lann Lee, Former Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights
- John Beisner, O'Melveny & Myers

The five panel discussions will address civil justice and tort reform issues that are prominent in the national dialogue, including whether the tort system protects the public or destroys business; the connection between civil lawsuits and civil rights; whether courts are an independent judiciary or unaccountable judges; what checks and balances exist in the civil justice system and a roundtable discussion on damage awards in personal injury lawsuits.

The Mock Trial will be presented by prominent plaintiff's and defense attorneys before a 12-person jury comprised of members of the public. Six California state court judges will also attend the trial, render their own verdicts and discuss their reactions to the evidence and the presentation.

All panels and the Mock Trial will take place in Loyola Law School's Albert H. Girardi Advocacy Center.

The Civil Justice Program at Loyola Law School was founded in 2004 to research and support scholarship on the U.S. civil justice system; to develop and distribute materials to help the public understand the civil justice system and to explore the extent to which the public has adequate access to the civil justice system.

The Consumer Attorneys Public Education Fund (CAPEF) is a tax exempt charitable organization dedicated to preserving the civil justice system by educating the public about the importance of the civil justice system.

Symposium sponsors include the American Board of Trial Advocates, The Association of Southern California Defense Counsel, the Jack Daniels Trial School and Ringler Associates.

More information on the "*Access to Justice*" symposium can be found on the symposium web site (www.events.lls.edu/cjp/) or by calling the symposium office at Loyola Law School, (213) 736-1446.

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