

For Immediate Release
May 12, 2008

Loyola Law School Commencement Ceremony to Celebrate Class of 2008

Los Angeles – Loyola Law School's Class of 2008 will graduate at a commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 15 on the Westchester campus of Loyola Marymount University. The ceremony will feature a keynote address by former Loyola Law School Dean David W. Burcham, provost and executive vice president of Loyola Marymount University.

The Commencement Ceremony will run from 1-3 pm on the Regents Terrace. The Graduation Mass will be celebrated by the Rev. Robert Lawton, SJ, president of Loyola Marymount University, at 10 am in the Sacred Heart Chapel. Further details are available at reg.lls.edu/graduation.

About the Speaker

Provost Burcham ushered in a new era of educational excellence during his tenure at Loyola Law School. Determined to give students a broad range of experience, Burcham oversaw the launch of a host of innovative programs, including the Business Law Practicum, the Center for Juvenile Law & Policy, the LLM in International Legal Practice, the London IP Institute, the Tax LLM program and other vital initiatives. The law school's practical training programs excelled under Burcham's stewardship, during which time the Byrne Trial Advocacy Team won five national championships and several regional competitions. He also oversaw the creation of the National Civil Trial Competition, one of the country's preeminent mock trial events.

Burcham worked to enhance the size and prestige of the law school faculty, increasing the number of full-time professors by almost 15 percent – from 65 in 2000 to 74 in 2007. Under his leadership, the faculty collectively produced more than 400 works of scholarship. Burcham also worked with professors to establish programs in their core areas of expertise, including the Center for the Study of Law & Genocide, the Civil Justice Program, the Distinguished William J. Landers Lecture on Prosecutorial Ethics, the Fidler Institute on Criminal Justice, the IP Special Focus Series, the Journalist Law School, the Sports Law Institute and others.

During Burcham's tenure, Loyola saw dramatic improvements in many national rankings: first for Best Classroom Experience and fourth for Professors Rock (Legally Speaking) by the *Princeton Review* and sixth for Trial Advocacy by *US News & World Report*. Loyola also climbed three spots in *US News'* 2009 law school ranking. Burcham's efforts to increase campus diversity were recognized by a number of rankings: ninth for Most Diverse Faculty by the *Princeton Review*, 11th on *US News'* Diversity Index and a listing among the top 10 schools for Latinos by *Hispanic Business* magazine.

About Loyola Law School Los Angeles

Located in downtown Los Angeles—a legal, financial and media capital—Loyola Law School is home to prominent faculty, dedicated students and cutting-edge programs. Committed to legal ethics and the public interest, Loyola Law School has produced top attorneys for nearly a century. For expert commentary or to arrange an interview, please contact Brian Costello, deputy director of communications, at 213.736.1444 or brian.costello@lls.edu. For more information on Loyola Law School, please visit www.lls.edu. Loyola's Legal Media Portal is online at media.lls.edu.

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