

For Immediate Release
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Loyola Law School Launches Inaugural Journalist Law School

Los Angeles, June 15, 2006 – Loyola Law School's Civil Justice Program debuts its Journalist Law School today. The three-day pilot event features over two dozen of the nation's foremost legal authorities speaking to 34 working journalists on how accurately reporting information about the legal system to the public. The program runs June 15-17 on Loyola Law School's downtown Los Angeles campus.

Journalists will attend seminars on Constitutional structure, criminal law and civil law, taught by Loyola Law professors, prominent attorneys and legal gurus. Topics covered include: "Underreported Stories About Law & the Legal System," "The Challenge of Reporting on High Profile Cases," "Racial Discrimination and News Coverage," "Lawyers' Interactions with the Media" and "How to Use Experts & the 10 Worst Questions."

"Journalists provide the keys to understanding the most complex institutions in our society, including the courts," said Loyola Law Professor John Nockleby, director of the Journalist Law School and Loyola's Civil Justice Program. "If journalists have a deeper understanding of law and the legal system, they can help the public better understand – and critique – that system." Attorney Steven P. Goldberg, program steering committee member, elaborated, "Correct reporting of the workings of the civil justice system combined with an understanding of the role of that system in a free society is vital."

Journalist Law School instructors include Shirley Abrahamson, chief justice, Wisconsin Supreme Court; Linda Deutsch, AP legal reporter; Mark Geragos, attorney; Thomas Goldstein, professor, Berkeley School of Journalism and former dean, Columbia Graduate School of Journalism; George W. Greer, judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Laurie Levenson, professor of law, former federal prosecutor and frequent legal commentator; Karl Manheim, professor of law; and John Nockleby, professor of law, and former civil-rights attorney.

Program directors selected journalists on a competitive basis, and attendees will receive certificates upon completion. Many of the journalists in attendance were eligible for fellowships that covered most expenses.

The American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) is a founding sponsor of the program. "ABOTA is pleased to be a founding sponsor of the Journalist Law School and looks forward to continuing the important work in each future year," said Donna Melby, immediate past president of ABOTA. Other sponsors include the Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA); the Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA); Defense Research Institute (DRI); the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles (CAALA); the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel (FDCC); and the LA Press Club.

About the Civil Justice Program

Loyola Law School created the Civil Justice Program to focus research and public attention on the civil justice system. The Civil Justice Program convenes periodic conferences, seminars and presentations; promotes and publishes scholarly research; and initiates cross disciplinary projects. For more information, please contact Jennifer Klein, program coordinator, at 213-736-1071 or kleinj@lls.edu.

About Loyola Law School Los Angeles

Located in downtown Los Angeles – a legal, financial and media capital – Loyola Law is home to prominent faculty and dedicated students and cutting-edge programs. Committed to the legal ethics and the public interest, Loyola Law School has produced top attorneys for nearly a century. For expert commentary, please contact Brian Costello, deputy director of communications, at 213-736-1444 or brian.costello@lls.edu.

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