

## Loyola Law School Los Angeles Congratulates 2005 Award Winners

*Awardees Recognized as Active and Dedicated Members of Los Angeles Legal Community*

**October 20, 2005—Los Angeles**—On October 20th, Loyola Law School recognized prominent alumni and friends with its Distinguished Alumni Awards, its Board of Governors Recognition Awards and its St. Thomas More Medallion.

The 2005 Distinguished Alumni Awards recognize graduates who have made substantial contributions to the legal profession, community and the Law School. The 2005 winners are:

John J. Collins '61, Managing Partner at Collins, Collins, Muir & Stewart  
and

The Hon. Carla M. Woehrle '77, US Magistrate Judge, Central District of California

The 2005 Alumni Association Board of Governors Recognition Awards recognize alumni, faculty or friends of the Law School who offer outstanding service to the Law School community, the legal profession and the community at large. The 2005 winners are:

Olegario D. Cantos VII '97, Special Assistant to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division,  
US Department of Justice

Stuart A. Liner '87, Managing and Founding Partner, Liner, Yankelevitz Sunshine & Regenstreif LLP

Charles G. Smith '84, Founding Partner, Towle, Denison, Smith & Tavera, LLP

The 2005 St. Thomas More Medallion Award recognizes individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the field of law. The 2005 awardee is:

The Hon. Dickran M. Tevrizian, Jr., US District Court for the Central District of California

The awards were given at a ceremony and reception at the Omni Los Angeles Hotel, immediately preceding the School's Grand Reunion. Awardee biographies can be found on pg. 2 of this release.

### 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, it has produced top attorneys for nearly a century. Please visit [www.lls.edu](http://www.lls.edu) for more information or contact Kira Poplowski, director of communications, at 213.736.1445 or [kira.poplowski@lls.edu](mailto:kira.poplowski@lls.edu).

**The Hon. Carla M. Woehrle '77**

**US Magistrate Judge, Central District of California**

**The Hon. Carla M. Woehrle '77** is a US magistrate judge for the Central District of California. A graduate of Loyola Law's evening program, Woehrle was a law clerk to the Hon. Warren J. Ferguson, who at the time was a federal district judge for the Central District. As an attorney at Talcott, Lightfoot, Vandavelde, Woehrle & Sadowsky, Woehrle specialized in criminal and civil litigation. She was appointed to her current position, where she manages civil trials, discovery disputes, settlement conferences and the issuance of search and arrest warrants, in 1997. In 2004, Woehrle was reappointed for a second eight-year term. Woehrle serves as a judge in Loyola Law's moot court programs and on the Board of Directors for Uncommon Good, a nonprofit that sponsors debt-relief assistance for public interest physicians and attorneys. She is a member of the Women Lawyers of Los Angeles. Woehrle and her husband Eduardo are the parents of two grown children. She received her undergraduate degree from Pomona College.

**John. J. Collins**

**Managing Partner, Collins, Collins, Muir & Stewart**

**Hon. John J. Collins '61** is a managing partner at Collins, Collins, Muir & Stewart and is immediate past president of the Los Angeles County Bar Association. He began his legal career as a deputy counsel for Los Angeles County and then founded Collins & Collins with his father James E. Collins. A specialist in civil trial work, Collins has participated in numerous bar associations and countless committees and boards within each. He served as vice president of the California State Bar Association and as trustee for the Pasadena Bar Association. He is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. The American Board of Trial Advocates named Collins California Trial Lawyer of the Year in 1991, *Metropolitan News Enterprise* named him Person of the Year in 2004 and he has been listed in the *Best Lawyers in America* since 1987. Collins and his wife Patricia have four sons, four daughters and six grandchildren. Collins received a degree in English from the University of Santa Clara prior to earning his law degree at Loyola.

**Olegario D. Cantos VII '97**

**Special Assistant to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, US Department of Justice**

**Olegario D. Cantos VII '97** is the special assistant to the assistant attorney general in the Civil Rights Division of the US Department of Justice. A graduate of Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law, Cantos was appointed to California Bar's Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services. He also served as vice president of the Board of Directors of the Legal Aid Foundation of LA and as a specialist with the California Crime Victims with Disabilities Initiative. A motivational speaker, Cantos addressed the National Press Club and speaks on the radio about disability rights. He first went to Washington, DC as general counsel and director of programs for the American Association of People with Disabilities. A former member of Loyola's Alumni Association Board of Governors, Cantos also is a civil rights activist for the blind. He has volunteered with the Blind Children's Center, the Catholic Big Brother and the Alliance for Children's Rights. After passing the bar, Cantos was an outreach coordinator and attorney at the Western Law Center for Disability Rights.

### **Stuart A. Liner '87**

#### **Partner, Liner Yankelevitz Sunshine & Regenstreif**

**Stuart A. Liner '87** is the managing and founding partner of Liner, Yankelevitz Sunshine & Regenstreif LLP. Liner has a degree in political science from San Diego State University, and following graduation from Loyola Law, practiced at the Law Offices of Jay Jordan Gustin. Liner then joined Levinson, Miller, Jacobs and Phillips, where he made partner. Nine years ago, he co-founded Liner Yankelevitz, which today has 92 attorneys. He and the firm's attorneys are committed to pro bono work, and the firm regularly makes sizable gifts to the City of Hope, The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, Public Counsel, Break the Cycle and other nonprofits. Liner Yankelevitz sponsors Loyola Law School events, including the Bob Cooney Golf Tournament, which raises funds for the Cancer Legal Resource Center, and last year sponsored three full college scholarships for minors raised in the LA County foster care system. Liner and his wife Stephanie are parents to three sons, aged three, four and five.

### **Charles G. Smith '84**

#### **Partner, Towle, Denison, Smith & Tavera**

**Charles G. Smith '84** is a founding partner of Towle, Denison, Smith & Tavera, LLP. Smith attended Stanford University before earning a degree from Loyola Law, from which he graduated in the top 10 percent of his class. He was also a member of the St. Thomas More Law Honor Society and was an articles editor and author for *The Loyola of Los Angeles Law Review*. After Loyola, he was as an associate with Lord, Bissell & Brook and then joined Kinsella, Boesch, Fujikawa & Towle, LLP. At Kinsella, he rose to partner and handled litigation matters in state and federal courts, including the US Supreme Court. Five years ago, Smith co-founded his own firm, where he specializes in general business litigation including intellectual property and employment matters. For more than a decade, Smith has dedicated his time to the American Cancer Society. He serves on its California Division Board of Directors and is chair-elect for its Los Angeles Regional Council. Smith chaired the Society's Committee on Advocacy for many years and is a spokesman on anti-smoking issues on television and radio. He and his wife are the parents of two children.

### **The Hon. Dickran M. Tevrizian, Jr.**

#### **US District Court, Central District of California**

**Dickran M. Tevrizian, Jr.** is a judge of the United States District Court for the Central District of California and the first Armenian-American to serve as a federal judge. Tevrizian began his judicial career at age 31 when he was appointed to the LA Municipal Court, and he was later elevated to the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of LA. He was a partner in the law firms of Kirtland and Packard and Manatt Phelps Rothenberg & Tunney, He was also of counsel to Lewis, D'Amato, Brisbois & Bisgaard. Tevrizian's awards include Trial Judge of the Year from the California Trial Lawyers Association; Trial Jurist of the Year from the LA County Bar Association; the Peter the Great Gold Medal of Honor from the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences; Federal Court Trial Judge of the Year from the Malibu Bar Association; the Ellis Island Medal of Honor Award; the Maynard Toll Award; the Distinguished Public Service Award from the Orange County Federal Bar Association; and the Emil Gumpert Award. Tevrizian has lectured for Bar Associations and California continuing and mandatory continuing legal education programs. He serves on the Board of charitable organizations like the Armenian General Benevolent Union, the Glendale Memorial Hospital Foundation and the Armenian Eye Care Project. Tevrizian has a BS, cum laude, and a JD from USC.

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