

For immediate release
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Loyola Law School Launches Military Veterans Justice Project to Aid Service Members

Los Angeles – Loyola Law School Los Angeles will announce the launch of its Military Veterans Justice Project at its Alumni Grand Reunion today at Sony Pictures Studios during a salute to Loyola's military veterans. The ceremony will include details of the MVJP, a multi-pronged effort composed of raising scholarships specifically for veterans and a legal clinic devoted to protecting the rights of returning service personnel. The ceremony will begin at 6 pm.

"Loyola has a longstanding relationship with our nation's veterans," said Dean Victor Gold. "We plan to honor their service by making it easier for veterans to attend law school and navigate legal hurdles in keeping with our mission of social justice."

The legal clinic is designed to help active, reserve and National Guard veterans receive the benefits and services to which they are entitled. Staffed with students and legal professionals, Loyola hopes to create a clinic to help veterans navigate the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act and assist with Veterans Administration claims. At the same time, Loyola students will gain valuable practical training as they work toward their pro bono requirements.

"The Justice Project represents a chance for those of us in the legal community to give something back to people who have given so much for us," said Lt. Col. Kurt Andrew Schlichter '94, chair of the program's advisory committee and a veteran of the Persian Gulf War and Kosovo. "The veterans were there when we needed them. Our justice system is based on the ideals these veterans put their lives on the line to preserve and defend under conditions we can barely imagine, and the least we can do is make sure that we are there for them when they need us."

Loyola students currently provide assistance to veterans trying to navigate the VA system. The Military Veterans Justice Project aims to expand this service by adding a full time faculty member to teach Military Disability Law and supervise 10-12 students as they assist veterans. The goal is to create an expanded clinic that could assist veterans under applicable landlord/tenant, family and consumer protection laws with the aid of a panel of pro bono attorneys.

Aside from Schlichter, the advisory committee is: Brian Berliner '91, captain, US Air Force; William Crosby '70; William H. Ford, III '71, captain, US Army; F. Phillip Hosp '09, captain, US Army; Nicholas Hutchinson '02; Tom Johnston '00, lieutenant, US Navy; Zenon Keske '01, captain, US Marine Corps; John W. Meigs '78, captain, US Army; Hal P. Mintz '63, corporal and 1st Lieutenant, US Army; Alexander Tsao, '03, captain, US Marine Corps; Lawrence C. Waddington, sergeant, US Army; and Marjorie Williams '09 captain, US Air Force Reserve. William P. Clark '54, Counterintelligence Corps, US Army, is on the honorary committee.

Loyola's halls have long been filled with military veterans. After World War II, Loyola was the law school of choice for troops using the newly created GI Bill to pursue higher education. Veteran students of the era included war heroes like Hon. Lynn "Buck" Compton, a recipient of the Purple Heart medal who was featured in the epic book and miniseries, "Band of Brothers."

During Loyola's Grand Reunion, military veterans from each branch of the armed forces will receive the 2008 Alumni Association Board of Governors Recognition Award. It will be accepted by Marjorie Williams '09, US Air Force; Kurt Schlichter '94, US Army; Jeffrey M. Lee '70, US Coast Guard; Russell Todd Zink '00; and Robert Baker '71, US Navy.

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, Loyola is committed to legal ethics and the public interest, it has produced top attorneys for nearly a century. Please visit www.lls.edu for more information or contact Brian Costello, deputy director of communications, at 213.736.1444 or brian.costello@lls.edu.