

For Immediate Release
April 18, 2008

Loyola's Young Lawyers Program Hosts Mock Trial Event for LA High School Students

Los Angeles – LA high school students will participate in a series of mock trials as part of Loyola Law School's Young Lawyers Program. The event, part of the Judge Stephen O'Neil Trial Advocacy Mentoring Program, will feature students from Dorsey High School, Santee Educational Complex, University High School and Crenshaw High School. The event will be held Saturday, April 19 on Loyola's downtown LA campus. The trials will be performed in front of real LA Superior Court judges: the Hon. John Meigs, the Hon. Terry Smerling and the Hon. Alan Honeycutt.

The Young Lawyers Program was established in 2000 by Loyola students to serve as a bridge between the law school and youth from the community and to expose young people to the benefits of obtaining an advanced degree. High school participants are recruited from schools in the surrounding community.

"Loyola is dedicated to providing opportunities for legal education to the poor, the underprivileged, women and minorities," said Professor Gary Williams, who advises the group. "The Young Lawyers Program, founded by Loyola's African American and Latino student organizations and staffed by students of all races, fulfills that mission by bringing inner-city high school students to Loyola's campus to teach them about the law, legal advocacy and the importance of a college education."

Young Lawyers is a collaboration between Loyola's La Raza Law Students Association and Black Law Students Association and is advised by Professors Williams and Brietta Clark. This year's coordinators are Sapna Jain, Justin Cronin, George Hill, Marjorie Williams, Sherrie Albin, Frances Ma and Jason Caperna.

Young Lawyers is named in honor of the late Judge Stephen O'Neil of the LA County Superior Court. During the first two years of Young Lawyers, Judge O'Neil graciously donated his time and expertise by serving as the judge for the mock trial, where his gentle manner, good humor and supportive nature made all of the students, law school and secondary alike, feel comfortable and encouraged.

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 for more information or contact Brian Costello, deputy director of communications, at 213.736.1444 or brian.costello@lls.edu.

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