



**For Immediate Release**  
**Feb. 15, 2009**

### **Loyola Law School to Honor State Assembly Speaker Karen Bass at its African American Scholarship Reception**

**LOS ANGELES** – Loyola Law School will present the 2009 Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr. Public Service Award to California State Assembly Speaker Karen Bass on Thursday, Feb. 26 during its African American Scholarship reception. The award is presented annually to an individual who embodies the qualities of Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr. and has demonstrated excellence in his or her profession, dedication to social justice and a commitment to serving the community. Mrs. Dale Mason Cochran and Dean Victor Gold will present the award at the event, which will run from 6:30-8:30 pm at the California African American Museum.

Bass has been a State Assembly member representing LA's 47<sup>th</sup> Assembly District since 2005. She made history when she was appointed the 67<sup>th</sup> speaker, becoming the first female Democrat in the role. Before her political career, Bass founded the Community Coalition in 1990. Inspired by her work in the emergency room at the LA County – USC Hospital where she witnessed the consequences of addiction, Bass was determined to improve the quality of life in South LA, bring social justice to the community and motivate its residents to make a difference.

Bass has been an active member of numerous organizations, such as Workplace Hollywood, Friends of Crenshaw/Dorsey Community and the Human Services Alliance. She is also the recipient of several awards, including the 85 Unsung Heroes Award from the California Community foundation, the FAME award from the First African-Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Upton Sinclair Award from the Liberty Hill Foundation. A lifelong resident of LA, Bass has a bachelor's degree from California State Dominguez Hills and a physician's assistant certificate from the University of Southern California School of Medicine.

The California African American Museum is located at 600 State Drive in LA. Tickets are \$50 a person. For program details or to make a donation to the African American Scholarship Fund please visit <http://alumni.lls.edu>. For more information, please contact Adrianna Correa at 213.736.1029

#### **About Loyola Law School**

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 for media attendance to Loyola events, please contact Brian Costello, deputy director of communications, at 213.736.1444 or [brian.costello@lls.edu](mailto:brian.costello@lls.edu). For more information on Loyola Law School, please visit [www.lls.edu](http://www.lls.edu).

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