

For Immediate Release

Oct. 5, 2010

## Former Loyola Law School Dean David W. Burcham Appointed President of Loyola Marymount University

**LOS ANGELES** – David W. Burcham, former dean and professor of law at Loyola Law School, was appointed the 15<sup>th</sup> president of Loyola Marymount University in a unanimous vote by the school's board of trustees on Monday, Oct. 4. Burcham departed Loyola Law School in 2008 to assume the newly created position of provost at LMU. A 1984 alumnus of Loyola Law School, Burcham will be the first lay president in the LMU's 99-year history.

In announcing the selection, board Chairman R. Chad Dreier said, "Dave Burcham is the best person to lead LMU. He has a long and distinguished career at the university, both as an educator and as leader, with a passion for our mission manifested in the tradition of our Jesuit and Marymount education. His record of accomplishments speaks directly to LMU's commitment to academic excellence."

Burcham's history with Loyola began in 1981, when he enrolled in Loyola Law School. In 1984, he graduated first in his class from the law school and, after seven years in public and private practice, he returned to the law school and teaching. He was appointed senior vice president and dean of the law school in 2000, and served in that capacity until 2008, when he was named LMU's executive vice president and provost. In 2010, Burcham took over leadership of the university when Robert B. Lawton, S.J. resigned for health reasons.

"Dave Burcham is synonymous with Loyola Law School; both stand for leadership, integrity and educational excellence," said Victor Gold, Fritz B. Burns Dean at Loyola Law School. "With limitless enthusiasm and passion, he oversaw an era of extraordinary growth at the law school – both academic and fiscal. He is absolutely the right person to lead LMU as it continues to grow."

Determined to give students a broad range of experience, Burcham oversaw the launch of a host of innovative programs at the law school, including the Center for Juvenile Law & Policy, the Business Law Practicum, the Tax LLM program, the London IP Institute and many more. Under his leadership, Loyola's Bar passage rate increased by 10 percentage points.

"Dave Burcham is a superb choice for LMU. I have known him since he was enrolled in my Criminal Procedure class so many years ago," said alumnus Allan Ides '79, Christopher N. May Professor of Law at Loyola. "He was a most impressive student. Since then, he has continued to excel at everything he has done, from lawyer to professor to administrator. Most importantly, he is a natural leader and will play a major role in the development and continued success of LMU. Of course, we at the law school are a bit jealous, but we celebrate the good fortune of the university and look forward to many more years of working with our friend and colleague."

During Burcham's tenure, Loyola saw dramatic improvements in many national rankings: first for Best Classroom Experience and fourth for Professors Rock (Legally Speaking) by the Princeton Review and fifth for Trial Advocacy by *U.S. News & World Report*. Likewise, Burcham's leadership of LMU saw the school rise to No. 3 in the "Best Regional Universities (West)" category of *U.S. News & World Report's* "Best Colleges" ranking.

Burcham, a recognized authority on constitutional law, clerked at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit for Chief Judge Ruggero J. Aldisert (1984-86) and the U.S. Supreme Court for Associate Justice Byron White (1986-87) and was in private practice at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher (1987-91).

### **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. Loyola’s California Bar Exam passage rate was 85.3 percent for the most recent major testing date. Loyola was ranked 29<sup>th</sup> on the 2010 *Super Lawyers* U.S. Law School Rankings. The Princeton Review ranks Loyola fifth for “Best Classroom Experience” and sixth for “Best Environment for Minority Students.” *National Jurist* magazine ranks it second on its list of “Best Law Schools for Public Interest Law.” It is ranked ninth in the nation for minority enrollment by *U.S. News & World Report*. Loyola ranked third among law schools nationwide for the most alumni on the *Daily Journal*’s list of the 100 most powerful attorneys in California. For more information, please see [www.lls.edu](http://www.lls.edu) or contact Brian Costello, deputy director of communications, at [brian.costello@lls.edu](mailto:brian.costello@lls.edu).

###