

For Immediate Release
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Loyola Law School Alumna Wins 2011 California State Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award

LOS ANGELES – Loyola Law School alumna Suesan Gerard was awarded the 2011 California State Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award for helping create the school's Project for the Innocent, a student-run program that represents wrongfully convicted defendants. The award will be presented to Gerard during a ceremony at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 16, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Long Beach.

Gerard, a 2011 graduate of Loyola, handled intake for more than 100 cases and spent at least 500 hours working on the project. Her work included drafting pleadings, interviewing witnesses and coordinating the work of 14 colleagues.

In addition to the Project for the Innocent, Gerard was heavily involved in the Black Law Students Association, the Public Interest Law Foundation, the Women's Law Association and the Academic Support Program. She volunteered for Loyola's Center for Juvenile Law & Policy, as well as the Office of the Federal Public Defender Capital Habeas Unit.

"Suesan is the most selfless student I have met in 25 years of teaching," said Laurie Levenson, David W. Burcham Professor of Ethical Advocacy and faculty supervisor of the project. "She is one of the most committed individuals I have ever known. The Project for the Innocent would have never have gotten off the ground without her."

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 90 years. The Princeton Review ranked Loyola third for "Best Classroom Experience." Loyola was ranked 29th on the 2010 *Super Lawyers* U.S. Law School Rankings. *National Jurist* magazine ranks it eighth on its list of "Best Law Schools for Public Interest Law." It was ranked fifth in the nation for trial advocacy, ninth for diversity and 10th for tax law by *U.S. News & World Report*. For more information, please see www.lls.edu.

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