

For immediate release
Jan. 3, 2011

**Top Tax-Policy Experts to Discuss Tax-Expenditure Reform Proposals
at Loyola Law School/Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center Conference**

Los Angeles – Top tax-policy experts will explore a variety of innovative approaches to tax-expenditure reform during the conference, “Starving the Hidden Beast: New Approaches to Tax Expenditure Reform,” to be held Friday, Jan. 14 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Loyola Law School’s downtown L.A. campus. The event, co-presented with the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center, will look at alternative ways to reduce the budget deficit amid the backdrop of a Congress determined to curb discretionary spending.

The event will be live streamed over the web via a link available at <http://events.lls.edu/taxpolicy/>. Online questions will be fielded. Please note that all times are Pacific Standard Time.

“Targeted subsidies, totaling more than \$1 trillion, known as ‘tax expenditures’ are woven throughout the federal tax code,” said Professor Katie Pratt, a program moderator who recently published in the Los Angeles Daily Journal the related op-ed, “Show Me the Money: A Hidden Source of Funding for the Federal Deficit Reduction.” (The op-ed is available at <http://summaryjudgments.lls.edu>, the Loyola Law School faculty blog.) “Many tax expenditures are hidden from public view, however, buried in the complex morass of the federal tax code. And unlike discretionary spending programs, most tax expenditures are not subject to annual budget scrutiny or performance review, and often provide disproportionate subsidies to upper-income Americans. This conference is designed to shed some light on how to reform those often-obscured areas.”

Tax scholars and economists will anchor a series of panels on a variety of topics: “The Saliency of Tax Expenditures and Implications for Reform,” “Reforming the Tax Expenditure Budget Presentation,” “Evaluating Tax Expenditures” and “Approaches to Tax Expenditure Reform.” The panels will draw on a wide range of expertise from top law schools and policy think tanks such as the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center, the Federal Budget Reform Initiative of the Pew Economic Policy Group and the Congressional Research Service.

“As Congress scrambles to achieve budget reform, we’ve assembled some of the best policy analysts in the country to look at how tax expenditure reform could help improve the country’s bottom line,” said Professor Ted Seto, who is presenting “Reframing the Tax Expenditure Budget.”

More information is available at <http://events.lls.edu/taxpolicy>. Journalists who wish to attend should RSVP to Brian Costello, deputy director of communications, at brian.costello@lls.edu, 213-736-1444 (o) or 310-902-9560 (c). The conference will be streamed live over the Internet at <http://hosted.mediasite.com/mediasite/Viewer/?peid=bf78243e3bdb48d88d92ff1e01767f5b1d>.

Agenda

(all times Pacific Standard Time)

8 am: Welcome from Dean Victor Gold

8:15-9:45 a.m.: The Salience of Tax Expenditures and Implications for Reform

MODERATOR: Ellen Aprill, John E. Anderson Chair in Tax Law, Loyola Law School

PANELISTS:

Deborah Schenk, New York University School of Law: “The Salience of Tax Expenditures and Implications for Reform”

David Gamage, University of California, Berkeley School of Law: “Tax Salience and Tax Expenditures”

COMMENTATOR: Damon Jones, Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago

10-11:30 a.m.: Reforming the Tax Expenditure Budget Presentation

MODERATOR: Sarah Lawsky, University of California, Irvine School of Law

PANELISTS:

Linda Sugin, Fordham Law School: “Tax Expenditures, Reform, and Distributive Justice”

Eric Toder and Donald Marron, Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center: “Tax Expenditures and the Size of Government”

COMMENTATOR: Daniel Shaviro, New York University School of Law

11:30 a.m.: Lunch

12:45-2:15 p.m.: Evaluating Tax Expenditures

MODERATOR: Rosanne Altshuler, Rutgers University

PANELISTS:

Theodore Seto, Loyola Law School, Los Angeles: “Reframing the Tax Expenditure Budget”

Thomas Hungerford, Congressional Research Service: “Tax Expenditures”

COMMENTATOR: Edward Kleinbard, USC Gould School of Law

2:30-4 p.m.: Approaches to Tax Expenditure Reform

MODERATOR: Katherine Pratt, Loyola Law School, Los Angeles

PANELISTS:

Marvin Phaup, Federal Budget Reform Initiative, Pew Economic Policy Group: “Integrating Tax Expenditures with the Budget Process”

Diane Lim Rogers, Chief Economist, Concord Coalition: “Tax Formed in the Proposal of the Deficit-Reduction Commissions”

COMMENTATOR: Elizabeth Garrett, USC Gould School of Law

4:00 p.m.: Reception

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. Loyola’s California Bar Exam passage rate was

85.3 percent for the most recent major testing date. 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 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*. For more information, please see www.lis.edu.