

**For immediate release
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Loyola Law School Expands Military Veterans Justice Project to Aid Service Members

Los Angeles – Loyola Law School, Los Angeles is expanding the reach of its Military Justice Veterans Project (MVJP) by increasing distribution of its recently published *VALOR Guide: Veterans Access to Legal Organizations & Resources*, a 100-page book designed to help military veterans access aid services in Los Angeles County. The MVJP is also growing its Military Veterans Justice Clinic, in which students assist veterans with benefits appeals in a seminar setting.

Loyola students Jamaica Abare and Max Ligtot spent months researching the *VALOR Guide* with the guidance of alumnus Adam Siegler '84, MVJP advisory committee member of counsel at Greenberg Traurig LLP, and Clinical Professor Barbara Blanco, who directs Loyola's externship programs. With donor support, the MVJP published and began distributing the book within Los Angeles County in fall 2010. The MVJP is currently soliciting donations for a second printing and continued distribution. It is also encouraging law schools in other regions to create similar guides. A digital version of the book is available at <http://intranet.lls.edu/docs/ValorGuide.pdf>.

"Loyola has a longstanding relationship with our nation's veterans," said Dean Victor Gold. "We plan to honor their service by making it easier for veterans to attend law school and navigate legal hurdles in keeping with our mission of social justice."

The legal clinic is designed to help veterans receive the benefits and services to which they are entitled while giving Loyola students valuable practical training as they work toward their pro bono requirements. Working under the auspices of Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles staff attorney Nicole M. Perez, students have helped veterans with significant service-related health issues assess their benefits claims, retrieve and review documents and develop case plans.

"The Justice Project represents a chance for those of us in the legal community to give something back to people who have given so much for us," said Lt. Col. Kurt Andrew Schlichter '94, chair of the program's advisory committee and a veteran of the Persian Gulf War and Kosovo. "The veterans were there when we needed them. Our justice system is based on the ideals these veterans put their lives on the line to preserve and defend under conditions we can barely imagine, and the least we can do is make sure that we are there for them when they need us."

The MVJP also awards scholarships to returning veterans – identified as ideal law students thanks to years of discipline and training. Loyola's halls have long been filled with military veterans. After World War II, Loyola was the law school of choice for troops using the newly created GI Bill to pursue higher education. Veteran students of the era included war heroes like Hon. Lynn "Buck" Compton, a recipient of the Purple Heart medal who was featured in the epic book and miniseries, *Band of Brothers*.

Aside from Schlichter and Siegler, the advisory committee consists of Brian Berliner '91, captain, U.S. Air Force; William Crosby '70; Stephen C. Dill '86, sergeant, U.S. Army; Stephen R. Fisch '88, captain, U.S. Navy Reserve; William H. Ford, III '71, captain, U.S. Army; F. Phillip Hosp '09, captain, U.S. Army;

Nicholas Hutchinson '02; Tom Johnston '00, lieutenant, U.S. Navy; Zenon Keske '01, captain, U.S. Marine Corps; John W. Meigs '78, captain, U.S. Army; Hal P. Mintz '63, corporal and 1st Lieutenant, U.S. Army; Alexander Tsao '03, captain, U.S. Marine Corps; Lawrence C. Waddington, sergeant, U.S. Army; and Marjorie Williams '09, captain, U.S. Air Force Reserve. William P. Clark '54, Counterintelligence Corps, U.S. Army, is an honorary member.

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