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University of San Diego Law School Establishes Board of Visitors

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UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO LAW SCHOOL

ESTABLISHES

BOARD OF VISITORS

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The establishment of a Board of Visitors for the University of San Diego School of Law, comprised of forty distinguished members of the Bench and Bar and business and community leaders, has been announced by Law School Dean Donald T. Weckstein.

The function of the Board will be to serve as a two way channel of communication between the Law School, the Bench and Bar, and the public. As representatives of the latter, it will study and offer constructive suggestions and criticism of the Law School and its operations and will respond to problems presented to it by representatives of the Law School and of the University. The Board also will explain Law School programs and needs to the Bar and public.

USD's School of Law, which graduated its first class of eight in 1958, has grown to an enrollment of over 900 students and occupies two buildings on the University of San Diego campus. Managing this growth while retaining and improving quality will be one of the issues on which Board members will advise the Law School.

At the organizational meeting held recently, the following officers were elected: Chairman, Attorney C. Hugh Friedman; Vice-Chairman, Robert J. Cooney, Presiding Judge of the San Diego Municipal Court; Secretary, William M. Cummings, Law School Placement, Alumni and Development Director.

The Board will operate through four functional committees and an Executive Committee consisting of the elected officers, Gerald Brown, Presiding Judge of the Fourth District Court of Appeals; Edward J. Schwartz, Presiding Judge of the Federal District Court for San Diego; attorney Judith Keep; retired businessman-lawyer Marvin Kratter of Las Vegas; and the chairpersons of the other committees.

Local attorney Peter Hughes chairs the committee concerned with the basic law program for the Juris Doctor degree, which will also study Law School clinical and other practice-oriented educational programs.

The Committee on Post-Graduate Legal Education, chaired by Judge Louis M. Welsh of the San Diego Superior Court, will consider the feasibility of specialist programs for members of the Bar.

Development of legal services, consulting and research assistance for San Diego public agencies and under-represented citizens will be among the projects of the Community Law Center Committee, chaired by attorney Edward T. Butler.

A Resources Planning and Development Committee, under the direction of attorney Michael Thorsnes, will explore problems related to the growth and development of the USD School of Law.

Other Board of Visitors members include: attorney-banker Robert F. Adelizzi, anthropologist Dr. Bernard W. Aginsky, attorney and past President of the San Diego Bar Association John H. Barrett, attorney-businessman Lee Bartel, Municipal Court Judge Carlos A. Cazares, corporate attorney H. Cushman Dow, businessman Arthur Kaplan, Federal Bankruptcy Judge Herbert Katz, businessman John Mabee, Federal Magistrate Harry McCue, community leader Mrs. de Witt Merriam, and attorneys Peter G. Aylward, Robert C. Baxley, Ramon Castro, Miles Harvey, John J. Irwin, Louis M. Katz, Frederick W. Kunzel, Stanley W. Legro, O'Neal P. Martin, John J. McCabe, Gerald L. McMahon, Ralph G. Miller, James Mulvaney, William C. Pate, Christine V. Pate, Roger Ruffin, Norman T. Seltzer, Lynn Schenk, J. Stacey Sullivan, and Bruce Wagner, psychiatrist-attorney Dr. Stanley W. Willis II, corporate attorney James A. Wilson, and City Attorney John W. Witt.

The Board will meet quarterly and make periodic visits to the School. It will work closely with Law School administrators, faculty and students and with the University Board of Trustees and administrators. According to Dean Weckstein, "the members of the Board of Visitors who have agreed to undertake this important service will provide invaluable guidance to help the School of Law fulfill its potential as a high quality educational institution and significant community asset."

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