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302 Graduate from USD School of Law

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
DIRECTOR: SARA FINN
NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS WRITER: BILL RITTER
TELEPHONE: 714-291-6480 / EXT. 4296
ADDRESS: RM. 266 DE SALES HALL, ALCALA PARK, SAN DIEGO, CA 92110

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

302 GRADUATE FROM USD SCHOOL OF LAW

302 law students received Juris Doctor Degrees from the University of San Diego during the University's 1980 Commencement exercises held Sunday, May 25.

Addressing the law school graduates was A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr., U.S. Circuit Court Judge for the Third Circuit. Higginbotham urged the graduates to be more concerned with the values by which they apply their trade than with the technical aspects of legal practice.

"Are you a better person, a more moral individual, than you would have been had you not gone to law school?" he asked. "Do you have a sense of commitment to those who may need your services the most? Out of the 39 Presidents, 25 have been lawyers. (Yet) those Presidents who have done the most for women and minorities have been non-lawyers: Presidents Truman, Kennedy and Johnson. Each of us will have to be much more than mere technicians."

Higginbotham was the first black appointed be a commission-level-member of any Federal Regulatory Agency in 1962, when President John Kennedy appointed him Commissioner for the Federal Trade Commission. He was appointed to the Third Circuit seat by President Carter in 1977.

Higginbotham received his B.A. from Antioch College, and his L.L.B. from Yale Law School. USD awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree.

Of the 302 law school graduates, 29 received Cum Laude honors (at least a 3.46 grade point average), 14 received

--more--

Magna Cum Laude (3.65 GPA), and one received Summa Cum Laude (at least a 3.86 GPA).

Three law students received a Master of Laws Degree, the first students to complete the USD program, first initiated in 1978.

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