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## Loyola Posts Huge Gains in Federal Clerkships

With mentoring from Professor Laurie Levenson and a committee of clerkship veterans, Loyola alumni are landing federal clerkships in unprecedented numbers.

A decade ago, Loyola placed only a handful of students in post-graduation clerkships each year, but a push to offer focused advice and networking opportunities has led to enormous gains. In 2005, 10 alumni landed clerkships. Last year marked a "banner year," Levenson said, with 17 clerkships.

"Judges like our students, trust our students and feel like Loyola students are getting the education they need to make them useful," she said.

Levenson and members of the clerkship alumni committee advise students on the application and interview processes. Those who get offers are put through a boot camp style class on memo writing, research, ethics and other issues before they start.

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"I am a match maker. It's my job to match the students with a judge," said Levenson. She says she offers judges a "money-back guarantee: If the judge doesn't like the Loyola alum, I'll quit my job and finish the clerkship out."

(Continued on back cover)



## Loyola Alums Grab Honors Among 'Top' Lawyers

Loyola alumni continue to be recognized as leaders in their fields with dozens of alumni racking up recognition among their peers in the last couple of years.

Loyola graduates have been noted among the top litigators, best corporate counsel, top labor and employment lawyers, top lawyers under 40, and leading attorneys in California in 2010 and 2011. This includes lists such as California's Leading 100 Attorneys, Southern California Top 50 Women Lawyers, Top Women Lawyers, Top Labor & Employment Lawyers, Biotech Top 25 Attorneys, Top 20 Under 40, Who's Who in L.A. Law, Corporate Counsel Awards Finalists and Top Women Litigators to name a few.

Matthew McNicholas '97 was named among California's Leading 100 Attorneys of 2011, marking his first appearance on the leading lawyers list from the Los Angeles Daily Journal. McNicholas is a partner at McNicholas & McNicholas, LLP. The firm represents plaintiffs and individuals in significant and complex matters in the areas of personal injury, employment law, class actions and other consumer oriented matters such as civil rights, aviation disasters and products liability.

"It's always the most flattering and humbling recognition when you're recognized by your peers. It means a lot," said McNicholas, who attended Loyola because his father, John McNicholas, is an alumnus and also because of the Law School's reputation for training top trial lawyers. McNicholas feels that he has benefited from the contributions other graduates before him made to Loyola's reputation and education. As a result, "It's the responsibility of Loyola graduates to continue to pave the road of solid reputation for future generations," McNicholas said.

Janet Levine '80 made the Daily Journal's Top Women Lawyers 2011 list and was also named among the Southern California Top 50 Women in Southern California Super

Lawyers 2011. "It's always quite flattering to be recognized on a list of your peers," she said.

Both Levine and McNicholas expressed that the education they received at Loyola helped put them on the path to success. McNicholas feels that Loyola prepared him to put in the hard work that it takes to become a successful trial lawyer.

Levine, the white-collar and regulatory enforcement group chairwoman at Crowell & Moring LLP, said Loyola gave her the freedom and flexibility to pursue the legal career she wanted. The evening program also helped ensure that she and her classmates were exposed to others with a wide variety of backgrounds and noted that, "If you look at where Loyola lists among top lawyers, it's in all sorts of practice areas."

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As the saying goes, "the list goes on and on" and Loyola is proud to see so many alums being recognized through these honors as leaders in their field. The legal industry is rapidly changing, and Loyola grads continue to demonstrate that they are able to meet the dynamic needs of their clients and the legal community. We congratulate our many alumni who have been recognized throughout the year and will continue to highlight these accomplishments in the class notes section of the newsletter, as well as with weekly updates on the alumni homepage (alumni.lls.edu).