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Law School Notes

Loyola law school celebrates century mark

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It started as a night school in a Loop office building with 30 students and two full-time teachers in 1908.

Today:

- The president of the Illinois state Senate, John J. Cullerton, is an alum of this once tiny school.
- The Speaker of the Illinois House, Michael J. Madigan, is an alum.
- Attorney General Lisa M. Madigan is an alum.
- State Comptroller Daniel W. Hynes is an alum.
- Mara S. Georges, Chicago's corporation counsel, is an alum.

Before the current chief justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, Thomas R. Fitzgerald, his two immediate predecessors, Robert R. Thomas and Mary Ann G. McMorrow, were both alums.

Saturday this school, now known as the Loyola University Chicago School of Law, which has grown to 850 students in its own Loyola Law Center, at 25 E. Pearson St., celebrates its Centennial Gala.

The event at the Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive, starts with a reception at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. followed by dancing.

It is "the centerpiece of the whole year," said David N. Yellen, dean of the law school.

Attendance for the event is expected to reach 650 people.

In anticipation, Yellen listed just a fraction of Loyola's most prominent law alumni.

"We have had other alums in these positions over the years," he continued, such as former state Senate president Philip J. Rock, and former Illinois attorney general Neil F. Hartigan. The late Henry J. Hyde, who represented Illinois in the U.S. House, also was an alum.

Two other Chicago corporation counsels have been Loyola law alums, Raymond F. Simon and William R. Quinlan.

At least one other Loyola law alum has been a justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, James A. Dooley, from the Class of 1937.

On the other hand, "We're probably best known for producing some of the best trial lawyers in the country," Yellen stated.

Philip H. Corboy "was one of the most famous

trial lawyers of his generation. He really transformed the practice of personal-injury law."

"Currently in almost every survey of Illinois [trial] lawyers I've seen," Yellen said, "the top two are" Dan K. Webb and Joseph A. Power Jr., both Loyola law alums.

Two United States attorneys for the Northern District of Illinois have been Loyola alums, Thomas P. Sullivan and Webb.

Given the opening to brag for the school's 100th year, Yellen said Loyola law, with a full-time faculty of about 40, now has "three major centers of excellence, the Beazley Health Law Institute, the Civitas ChildLaw Center and its trial advocacy program.

Moreover, with generous gifts in the last five years, the school has created six endowed chairs and is now in the midst of a \$20 million renovation of its building.

Yellen has been dean since July 2005.

According to a history of the school by Professor Thomas M. Haney to be published this spring, entitled "The First 100 Years," the school opened in 1908 in the Ashland Block office building on the northeast corner of Clark and Randolph streets.

Because it was a night school that operated from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., the students, all young men, were there after most of the lawyers and other office workers had gone home, and their boisterousness sometimes caused trouble for the cleaning staff.

The Ashland Block building later became the site of the downtown Greyhound bus station. On that site today is the Chicago Title & Trust Center, 161 N. Clark St.

The idea for the school was suggested in 1906 to St. Ignatius College, the predecessor of Loyola University Chicago, by five lawyers.

They were the man who would become its first dean, William Dillon, along with Michael V. Kannally, Superior Court Judge Marcus Kavanagh, Patrick H. O'Donnell and Howard Spragle.

"We are of the opinion that a law school, conducted under the auspices of a Catholic college or university and situated in Chicago, the great metropolis of the middle west, would succeed," the five said in a letter to Henry J. Dumbach, S.J., then the president of St. Ignatius

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College on Jan. 13, 2006.

With the additional help of Circuit Court Judge Edward F. Dunne, former mayor of Chicago and later governor of Illinois, as well as attorney Arnold D. McMahon, who became the second dean, and others, the law school was able to open on Sept. 14, 1908.

The school was originally named Lincoln College of Law and has had several locations over the years. Once, in 1944, it even closed when the student body dwindled as so many young men went into military service.

It was "resurrected in 1946," according to the school's Web site.

Loyola is a Catholic school operated by the Jesuits.

"We're very proud of our identification with that heritage," said Yellen. "Jesuits are known around the world for their devotion to education and community service, and that fits our mission as a law school to a T.

"It is also important to note we are extremely embracing of people of all faiths. I'm Jewish,"

Yellen said.

His predecessor for 20 years, Nina S. Appel, now dean emerita, also is Jewish.

"We're proud of our identification and heritage," Yellen said, "but it's a very ecumenical one."

Justices cite local prof's work

Professor Mary Jean Dolan of The John Marshall Law School submitted an amicus brief on behalf of the International Municipal Lawyers' Association that was cited frequently in Wednesday's 9-0 opinion by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Pleasant Grove v. Summum*, No. 07-665, according to her school.

The amicus brief included her national survey of municipal monument practices.

Dolan received help on the project from student research assistants Brent Wilson and Melissa Branson, and Thomas Keefe, associate director of instruction in computer services in John Marshall's law library.