

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Annie Hughes
Communications Associate
(312) 915-6324
ahughes1@luc.edu



Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives

Loyola University Chicago School of Law Receives Gift to Establish Endowed Chair in Advocacy

School of Law Alumni and Law Partners Contribute with Program Donation

CHICAGO, February 15, 2008 – Three partners at the Chicago law firm of Cooney & Conway are pleased to announce the establishment of the new Cooney & Conway Chair in Advocacy at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. John D. Cooney (JD '79), Robert J. Cooney Jr. (JD '78), Kevin J. Conway (JD '76), all alumni of the School of Law, have donated \$1.5 million to create this new faculty position. The School of Law will begin a national search later this year for a leading scholar in advocacy to assume the chair position in the fall of 2009.

Founded in 1958, Cooney & Conway is one of the country's leading plaintiffs personal injury law firms concentrating in asbestos litigation. The firm has successfully litigated hundreds of cases on behalf of victims and their families in Illinois and throughout the United States who have experienced asbestos-related injuries. In addition, the firm also represents plaintiffs in personal injury suits, transportation liability, medical malpractice and professional negligence, construction liability, premises liability, and mass torts.

"We are very pleased to be able to support the remarkable trial advocacy work that has become one of the hallmarks of Loyola University School of Law," said John Cooney. "It is an honor to be associated with the law school and a program that has produced so many preeminent trial lawyers and appellate advocacy attorneys. This year will mark the 50th anniversary of our firm's founding, and we feel strongly committed to supporting Loyola's continuing mission."

John D. Cooney, Kevin J. Conway, and Robert J. Cooney, Jr. received their JD degrees at Loyola University Chicago and have each achieved remarkable success as a trial lawyer. John Cooney is a former prosecutor with the Cook County State's Attorneys Office in the Felony Trial Division. He has been identified by *Chicago Lawyer* magazine as among the top ten attorneys obtaining multi-million dollar results in its annual settlement survey of Illinois law firms.

Kevin Conway joined the firm of Cooney & Stenn as an associate in 1976, and then became partner in 1987. He is a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, and has served as vice president and president of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association. In 2004, Conway was honored

with the Francis J. Rooney/St. Thomas More Award by Loyola University Chicago's Law Alumni Association in recognition of his continuous and outstanding loyalty and dedicated service to the School of Law. His name has appeared on *Chicago* magazine's annual list of top 100 Illinois Super Lawyers since 2005.

Robert J. Cooney Jr. served as a member of the Homicide Task Force in the Cook County Public Defender's office before joining the firm in 1983. He has achieved numerous million-dollar-plus settlements and verdicts in a wide variety of personal injury and wrongful death litigation. Cooney is an active member of the Federal Trial Bar and the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, where he has lectured on trial techniques and practice. Robert's wife, Loretta Weber Cooney, also received her JD degree from Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

Another important individual of the firm is William R. Fahey, a partner at Cooney & Conway and a benefactor of Loyola University School of Law. He served as assistant state's attorney in Kane County, Illinois prior to working at Cooney & Conway. Since joining the firm, he has been lead counsel in hundreds of asbestos related wrongful death cases across the Midwestern United States. He is recognized nationally as one of the premier asbestos litigators.

In addition to the establishing the Chair in Advocacy, Cooney & Conway has established the Cooney & Conway Fellowship at Loyola University Chicago, which is awarded annually to third-year law students who have demonstrated interest and skills in litigation.

"Our Center for Advocacy is at the heart of Loyola University Chicago School of Law," said Dean David Yellen. "For almost 100 years Loyola has been producing some of the best trial lawyers and appellate advocates in the country, lawyers like John, Bob and Kevin. We thank them enormously for their support and generosity. This gift will enable us to add a nationally prominent scholar to our faculty and to expand the reach of our Center for Advocacy, already one of the best of its kind in the country."

About Loyola University Chicago School of Law

Loyola's School of Law has been educating students across the country and around the world for 100 years. The school offers full- and part-time Juris Doctor programs, with specialized certificates available in advocacy, child and family law, health law, international law and practice, and tax law. For attorneys pursuing advanced legal education, the school offers Master of Laws programs in business law, child and family law, health law, and tax law. In addition, the School offers the Master of Jurisprudence for non-attorney professionals in business, child and family law, and health law, as well as two doctoral degrees focusing on health law and policy (SJD and DLaw).

About Loyola University Chicago

Committed to preparing people to lead extraordinary lives, Loyola University Chicago was founded in 1870 and is the nation's largest Jesuit, Catholic University. Loyola has a total enrollment of more than 15,500 students, which includes nearly 10,000 undergraduates hailing from all 50 states and 82 foreign countries. The University has four campuses: three in the greater Chicago area and one in Rome, Italy. Loyola also serves as the U.S. host university to the Beijing Center for Chinese Studies in Beijing, China. Loyola's ten schools and colleges include arts and sciences, business administration, communication, education, graduate studies, law,

medicine, nursing, continuing and professional studies, and social work. Loyola offers 71 undergraduate majors, 71 undergraduate minors, 85 master's degrees, and 31 doctoral degrees. Recognizing Loyola's excellence in education, *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked Loyola consistently among the “top national universities,” and named the University a “best value” in its 2008 rankings. For more information, please visit our Web site at LUC.edu.

-Loyola-