In 2003, the United States Supreme Court affirmed the use of race conscious measures by law schools and other institutions of higher learning as a way to accomplish what the Court considered to be a compelling interest: the interest in securing and preserving a diverse student body. The Court approved consideration of an applicant’s race as one of many factors that universities and law schools could consider in deciding whether to admit any one individual, as long as that consideration was part of a consideration of the individual as a whole. This year, the Court will consider the use of race in admissions again in the case of Fisher v. University of Texas. The Court has fairly consistently stated that whatever standards apply to public institutions under the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth and Fifth Amendment, apply to private institutions under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, like Loyola. Thus, private institutions like our own are likely to be impacted by whatever ruling the Court issues in the Fisher case.

The Journal of Public Interest Law's Fall 2012 symposium will explore issues that arise in the context of the search for equality with a particular focus on Louisiana. One of the panels will explore a legal challenge to Louisiana’s sex offender registration under Louisiana’s crime against nature law. The other two panels will explore diversity in the context of legal education and the legal community through student narratives, and narratives from other legal professionals, including Loyola Law alumni and professors. The Symposium will be held at the law school on the afternoon of Friday, November 9, 2012. The Symposium papers will be published in the Spring 2013 volume of the Journal of Public Interest Law.

For more information about the symposium contact Imre Szalai at iszalai@loyno.edu or Isabel Medina at medina@loyno.edu.