MEMORANDUM

March 30, 2009

To: Dr. Edward J. Kvet
    Provost and Vice President Academic Affairs

From: Brian Bromberger
    Dean

Subject: College of Law

Strategic Plan

Consistent with the Jesuit mission of the university, the College of Law continues to introduce programs that both advance the education of our students and benefits the wider community.

Much of our immediate strategy for the future builds upon existing programs, so limited additional funds are needed for their implementation. As the MOU requires the College of Law to meet all its own expenses, any additional program will have a zero impact upon the University budget.

There are currently four major projects that fit squarely within the instructions in that they advance the Jesuit Mission, potentially make the program of the College of Law more attractive to prospective students, benefit the local community, and enrich the legal education of our students.

Street Law

1. Street Law is an educational program whereby Loyola students go into inner city schools, community organizations and rehabilitative centers to teach young adults about those aspects of the legal system and the law that are most relevant to their day to day life.
2. There is a biweekly classroom component where the students have to formulate their program and present it to the course instructor.
3. Upon approval, the students visit the institution and present the class.
4. Topics include: Overviews of legal system, criminal law, family law, constitutional law, contracts, consumer law, child support, property law.
5. Organizations that are serviced include, Boys Hope/Girls Hope, Battered Women's Center, Juvenile Detention Center, and the Alternative School for Troubled Children. These organizations are in addition to inner city high schools that have been the main focus of the program.

6. Students take the course for credit and can obtain three hours credit upon satisfactory completion.

7. The course also satisfies the College of Law requirement that every student provide at least 50 hours of pro bono service.

8. The success of the program can be measured by the desire of those participating who request our students return on a regular basis.

9. Class sizes at the participating institutions vary from 10-30.

10. Other agencies such as police, lawyers, judges and correction officers provide additional instruction to the high school and other students.

While this program is not high profile, its mission sits squarely with those expounded in Jesuit principles and takes Loyola into the general community.

Cost: The only cost is the stipend paid to the coordinator, but as the coordinator is already on staff, this expense pales into insignificance compared to the benefit the program brings to needy members of the New Orleans community.

It also serves as a wonderful vehicle for the education of our law students and sensitizes them to the needs of the wider community.

Interdisciplinary Possibilities: Law students have little or no prior teaching experience and would be assisted enormously by any teaching hints that could be provided by members of the university whose specialty is instruction.

**Immigration Outreach: Catholic Legal Immigration Network.**

Until recently this program has been financed partly by Catholic Charities and partly by the Gillis Long Poverty Law Center, although it has been operated out of the Loyola Law Clinic.

It is clear that this program offers our students an opportunity to work in a high demand legal field while at the same time serve a desperate need in the community.

The change of status of the staff attorney, who has been carrying out this work, enables her to receive the normal load of ten students per semester who will obtain Clinic credit hours for their work. While this change of status and requirement of formal teaching will cost some additional funds, the extra committed funds have only a minor effect on the overall College of Law budget and no effect whatsoever on the general University budget.

A description of the program appears below:
Since 2004, the Immigration Law Section of Loyola Law Clinic has represented non-citizens in a variety of issues before the U.S. Department of Justice Immigration Courts and the Board of Immigration Appeals, as well as the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (HS).

Representation is provided to clients seeking political asylum who were persecuted or tortured or have a future fear of persecution or torture in their home country; withholding of removal under INA 241(b) (alternative form of humanitarian relief to asylum with a higher burden of proof), and relief under the United Nations Convention Against Torture. Assistance is also given to those who are victims of crimes and/or domestic violence. Immigration relief is sought for unaccompanied minors who are abused, neglected or abandoned by their natural parents. Habeas corpus cases are litigated in federal courts for detainees who are sentenced to an indefinite detention for immigration violations, and those who were being sent to Somalia, a country in the state of perpetual civil strife with no central government.

Currently, the Immigration Law Section is representing political asylum seekers from Iraq, El Salvador and Peru, long-term lawful permanent residents from Vietnam, a U.S. citizen with Mexican descent, and an unaccompanied minor from Honduras. The office is working with law enforcement agencies in St. Tammany and Orleans Parishes to assist crime victims to obtain immigration relief. Approximately 50 workers are being represented, mostly working parents with small children, who were arrested, interrogated and placed in removal proceedings by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, an enforcement agency of the DHS, as a result of the worksite raid it conducted in Laurel, Mississippi last August, which netted close to 600 workers. In Laurel cases, challenges are being made to the government’s actions as a violation of the workers’ regulatory and constitutional rights.

In addition to direct client representation, the Immigration Law Section conducts a monthly know Your Rights immigration legal orientation program for indigent pro se detainees at Tensas Parish Detention Center in Waterproof, Louisiana. It is believed that there are close to 4,000 non-citizens currently detained in several remotely located detention centers in Louisiana. As immigrants are not entitled to appointed counsel, almost 80 percent of the detainees are required to defend themselves in the adversarial immigration court system. Therefore, this program serves the only opportunity that many detainees have to educate themselves about U.S. immigration law and the immigration court system.

**Homeless Advocacy Program**

Partly funded by Catholic Charities

The Law Clinic Staff Attorney is primarily responsible for the Homeless Advocacy Program. This involves representing homeless people in criminal and civil matters, providing legal referrals, supervising student volunteers, and maintaining a federal grant.
The staff attorney previously supervised 3rd year Clinic students as part of the regular Clinic curriculum on an as needed basis. With the change of status of the staff attorney, this program will now become an integral part of the overall Clinic, engage ten students per semester, and ensure that there is a continuity of service in this desperately needed area.

The Pro Bono Coordinator is responsible for maintaining and recruitment of the Pro Bono Program. This involves coordinating student placements, counseling students about pro bono activities, and maintaining student data (hours worked, work evaluation, etc.). The Coordinator also maintains a pro bono website for student use.

**In the Community Justice Clinic**

Students are expected to master advanced lawyering skills and to learn how lawyers can play a vital role in broad community efforts. Students partner with individuals and nonprofit community groups in administrative and trial advocacy. Students do administrative advocacy before local and state agencies and participate in a limited number of federal and state cases. Transferable skill development includes: interviewing clients, fact investigation and evaluation, counseling, preparing "the record" and gathering evidence, legal research and analysis, drafting briefs, preparing pleadings, learning civil court rules and filing procedures, and administrative and trial advocacy.

Skill development will also relate to nonprofit formation, advice/counseling related to board member and officer duties and constraints, ethical issues related to representation of nonprofit organizations, effective communication in developing community organizations and non-profits, and allowable political activity/lobbying by these organizations. Administrative appeals and litigation includes issues related to government barriers with access to disaster benefits, rebuilding, and public accountability.

**International LL.M.**

As a result of an approach made to the College of Law by the Graduate School of International Studies at the Sogang University in Seoul, South Korea, and by the T.C. Yeditepe University in Istanbul, Turkey, application is being made to the University to approve an LL.M. that involves the granting of reciprocal credits from these two highly regarded universities. The University in Seoul is the only Jesuit University in South Korea. It is anticipated that by reducing the number of formal hours necessary to be taken by students actually in the United States, the program will be less expensive and therefore more attractive to students from these heavily populated cities. In turn, it is anticipated that the size of the program will grow. There is little additional cost to implementation and each student enrolled adds approximately $3,000 to the University’s revenue stream and $12,000 to the coffers of the College of Law. In the event that the College of Law grants scholarship money, the return to the University remains unchanged.
National Environmental Law Associations Annual Conference

The College of Law recently learned that it has won the bid to host the annual conference of the National Association of Environmental Law Societies (NAELS). The conference will take place on Thursday through Sunday either late February or early March next year. NAELS is a coalition of more than 50 law student groups "that aims to connect, educate, and inspire the next generation of environmental leaders." Next year's conference, titled "Green Dimensions: Minimizing and Adapting to Climate Change" will examine environmental topics of particular importance to the Gulf region, including energy, coastal restoration, green jobs, and sustainable development. The four-day event will bring in experts in law, policy, and science, and is expected to draw 200 students from around the country. Nationally-known keynote speakers will be invited, there will be several panels on related topics, field trips, and culminate with at least one party.

Although this event will require some College of Law expenditure, the exposure of the school, both at the graduate and the undergraduate level, clearly makes the benefit greater than the cost.