College of Law Strategic Plan.

Following Katrina the Street Law Program that had been in recess for six years was reintroduced. Since then it has grown exponentially and further growth is expected.

1. Street Law is an educational program where 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 bi-weekly 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: Overview 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, 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 requesting 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.

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.

1. Immigration Outreach.....Catholic Legal Immigration Network.

Since 2004, 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 ("DHS"). For example, we represent people who were persecuted or tortured or have a future fear of persecution or torture in their home country in their quest for political asylum, 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. We also assist people who are victims of crimes and/or domestic violence, and unaccompanied minors who were abused, neglected or abandoned by their natural parents to obtain immigration relief. We have litigated habeas corpus cases in the federal courts for people who are sentenced to an indefinite detention for their immigration violation, and those who were being sent to Somalia, a country in the state perpetual civil strife with no central government.

Currently, 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. We are working with law enforcement agencies in St. Tammany and Orleans Parishes to assist crime victims to obtain immigration relief. We also represent over 50 workers, 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, we are challenging the government 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 noncitizens 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.
2. Unity for the Homeless......an Agency of Catholic Charities
3. A Finger in the pie
4. Street Law
5. 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 Th-Su in either late Feb. or early March next year. NAELS is a coalition of over 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. We will have nationally-known keynote speakers, several panels on related topics, field trips, and at least one party.

6. International LLM
As a result of an approach made to the College of Law by ......in Seoul, South Korea and by .... In Istanbul, Turkey, application is being made to the University to approve an LLM that involves the granting of reciprocal credits from these two highly regarded universities. ......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.

7. Gillis Long Summer Internship Program

8. Student Education Program, Haiti