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Chapman Law School Moves Up in Rankings

ORANGE, Calif., March 31, 2008 The new *U.S. News & World Report* ranking of law schools has been released, and the Chapman University School of Law has moved up into the Third Tier of national law schools for the 2008-2009 academic year.

Dr. John Eastman, Dean of the Chapman University School of Law, said of the schools rise: "We are extremely pleased with this news, but not surprised. We have worked hard to strengthen the caliber of our student body and faculty and to expand the resources available to the legal education we provide. Prospective law students, employers, judges and other law professors are taking note that we are building a world-class institution. We expect to compete with the very best, while retaining a quality of life that is second to none."

The move up the *U.S. News* ladder occurred in the first year of Eastman's tenure as dean of the law school, after serving for nearly a decade as one of the school's most respected professors and scholars. He notes the following factors as key reasons why Chapman has solidified its ranking position and will continue to rise in the ranks:

A 72% California Bar pass rate in the most recent summer exam (July 2007), which puts Chapman in the company of a number of higher-tier schools in California. This result is 125% of the California jurisdiction's pass rate, a Tier 1 result.

An enviable faculty that includes:

- Four former Supreme Court Clerks, with two more joining as visitors in January 2008
- One of two law schools in the country with a Nobel laureate (Dr. Vernon L. Smith)
- Numerous recent lateral hires from top-tier schools

Major funding committed to an Academic Achievement program and Early Bar Preparation program to help Chapman students pass the bar on their first attempt.

Three top ten national rankings in the 2008 Princeton Review survey:

- #1 Quality of Life
- #5 Professors Rock (legally speaking)
- #7 Classroom experience

An ongoing lecture series that brings national scholars from law schools such as Harvard and Yale to discuss cutting-edge issues from across the philosophical spectrum.

Advocacy competition teams and a Moot Court program that is competitive with the nations top law schools.

Dean Eastman adds, While we are happy that others are recognizing the hidden gem that is

Chapman, we will not rest here. Our aspirations are, quite simply, to be recognized as one of the best opportunities in legal education.