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Chapman School of Law Granted Full Membership in AALS

ORANGE, Calif., Jan. 19, 2006 The Chapman University School of Law reached another milestone this month: the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) has voted unanimously to admit the Chapman law school into full-member status in the prestigious organization.

Membership in the AALS is granted to law schools only upon demonstrating that the school's academic program exceeds the minimum standards required by the American Bar Association for accreditation. These standards include excellence in the areas of:

- Faculty, as measured by teaching skills, scholarship and service to the profession,
- Academic strength of students,
- The law library and its collections,
- Clinical and externship programs,
- Functionality of physical facility, and
- Financial and academic strength of the host university

The Chapman School of Law opened its doors in 1995, as the only law school in Orange County on the campus of a four-year university. The American Bar Association unanimously granted full approval to the fledgling school in 2002. By September 2004, the Chapman law school was not only included in *The Princeton Review's Best 117 Law Schools*, but was also ranked 10th by that publication for the teaching quality of its professors and 4th in the Quality of Life category.

We salute the faculty, students and administrative team of the Chapman School of Law, whose excellence is reflected by this distinction, said James L. Doti, president of Chapman University. In particular, I can't say enough about the incredible leadership of Parham Williams, dean of the School of Law, who has truly shown us the way to build a preeminent law school. We are also deeply grateful to our Board of Trustees and Deans Council and to the many friends and supporters who have generously given their time, talent and treasure, as well as their trust, to create a distinguished law school at Chapman University. This is a proud day for all of us.