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Chapman Law Symposium to Address Consumer Law, Tort Reform

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Chapman Law Symposium to Address Consumer Law, Tort Reform

Orange, CA, January 14, 2004 Should the tobacco industry pay billions in damages as punishment for its methods of enticing and keeping customers, or does the responsibility arise when the choice is made to smoke? Must borrowers be expected to scan the fine print of loan contracts in search of unconscionable hidden fees, or does society have an obligation to protect the vulnerable from the sharp practices of mortgage lenders? Should we accept occasional instances of blatant misuse as the cost of a potentially revolutionary new consumer-protection law, or should the marketplace be allowed to govern itself?

These and other timely questions will be debated by leading legal thinkers on January 30, 2004, at Responsibility & Reform: Striking a Balance in the Marketplace, a symposium sponsored by Chapman Law Review at Chapman University School of Law in Orange, California.

Topics at the event will include the debate over the propriety of suits against the tobacco and the fast foods industry, the merits and pitfalls of California's pioneering Section 17200 consumer protection law, and the vitality of legislative consumer protections in the lending industry.

Among the prominent presenters and panelists will be attorney Richard Scruggs, of tobacco litigation fame; noted consumer finance scholar Alvin C. Harrell; John Sullivan, president of the Civil Justice Association of California; Elizabeth Renuart of the National Consumer Law Center; Robert A. Levy, Senior Fellow, Cato Institute; and lending experts Professor Patricia McCoy, University of Connecticut School of Law and attorney Donald C. Lampe.

The advance registration fee for the event is \$100 if received by December 14, and includes a continental breakfast, catered lunch and post-event reception. For more information, contact Chapman Law Review at (714) 628-2582 or lawrev@chapman.edu. Online information is available at www.chapman.edu/law/students/symposium.html.

Chapman University School of Law, founded in 1995, earned full accreditation from the American Bar Association in 2002, and in 2003 achieved the distinction of debuting in the third tier of U.S. News & World Report's annual nationwide law school rankings. Chapman Law Review, now in its seventh year, has previously hosted symposia and published special issues on such legal topics as Economic Liberties, Gaming Law and the Taxing and Spending Clause of the United States Constitution. Previous contributors and participants have included Professor Richard A. Epstein, University of Chicago Law School; Professor Erwin Chemerinsky, University of Southern California Law School; Professor Bernard H. Siegan, University of San Diego School of Law; Clint Bolick, Co-Founder, Institute for Justice; Professor Shannon Bybee, Executive Director, UNLV International Gaming Institute, Senator John Ensign, Nevada; Professor Lynn Baker, University of Texas School of Law; and Commissioner Bradley A. Smith, Federal Election Commission.

Chapman University School of Law is a California State Bar approved provider of MCLE credits. The program is expected to provide six MCLE units to attendees.