



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 1, 2016

The American College of Trial Lawyers Selects Loyola Immigrant Justice Clinic To Receive Its 2016 Emil Gumpert Award and \$100,000 Grant

Irvine, California – The American College of Trial Lawyers (The College) announced today that it has selected the Loyola Immigrant Justice Clinic at Loyola Law School, Los Angeles (LIJC) as the recipient of its 2016 Emil Gumpert Award. The organization received a \$100,000 cash grant, which is funded by the Foundation of the American College of Trial Lawyers. The award is the highest honor conferred by the College on any organization and was established to recognize programs whose principal purpose is to maintain and improve the administration of justice.

Michael W. Smith, president of the American College of Trial Lawyers, presented the award last night at the Loyola Law School's 2nd Annual Immigrant Justice Clinic Reception, which was attended by many prominent attorneys, members of the judiciary and friends of the Clinic. Smith is chairman of Christian & Barton, LLP, in Richmond, Va., and its Executive Committee, and is head of the firm's Litigation section. Also representing the College at last evening's event were Charles H. Dick, Jr. (San Diego), Treasurer of the Foundation of the American College of Trial Lawyers, and Robert K. Warford (San Bernardino), who is the College's Regent for Southern California.

Smith said, "This amazing program exists primarily due to the efforts of two young women who in 2012 saw a need for legal services in a vastly underserved population in East Los Angeles. The work of this Clinic is entirely aligned with the College's commitment to maintaining and improving the administration of justice. Immigration law is complicated and challenging, even for an attorney to follow, and I commend this incredible organization for its ability to provide meaningful assistance to the immigrant population it serves.

"It is my pleasure to present our prestigious Emil Gumpert Award to this most deserving organization. The \$100,000 grant provided by our Foundation will help the Clinic expand the important services it provides to help immigrants access their legal rights, while also providing valuable clinical experience to Loyola law students. We believe this program is an excellent model that could be replicated in other communities with similar needs," said Smith.

The LIJC is the only community-based immigration law clinic in Los Angeles. It has a dual-pronged mission: advancing the rights of the indigent immigrant population located in the Eastside of Los Angeles through direct legal services, education and community empowerment, and teaching law students effective legal skills and ethics in a real-world setting. LIJC serves undocumented immigrants who are particularly vulnerable to deportation due to social and financial challenges that make it difficult for them to access the legal protections to which they are entitled. Loyola Law School, Los Angeles alumnae Marissa Montes and Emily Robinson founded the LIJC in 2012 as a way to serve those in the community without access to help in pursuing immigration relief. Today, they serve as co-directors of the Clinic. The Clinic operates through a community-based partnership with Homeboy Industries and Delores Mission Church, both of which provide social services. The partnership is a key to the Clinic's success. In the four years since its inception, the LIJC has provided more than 6,000 consultations to immigrants in need of legal services.

"It is truly a great honor to be chosen this year as the recipient of the Emil Gumpert Award,"

said Montes. “Not only do we appreciate their recognition, but more than anything we appreciate their support in the importance of clinical education as a tool to empower students to use their legal expertise to promote immigrant rights. With the help of this award, we will now be able to expand our program and make a greater impact in our community.”

“We are truly honored to have been selected for the American College of Trial Lawyers Emil Gumpert Award,” said Robinson. “The true spirit of Emil Gumpert as an individual and this award is to improve the administration of justice and ensure that attorneys are well equipped to represent under-served communities. We could not be happier that ACTL has seen the value in our community-based law school immigration clinic. With this award, we will be able to expand our programs, community and law student trainings and improve our model for service delivery to meet the ever increasing demand for humanitarian focused immigration legal services for those residing on the East Side of Los Angeles.”

The Emil Gumpert Award recognizes programs, whether public or private, whose principal purpose is to maintain and improve the administration of justice. The award honors the late Honorable Emil Gumpert, Chancellor and Founder of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Judge Gumpert dedicated more than 50 years to the legal profession, serving as an eminent trial lawyer, California State Bar President, and trial judge.

Representatives of the LIJC will make a presentation about the clinic at the College’s Annual Meeting being held from September 15-18, 2016, in Philadelphia.

Photo: College President Michael W. Smith; LIJC Co-Director Marissa Montes; LIJC Co-Director Emily Robison, Interim Dean Loyola Law School Paul T. Hayden; Foundation Treasurer Charles H. Dick (Credit: Kim Fox/Loyola Law School)

About The American College of Trial Lawyers

The American College of Trial Lawyers is composed of the best of the trial bar from the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico and is widely considered to be the premier professional trial organization in North America. Founded in 1950, the College is an invitation only fellowship. The College thoroughly investigates each nominee for admission and selects only those who have demonstrated the very highest standards of trial advocacy, ethical conduct, integrity, professionalism and collegiality. The College maintains and seeks to improve the standards of trial practice, professionalism, ethics, and the administration of justice through education and public statements on important legal issues relating to its mission. The College strongly supports the independence of the judiciary, trial by jury, respect for the rule of law, access to justice, and fair and just representation of all parties to legal proceedings. Learn more at www.actl.com.

About the Emil Gumpert Award

The Emil Gumpert Award is the highest honor conferred by the College on any organization and was established to recognize programs whose principal purpose is to maintain and improve the administration of justice. The programs considered may be associated with courts, law schools, bar associations or any other organization that provides such a program. This award is made in honor of the late Honorable Emil Gumpert, Chancellor-Founder of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Judge Gumpert, throughout his more than half-century professional career as an eminent trial lawyer, State Bar president and trial judge, substantially and effectively devoted himself to the administration of justice and to the improvement of trial practice. Learn more at www.actl.com/awards/emil-gumpert-award.

About the Foundation of the American College of Trial Lawyers

The Foundation is dedicated to improvement in the quality of trial and appellate advocacy, the ethics of our profession and the administration of justice. It is funded by voluntary contributions, memorial gifts and bequests. The Foundation has an ongoing annual commitment to fund the Emil Gumpert Award, which was increased by the Foundation Trustees to \$100,000 beginning in the 2013-2014 fiscal year. The Foundation is proud to further the principles set forth more than 60 years ago by Founder and Chancellor, Emil Gumpert. Learn more at www.actl.com/foundation/usa.

About the Loyola Immigrant Justice Clinic

The Loyola Immigrant Justice Clinic (LIJC) is a community-based collaboration of Loyola Law School, Loyola Marymount University, Homeboy Industries Inc., and Dolores Mission Church. LIJC's dual-pronged mission is to advance the rights of the indigent immigrant population in East Los Angeles through direct legal services, education, and community empowerment, while teaching law students effective legal skills and ethics in a real world setting. Learn more at

<http://www.lls.edu/academics/clinicexperientiallearning/loyolaimmigrantjusticeclinic>. See also this You Tube video on the LIJC and the communities it serves: <https://youtu.be/g1wGDjIIaCI>

About Loyola Law School, Los Angeles

Located on an award-winning Frank Gehry-designed campus in downtown Los Angeles, Loyola Law School is home to prominent faculty, dedicated students and cutting-edge programs. Loyola dedicates itself to preparing students for practice with rigorous coursework, an extensive portfolio of practical-training opportunities, a diverse and successful alumni network and a focus on social justice. Learn more at www.lls.edu.

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