THE MISSION OF OUR UNIVERSITY IS TO PROVIDE PERSONALIZED EDUCATION THAT LEADS TO INQUIRING, ETHICAL, AND PRODUCTIVE LIVES AS GLOBAL CITIZENS.

We are committed to developing within our students the ability to think clearly, to communicate effectively, and to make informed ethical judgments in an increasingly complex and interdependent world.

We believe this mission forms a strong foundation for a school of law where students are offered an outstanding curriculum, where small classes guarantee access and personal guidance from a respected faculty of legal scholars, and where ideas are challenged and people are passionate about their beliefs.

Our law school is rapidly growing in stature and distinction. We are very proud of our $30 million, 130,000 square foot law building which is a showcase for an outstanding legal education. The building’s location adjacent to the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Business and Technology Hall assures our law students that they will be a vital part of one of the leading business/law educational centers in the nation.

In addition to our quality educational program and state-of-the-art technology and facilities, at Chapman you will also benefit from the heritage of a vibrant and innovative university with a 140-year tradition of recognized excellence in higher education. We invite you to consider joining our community of scholars at a law school that we believe will have an increasingly significant influence on legal education.

James L. Doti, Ph.D.
President and Donald Bren Distinguished Chair in Business and Economics
Chapman University, whose tradition of educational service began in 1861, enjoys an enviable reputation for excellence in its undergraduate and graduate programs. The reputation is national in scope: the university is ranked in the First Tier of Western Regional Universities by U.S. News and World Report. In 1995, Chapman established a law school, committing to this new enterprise the financial support necessary to develop a sound educational program for its students. Today, the law school has a faculty of twenty-one full-time teachers, men and women who bring to the classroom an enviable combination of teaching skills, scholarship and a genuine interest in their students. The law library’s holdings now exceed 250,000 volumes and volume equivalencies, and our students are offered a broad ranging curriculum that provides sound training in the core courses and a useful array of electives and seminars.

In the summer of 1999, we moved into the beautiful new law school complex on the main campus of Chapman University. Combining functional efficiency and aesthetic beauty, the building provides optimal teaching and learning experiences in its thirteen classrooms and two court rooms. The law library features cutting edge technology in its electronic data retrieval and research facilities, and provides comfortable, quiet study facilities for students and other users.

In only its third year of operation, the law school received provisional approval by the American Bar Association. This means that our students enjoy the privileges accorded students in other ABA approved schools and, importantly, that our graduates are able to take bar examinations in any state. We are poised to apply for full approval in 2002.

With the ABA approval in 1998, many new opportunities opened to the law school, opportunities that we have been aggressively exploiting. We have expanded our clinical programs in which our students have “hands on” experience in providing legal services to clients under the supervision of faculty or staff attorneys. Our latest offerings include the Elder Law, Bankruptcy and Appellate Practice Clinics. Our Tax Law Program continues to enjoy a national reputation, and is one of only two ABA law schools in the country to receive significant grants from the Internal Revenue Service every year since the program’s inception to fund our Low Income Taxpayer Clinic.

We have added certificate programs in environmental/land use/real estate law and in advocacy/dispute resolution, thus affording our students more opportunities to focus, if they choose, their elective course work. Our first enrolled students in the J.D./M.B.A. program are progressing toward completion and the distinction of being the first of Chapman Law’s joint degree graduates. We continue to expand the Externship Program so that more of our students can have learning opportunities in the offices of trial judges, appellate judges, prosecutors, and public defenders. New courses are being added to the curriculum, additional highly qualified faculty are being successfully recruited, and library holdings continue to grow. The financial support from leaders and business entities in Southern California and their enthusiasm for this special school have afforded us the opportunity to enhance our margin of excellence in all that we do. Law firms and individuals have begun to sponsor generous scholarships in recognition of the caliber of our students.

As an integral part of a comprehensive regional university, the law school enjoys enviable opportunities that spring from being located on the main campus. An exciting array of interdisciplinary learning experiences, including team-taught classes and cross-listed courses, will be available for our students. Additionally, law students enjoy all the facilities of the main campus, including sports facilities and main library research and study accommodations. We continue to explore expansion in our joint degree offerings with other graduate programs in the university. Chapman University School of Law students thus enjoy the significant advantage of obtaining a legal education in the intellectually stimulating environment of a great university.

I am delighted to offer you this comprehensive look at the country’s most ‘up and coming’ law school and am honored to be associated with its enormous early successes. It isn’t every day that one is afforded the privilege and excitement of building a new law school. In every way, this young school is already emerging as a leader in American legal education.

Parham Williams
vice president, dean and Donald P. Kennedy Chair in Law