CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

Chapman University is a 140-year old, independent institution of liberal arts and professional training dedicated to providing a solid foundation of knowledge that enables its graduates to become fully educated members of society. The university is comprised of the Wilkinson College of Letters and Sciences, the George Argyros School of Business and Economics, the School of Communication Arts, the School of Education, the School of Film and Television, the School of Music, the School of Law, and the College of Lifelong Learning.

Chapman traces its roots to Hesperian College, opened at the very hour of Abraham Lincoln's inauguration as the sixteenth U.S. president. Hesperian and several other institutions later merged with California Christian College in Los Angeles. In 1934 the institution was renamed in recognition of its most generous benefactor, C.C. Chapman, a successful real estate investor, rancher, and pioneer Orange County church leader. The college moved to the city of Orange in 1954. In September 1991 the college became Chapman University, further strengthening its commitment to international education, an innovative undergraduate curriculum, and the highest quality graduate and professional programs. The university offers more than forty fields of undergraduate study as well as twenty graduate degree programs and credential programs for educators.

Chapman's student body on the Orange campus is approximately 4,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional school students. Chapman's small size makes it possible to realize its mission of delivering personalized education to virtually every student. An additional 6,000 students are enrolled at twenty off-campus Academic Centers located throughout California, Washington, Arizona, and Colorado. Chapman students hail from across the United States and several foreign countries.

The beautiful tree-lined 50-acre campus is located in historic downtown Orange, California, a neighborhood that is home to hundreds of historically preserved structures. Centrally located for access to all of Southern California, Orange is thirty-five miles southeast of Los Angeles, ten miles east of Pacific Coast beaches, and ninety miles north of San Diego and Mexico.

THE SCHOOL OF LAW

Chapman University began formal study on the feasibility of establishing a School of Law in May 1993. At that time, the Board of Trustees approved the formation of a fifteen-member committee comprised of individuals representing the university community and the Orange County state and federal judiciary and legal community. The committee was asked to operate on the assumption that the School of Law would seek American Bar Association (ABA) approval, and to consider the university's mission and existing commitments as well as its present strengths in arriving at the recommendations included in its report. The members evaluated matters including need, costs, library acquisitions, and public interest.

The preliminary feasibility study regarding the establishment of a law school by Chapman University was written and submitted to the Board of Trustees in December 1993.

Based on the findings and recommendation of the committee, the university announced the establishment of a new law school in September 1994. The first classes commenced in August 1995 in temporary quarters in Anaheim, a few miles from the Orange campus. Within three years, the school received the blessing of the American Bar Association in the form of provisional approval, in time to assure that Chapman's first graduating class in 1998 would qualify for bar examinations throughout the country and enjoy the benefits of ABA approval.

Construction began in 1997 on the new law building and was completed in June 1999. The building was dedicated in October 1999 with the Honorable United States Supreme Court Justice Clarence
Thomas presiding over the event. At the dedication, the law building was named in honor of Donald P. Kennedy, member of Chapman's Board of Trustees since 1988 and Chairman of the Board of First American Financial Corporation. The naming followed Mr. Kennedy's generous endowment gift to the law school. The gift will provide scholarships for high achieving law students, known as Kennedy Scholars, and will establish the Donald P. Kennedy Deanship and Chair of Legal Studies.

The Chapman University School of Law is provisionally approved by the American Bar Association (ABA), 750 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60611, (312) 988-6738. Chapman University is accredited by and is a member of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. It is also a member of the Independent Colleges of Southern California, the College Entrance Examination Board, the Western College Association, the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities, the American Council on Education, the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, the Division of Higher Education of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the American Association of Collegiate Schools of Business. It is also accredited by the Institute of Food Technologists, the National Association of Schools of Music, and the American Physical Therapy Association. The teacher training and credential programs are approved by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

Successful completion of law study at an ABA approved law school does not assure admission to the bar of the various states. Among other things, most states require applicants to take and pass a written bar examination and to meet certain character requirements. Other requirements, as well as the examinations themselves, may differ considerably from state to state. For example, some states require registration as a candidate for admission to the bar shortly after the commencement of law study while some states have specific law school course and curriculum requirements. Students, especially international students, intending to seek admission to any state bar should fully inform themselves of the admission requirements of those states in which they have an interest prior to matriculation in a law school.

In California, admission to practice law is regulated by the State Bar of California. Inquiries regarding California bar examinations, admission requirements, and lawyer licensing should be directed to the State Bar Office of Admissions at 535 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102, (415) 561-8303, or 1149 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90015, (213) 785-1500. Information is also available online at www.calbar.org.