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WHITTIER LAW SCHOOL REPORTS DRAMATIC INCREASE IN STUDENT APPLICATIONS

Costa Mesa, Calif., June 14, 2004 -- The number of people applying to attend Whittier Law School in the fall is up by 36 percent over last year, campus officials reported today.

A total of 2,677 people have submitted applications to the Costa Mesa campus compared to 1,989 at this time last year, reflecting a nationwide trend of more and more people seeking a legal education.

“Most law schools in the western United States are seeing their application numbers climbing by 10 percent to 20 percent,” said Whittier Vice President and Dean Neil Cogan. “Whittier is attracting above-average numbers of prospective students thanks to an expansion of our curriculum over the past four years and a growing awareness of our programs.”

The school also is benefiting from being located in a region enjoying significant population growth. And it is one of only two fully ABA-accredited law schools in Orange County now that Western State University College of Law has agreed to give up its provisional accreditation status, at least temporarily, pending a decision from the American Bar Association on a new round of provisional accreditation.

Whittier began accepting applications for the 2004-'05 school year in October 2003. The school will continue to accept applications until the fall class is full. “We anticipate as many as 3,000 applications before school begins in August,” said Associate Dean Scott Wylie. The school is targeting a first-year class of approximately 220 full-time students and 90 part-time students. Final enrollment numbers won't be available until early July.

Whittier Law School was founded in 1966 as Beverly Law School. In 1975, the law school became a part of Whittier College, founded in 1887. Whittier Law School now boasts a network of 3,900 alumni practicing in 48 states and 14 countries. It has nationally recognized centers in children's rights, intellectual property law, and international & comparative law that host fellows, offer externships and sponsor symposia and workshops. It has five clinics serving the public in the following areas: children's advocacy, special education, family violence, health care access, and legal policy.

Whittier Law School is fully accredited by the American Bar Association and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools. Whittier is a State Bar of California-approved MCLE provider.

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