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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Professor Rachel Van Cleave Takes the Helm at Golden Gate University School of Law
Professor Rachel Van Cleave Appointed Interim Dean of GGU Law for the 2012-13 Academic Year

San Francisco, CA (August 1, 2012) - Golden Gate University is proud to announce the appointment of Rachel Van Cleave as Interim Dean of the School of Law. A Fulbright Scholar, GGU Law Professor since 2004 and GGU Law Associate Dean of Academic Affairs since 2008, Van Cleave brings extensive experience as an international scholar, professor and law school leader to her new role.

“Rachel has been an outstanding administrator and professor,” said University President Dan Angel. “Her ability to augment the substance of our work as educators with the innovative leadership needed in the 21st century bodes exceptionally well for our law students.”

Dean Van Cleave earned her BA at Stanford and JD at UC Hastings College of the Law. She clerked at Baker and McKenzie and after graduation served as a federal clerk for Fifth Circuit Judge Sam Johnson. In addition to early roles as a legal research and writing instructor at Santa Clara and a Teaching Fellow at Stanford Law School, where she also earned her JSM, Van Cleave was a Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Richmond School of Law and UC Hastings College of the Law.

“I am delighted to serve as Interim Dean and look forward to continuing Golden Gate Law’s long tradition of high quality, practice-rich education. Working with our talented faculty, staff and alumni, as well as local and national professional organizations, I will seek to foster even stronger connections among our students and the amazing constellation of legal professionals in the Bay Area,” Van Cleave said of her new appointment.

In 1995, Van Cleave received a Fulbright Fellowship to conduct research at the Italian Constitutional Court on changes to the Italian criminal justice system, and later returned to Italy to research reforms in Italian rape law. She has published 15 law review articles and four book chapters. In addition to her scholarly acumen, Van Cleave has spearheaded recent curricular reforms to provide GGU Law students with even more skills training.

Specifically, in addition to teaching core courses, Van Cleave has designed and taught original seminars that integrate research and writing with real world problems—courses like her Katrina and Disaster Law Seminar. Teaching in GGU Law’s unique Law and Leadership program, she has helped law students to develop and exhibit leadership through meaningful projects. Her leadership on assessment of both core curricula and newly designed experiential courses has been critical to ensuring GGU Law students benefit from cutting edge pedagogy without compromising academic rigor.

“Rachel is just the type of leader GGU Law needs in these challenging times for legal academia” says Eric Christiansen, Professor of Law & Faculty Chair. “With her wealth of experience in legal education and her impressive accomplishments as a scholar, teacher, and senior administrator, Rachel has the trust and confidence of the faculty and staff of the law school. We expect great things for the law school under Dean Van Cleave’s guidance.”

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