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Poverty Law in the Law School Curriculum Is Focus of Major Conference at Golden Gate University School of Law on March 19-20

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School of Law



For Immediate Release:

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**Poverty Law in the Law School Curriculum Is Focus of
Major Conference at Golden Gate University School of Law on March 19-20**

*Featured Speakers Include NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund President John Payton
and Civil Rights Law Professors and Authors Paul Butler and Richard Delgado*

(SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.) -- Golden Gate University School of Law and the Society of American Law Teachers (SALT) proudly present "Vulnerable Populations and Economic Realities: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Law Teaching," a two-day conference on poverty law that will be held at the School of Law on Friday, March 19 and Saturday, March 20, 2010. Academics and practitioners from legal education, the social sciences, and the news media will share new data and theories about our most vulnerable populations and explore critical issues facing these groups in an interdisciplinary context for use in law teaching.

Highlights of the Conference Include:

* Friday Morning Plenary Session: Featuring Paul Butler, Associate Dean for Faculty Development, Carville Dickinson Benson Research Professor of Law at George Washington University Law School, and author of the new book *Let's Get Free: A Hip-Hop Theory of Justice*; and Seattle University School of Law Professor Richard Delgado, a leading media commentator on race and the law and award-winning author whose many books include *The Rodrigo Chronicles*.

* Friday Evening Wine Reception and Film Screening: Sneak Preview of the forthcoming documentary *Turkey Creek*, about a Mississippi community's efforts to recover from Hurricane Katrina. The film makers will be available to discuss their work and answer questions. Hosted by California Newsreel.

* Saturday Morning Keynote Address: John Payton, President and Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. Mr. Payton successfully argued on behalf of the University of Michigan in a recent landmark Supreme Court case regarding diversity in higher education. Introducing him at the conference will be The Honorable Thelton Henderson, Senior Judge, US District Court, Northern District of California.

Concurrent sessions on Friday and Saturday will explore a variety of topics, including housing, workers' rights, international poverty, mental disability, wrongful convictions, and the gay, lesbian, and transgender communities as they relate to poverty law and how these subjects may be better integrated into the law school curriculum.

"SALT is dedicated to bringing social justice into the law school curriculum and reminding law school students that there is a responsibility as a professional to be a good public citizen," notes

SALT Executive Director Hazel Weiser. "We are excited to co-sponsor this conference, which provides a wonderful opportunity for scholars and Bay Area activists and practitioners to share their ideas and to make the law more responsive to the poor, the disenfranchised, and the underrepresented."

"We are thrilled that some of the nations leading civil rights attorneys and scholars will be on campus to discuss the critical issues of poverty and the law, and to examine how we can best prepare tomorrow's leaders to serve them," adds Michele Benedetto Neitz, an Associate Professor at Golden Gate School of Law with extensive experience representing foster care youth and others traditionally underrepresented in the legal system and law school teaching. "The enormous response we have received from scholars nationwide to participate in this conference reflects the widespread interest in poverty law, and we welcome attendees from a variety of disciplines to join us in examining the critical issues to be discussed."

Registration for the two-day conference is \$130 and includes the Friday evening reception and breakfast and lunch on Friday and Saturday. Special hotel discounts are available by February 18. Up to 13.5 MCLE credits are available. To register for the conference, visit www.saltlaw.org. For more information about the conference, contact Professor Michele Benedetto Neitz at 415-442-6575 or mneitz@ggu.edu.

This conference is made possible by a generous donation from the Elfenworks Foundation.

About Golden Gate University School of Law

Founded in 1901, Golden Gate University School of Law offers a variety of programs for beginning law students and practicing lawyers, including day and evening JD and graduate law degree programs; award-winning clinics; the innovative Honors Lawyering Program; and renowned annual symposia. The School of Law is fully accredited by the American Bar Association and a member of the Association of American Law Schools. Graduates qualify to take the bar exam in all 50 states and in the District of Columbia. For more information about the School of Law, visit www.ggu.edu/law. Golden Gate University School of Law is an approved California MCLE provider.

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Note to Editors: Please include as appropriate in your events calendars, blogs, etc. The conference is open to members of the news media; for more information, contact Jill Goetz at 415-442-6636, jgoetz@ggu.edu.