Chemerinsky named law school's First Amendment chair

By Don J. DeBenedictis

UCI School of Law Dean Erwin Chemerinsky has been appointed to hold the school's recently endowed chair in First Amendment law. The position, one of only a handful on the topic nationally, was created in January 2012 by a $1.5 million gift from newspaper publisher Raymond Pryke. In accepting the gift last year, Chemerinsky said he hoped the professorship would become part of a center in First Amendment law that would attract speakers, hold conferences and conduct research in media and free-speech law. Next month, well known First Amendment lawyer Kelli L. Sager of Davis Wright Tremaine LLP is set to deliver the first Pryke lecture at UCI. Chemerinsky, who is a well-known constitutional scholar, will continue as the law school's dean. Pryke owns Valleywide Newspapers in Hesperia, which publishes the Apple Valley News, the Antelope Valley Journal, the Victorville Post Express and several other papers.

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