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UC Irvine teams up with law schools in Korea

Amanda Bronstad

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The University of California, Irvine School of Law has established a Korea Law Center to focus on issues involving U.S. and Korean law.

"We've discovered that there's a real opportunity for a close relationship between American law schools and Korea," said Erwin Chemerinsky, founding dean of the law school and one of five board directors operating the center. "There's a basis for a close relationship to an American law school and Korean law schools and the Korean legal community."

The center, created in partnership with law schools at Seoul National University and Sogang University in Seoul, will offer legal education, certifications, mediation, expert witnesses, consulting, research and public policy studies, as well as a clinical program that primarily will provide legal advice to Koreans who want to do business in Orange County, Calif., where Irvine is located.

Chemerinsky, who was in South Korea earlier this month, said that the center would host faculty and student exchanges and offer continuing legal education credits in intellectual property and dispute resolution for Korean attorneys.

The center will be part of a new UC Irvine International Commerce & Law Institute, which in coming months is expected to announce a similar collaboration with the University of Cantabria in Santander, Spain, and possibly a program involving lawyers in China.

The institute is a joint project between the law school and UC Irvine's Paul Merage School of Business. Both schools intend to hire faculty with joint appointments in law and business, Chemerinsky said.

UC Irvine School of Law recently added seven new faculty members to help launch its inaugural class, scheduled to begin on Aug. 24. With the new hires, the school now has 22 tenure-track faculty members.

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UC-Irvine School of Law dean Erwin Chemerinsky

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