

# BUSINESS CONNECTION

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## Preparing Tomorrow's Attorneys

MONITORING THE PULSE OF IRVINE 8 CALENDAR OF EVENTS 12 IN THE WORK PLACE 14  
RENEW CALIFORNIA: ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN 16 STAY LOCAL 19 IRVINE BIZ EATS 20



Morning Buzz with Quy “Q” Nguyen, CEO of Allyance. August 2011.

FEATURES

- 6 PREPARING TOMORROW’S ATTORNEYS**  
**Dean Creates the Ideal Law School at University of California, Irvine**  
 BY DOUG FLEISCHLI
- 8 MONITORING IRVINE’S BUSINESS PULSE**  
 Irvine Chamber is reaching out to see what concerns the Irvine business community  
 BY CHRISTOPHER LYNCH
- 11 COMMUNITY LEADERS ADDRESS THE CHAMBER**  
 A recap of Irvine’s Morning Buzz and Town Hall Meeting  
 BY DOUG FLEISCHLI
- 12 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
 Event listings for Irvine Chamber of Commerce programs for the months of September and October
- 15 IN THE WORK PLACE**  
 Be picky when you are hiring  
 BY JAMES J. MCDONALD, JR.
- 19 IRVINE TRAVEL NEWS**  
 Stay local! Plan an unforgettable meeting in Irvine  
 BY MICHELLE CARLEN
- 20 IRVINE BIZ EATS**  
 Find out where you should take clients for business lunch  
 BY KIM SHERMAN

UPCOMING EVENTS

- NETWORKERS LUNCHEON**  
 September 14, 2011  
 11:30am - 1:00pm  
 Il Fornaio
- NEW MEMBER RECEPTION/  
 EVENING BUSINESS EXCHANGE**  
 September 15, 2011  
 Orientation: 4:00pm - 5:00pm  
 Business Exchange & Reception:  
 5:00pm - 7:00pm  
 Mastro’s, Costa Mesa
- LEGENDS & LEADERS**  
*Featuring Peter & Ryan Shea  
 of Entrepreneur Media Inc.*  
 September 23, 2011  
 VIP Reception: 11:00am  
 Lunch: 12:00pm - 1:30pm  
 Hyatt Regency Irvine
- NETWORKERS LUNCHEON**  
 October 11, 2011  
 11:30am - 1:00pm  
 Buca di Beppo
- MORNING BUZZ**  
 October 20, 2011  
 7:30am - 9:00am  
 Kimera






# Preparing Tomorrow's Attorneys

*Founding Dean, Erwin Chemerinsky Creating the Ideal Law School at University of California, Irvine*

By: Doug Fleischli



In this day and age, the opportunity of serving as founding dean for a new school within a nationally ranked university holds many exciting possibilities. The combination of timeless academic tradition with new ideas creates an optimum learning experience for students to become true innovators in their field. For Erwin Chemerinsky, the founding dean of the University of California, Irvine (UCI) School of Law, the task of building a law school is based on a vision along with more than 30 years of experience in teaching, writing about and practicing law.

“My vision is to be a top 20 law school by every measure and do the best possible job of preparing students for the practice of law at the highest levels of the profession,” said Chemerinsky.



### ***Early Accreditation Affirms Quality***

The primary goal of a new school in the higher education arena is to achieve accreditation. For law schools, accreditation is received from the American Bar Association (ABA). A law school receives provisional accreditation in its second year of having students and permanent accreditation in its fifth year of having students. This extensive process involves a detailed self-study, a site team visit and votes by the Accreditation Committee and the Council on Legal Education. The UCI School of Law received provisional accreditation from the ABA in June 2011.

“I was very pleased by the site team’s report and by the great enthusiasm showed for the law school in both the accreditation committee and the council. Provisional accreditation means that students in the first graduating class (May 2012) will be able to take the bar exam,” said Chemerinsky.

### ***Faculty Excellence Translates Into Exceptional Students***

Faculty, students and a rigorous curriculum define a quality law school. A study, by University of Chicago Law Professor Brian Leiter, has already ranked the faculty of the UCI School of Law ninth in the country among all law schools in scholarly productivity. This recognition shows students have access to the latest developments in the profession, and UCI is on track for offering a premier law school to students in Orange County and throughout the nation.

To acquire real world experience, first year students are required to become familiar with the responsibilities of local legal aid offices and the public defender. Third year students are required to gain clinical experience where they actually serve clients under faculty supervision. Students are also involved in activities such as a law review, a moot court program, a mock trial program, internships and pro bono work in Orange County.

**“My advice to college students considering law school is to take rigorous classes and be prepared to do a great deal of writing.”**

The UCI School of Law currently offers four clinics where students sharpen their knowledge in the legal aspects of present-day social issues. They are an appellate litigation clinic where students will brief and argue cases in the Ninth Circuit, a community economic development clinic, an environmental law clinic and an immigration law clinic.

“My advice to college students considering law school is to take rigorous classes and be prepared to do a great deal of writing”, said Chemerinsky.

### ***Strong Connections in Orange County***

In staying connected with the legal community, the UCI School of Law has a close relationship with the Orange County Bar Association and maintains relationships with law firms in Irvine and the rest of Orange County. The school’s continuing education programs provide lawyers in the region a host of professional development opportunities. A Business Advisory Board was also established to gain perspectives from Orange County’s business community.

“Our students work as interns in law offices throughout Orange County. I know that many of our graduates will settle permanently here and become leaders of the bar and community,” said Chemerinsky.

For more information, please visit [www.law.uci.edu](http://www.law.uci.edu).



**SCHOOL OF LAW**  
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Prior to arriving at UCI, Erwin Chemerinsky, author of seven books—casebooks, treatises, monographs and nearly 200 law review articles, was the Alston & Bird Professor of Law and Political Science at Duke University from 2004-2008. Before that, for 21 years, from 1983-2004, he was a professor at the University of Southern California and was the Sydney M. Irmas Professor of Law and Political Science. Prior to that, Chemerinsky taught at DePaul College of Law from 1980-1983. And before that he was a trial attorney at the United States Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. and then a small public interest law firm. He went to college at Northwestern University and to Harvard Law School.