

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SETON HALL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW TO HONOR
PROFESSOR PAULA A. FRANZESE, ESQ., AT ANNUAL RED MASS**

NEWARK, NJ – Seton Hall University School of Law and the Saint Thomas More Association of Seton Hall University School of Law will honor Paula A. Franzese, the Peter W. Rodino Professor of Law, with the Saint Thomas More medal at their annual Red Mass at noon on Sunday, September 26 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark. Lunch will follow the Mass at 2 p.m. at the Newark Club, Newark.

Professor Franzese graduated from Barnard College, Columbia University, with a B.A., *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa. After earning a juris doctorate degree from Columbia University School of Law, where she was a Teaching Fellow and recipient of the prestigious Rosenman Prize, she clerked for the Honorable Alan B. Handler of the New Jersey Supreme Court. She then served as a litigator with Cahill Gordon & Reindel, where she also served as a member of the New York City Housing Court Reform Project. She also served on the New York Governor’s Task Force on Life & Law.

Professor Franzese joined the Seton Hall Law School faculty in 1986. As a nationally acclaimed professor, she has received the Student Bar Association’s “Professor of the Year Award” for an unprecedented seven times. She has been nominated for the Robert Foster Cherry Prize for Great Teaching, named “Exemplary Teacher” by the American Association of Higher Education and was ranked Top Law Professor in New Jersey by the *New Jersey Law Journal*.

Focusing her scholarship on property law and public interest law, Professor Franzese has authored *Property Law and the Public Interest* (LexisNexis, 2003), (with Callies, Mandelker & Hylton), which is acclaimed as one of the first books to address public interest issues in property law. Franzese has also authored numerous scholarly articles, and is featured as a “Legend of the Law” on

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Property for the Harcourt Brace audiotope and CD series. In addition, Professor Franzese serves as the national lecturer for the BAR/BRI bar review course lecturing on property and secured transactions/commercial paper.

Professor Franzese has demonstrated her “teaching magic” at venues across the country, including Judicial conferences, the Association of American Law Schools, the Institute for Law School Teaching and the National Institute for Civic Education. Her work on ethics, professionalism and the legal profession has been showcased at bar association proceedings and teacher summits in the U.S. and abroad.

In 1996, New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman appointed Professor Franzese to serve as Commissioner of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission and in 2000, she was elected Vice-Chair of the Commission. In February 2002, she was appointed to the New York City Council’s Blue Ribbon Advisory Commission to Rebuild Lower New York. A champion in the arena of affordable housing, in May 2004, Professor Franzese was named Chair of the New York City Council Commission on Affordable Housing. Through this council, Franzese will spearhead New York’s effort to preserve affordable housing for low-income residents.

In 2002, Professor Franzese was appointed to the Newark Archdiocese’s School Advisory Council. In 2004, she was elected the Council’s Vice-President. She is President of the National Justice Resource Center, a not-for-profit philanthropic organization responsible for establishing and sustaining mentoring programs for inner-city youth throughout the world. Professor Franzese serves on the Board of Trustees of the Community Health Law Project; the New Jersey Supreme Court Committee on Bar Admissions; the New Jersey Supreme Court Committee on Women in the Courts; the ABA Uniform Commercial Code Study Revision Group; The American Arbitration Association; the Federal Bar Council; the National Affordable Housing Colloquium; the Columbia Law School Alumni Board of Directors; and as Chair of the Barnard College Alumnae Council.

Throughout her career, Professor Franzese has received numerous awards, including the New Jersey State Bar Association Young Lawyer of the Year Award; the Congressional Peter W. Rodino Outstanding Achievement Award; the Women’s Law Forum Woman of Excellence Award; Woman of the Year by the Center for Italian Culture; and Women’s Bar Association Woman of the Year Award. In 2004, Seton Hall Law School conferred Professor Franzese with the Peter W. Rodino Chair of Law.

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Red Mass is traditionally a Solemn Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit celebrated at the beginning of the judicial year to invoke God's blessing and guidance in the administration of justice. The Red Mass is named from the red vestments used in celebrating the Mass and from the red robes traditionally worn by judges in the Middle Ages. The celebrants – government officials, lawyers, and judges – proceed into a church clothed in red vestments or red garments, signifying the fire of the Holy Spirit's guidance to those who pursue justice in their daily lives.

The first Red Mass in the United States took place in New York City in 1928, celebrated at old St. Andrew's Church on Duane Street by His Eminence Patrick Cardinal Hayes, who strongly encouraged and supported the legal community's involvement in spreading the Word of God. Since that time, many groups of Catholic attorneys have continued to celebrate the Red Mass annually. Currently celebrated in dioceses throughout the United States, it is the 20th annual Red Mass for Seton Hall Law School.

For more information and lunch reservations, contact Deana Cynar, Director of Alumni Relations, Seton Hall Law School, at (973) 642-8711.

The only private law school in New Jersey, Seton Hall University School of Law was founded in 1951, and is located in the city of Newark. Seton Hall Law School offers both day and evening programs leading to the Juris Doctor (J.D.), Master of Laws (LL.M.) and Master of Science in Jurisprudence (M.S.J.) degrees.

Founded in 1856, Seton Hall University is the nation's oldest diocesan institution of higher education. Today, the University is made up of nine schools and colleges, including the School of Law. One of six private universities in New Jersey and the only Catholic university in the state, Seton Hall currently enrolls nearly 10,000 students. For more information on Seton Hall University School of Law, see law.shu.edu on the World Wide Web. To access Seton Hall's Department of Public Relations and Marketing media database, visit the University's Web site and click on News and Events.