

CONTACT: Erin Auerbach, 213.738.8238 or eauebach@swlaw.edu FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Michael Downer, Hon. David Wesley, Professor Karen Smith
to be honored at Southwestern Awards Event**

April 12, 2007, LOS ANGELES, CA – Three outstanding members of the Southwestern Law School community will be honored at the annual Awards Recognition Reception and Auction on Thursday, April 19. **Michael J. Downer** '81, Senior Vice President, Fund Business Management and Coordinator of Legal Compliance at Capital Research and Management will be named “Alumnus of the Year”; the **Hon. David S. Wesley** '72, supervising judge of the criminal division of Los Angeles Superior Court will receive the award for “Outstanding Judicial Officer”; and Southwestern **Professor Karen Smith** will be honored as “Outstanding Friend.” Southwestern students Greg Mohrman and Joshua David Buck, both of the Class of 2008, will receive scholarships at the reception.

The event, sponsored by the Southwestern Alumni Association Board of Directors, is designed to help recognize individuals for their extraordinary service to the law school, community, and the legal profession, as well as raise money from the annual auction to benefit the Alumni Association's Scholarship Fund. The reception begins at 6:30 p.m. in the law school's Bullocks Wilshire Building at 3050 Wilshire Blvd. The cost to attend is \$40 for alumni and friends. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the Southwestern's Development Office at 213.738.6814.

As Senior Vice President of the Fund Business Management group of Capital Research and Management Company, **Mr. Downer** serves as investment advisor to the largest group of mutual funds based on long-term assets in the United States, with more than one trillion dollars in assets. Affiliated with the company since 1980, he currently heads the legal and compliance department and takes a leadership role in many of the company's subsidiaries. Active in the Southwestern community, he joined the law school's Board of Trustees in 1999 and he is a member of the law school's Finance and Audit Committee. In 2006, Mr. Downer was named

- more -

Outstanding Corporate Counsel by the Los Angeles County Bar Association Corporate Law Section.

Before joining the bench, **Judge Wesley** spent two decades as criminal defense attorney, eight years of which he worked as a public defender. He was appointed as a Hearing Judge in the State Bar Court and then served as a Commissioner of the Los Angeles Superior Court. Governor Pete Wilson appointed Judge Wesley to Los Angeles Superior Court in 1997, where he became an Assisting Supervising Judge of the Criminal Division in 2001 and has been a Supervising Judge since 2003. An active alumnus, Judge Wesley is working closely with Southwestern to help establish the law school's Teen Court Program.

Professor Smith has received numerous accolades for her exemplary work at Southwestern during the last 25 years. She began her career as a prosecutor in the Criminal Division of the California Attorney General's Office. Several years later, she transferred to the State Public Defender's Office and eventually to the Federal Public Defender's Office, where she was appointed Senior Deputy Federal Public Defender. Professor Smith joined the Southwestern faculty in 1982. In 1991, she became director of Southwestern's two-year SCALE® program, a position she held for the ensuing decade. She continues to teach in SCALE as well as courses in criminal law and procedure and interviewing, counseling and negotiating in the traditional program. She also serves as an advisor for Southwestern's award-winning Moot Court, Interscholastic Trial Advocacy Program (ITAP) and Black Law Student Association (BLSA) Mock Trial teams.

###

Founded in 1911, Southwestern is a nonprofit, nonsectarian independent law school approved by the ABA and a member of the AALS. One of the most diverse law schools in the nation, Southwestern has an enrollment of 950 students in two, three and four-year full-time and part-time J.D. programs of study, as well as the first LL.M. program offered in entertainment and media law. The school's 10,000 alumni are members of the legal profession in virtually every state and more than a dozen foreign countries and include members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, former mayors of Los Angeles, and other prominent leaders in law, business and politics. Southwestern has created an award-winning campus that includes the internationally acclaimed art deco Bullocks Wilshire landmark that houses the second largest academic law library facility in California and the Julian C. Dixon Courtroom and Advocacy Center, the most technologically advanced center of its kind. Taking advantage of its location in the center of Los Angeles, Southwestern offers one of the most extensive externship programs in the country and is the home of the Donald E. Biederman Entertainment and Media Law Institute.