



Los Angeles Area  
Chamber of Commerce

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **L.A. AREA CHAMBER ANNOUNCES 118<sup>TH</sup> INAUGURAL DINNER HONOREES**

***Jan. 25, 2007 event will honor Richard Riordan  
and Nancy Daly Riordan, John E. Anderson, Vons  
and install 2007 Board Chair David Fleming, Latham & Watkins, LLP***

**December 6, 2006 (Los Angeles)** -- More than 1,100 business leaders, civic leaders and elected officials from across the Los Angeles region will celebrate the 118<sup>th</sup> year of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce at the organization's annual Inaugural Dinner on Thursday, Jan. 25, at The Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills.

At the gala event, David Fleming, of counsel, Latham & Watkins, LLP, will be installed as the new Chair of the Board. He takes the reins from Immediate Past Chair Dave Nichols, Senior Vice President-External Affairs-California, AT&T.

In the spirit of community-building, the Chamber annually recognizes extraordinary civic leadership at the Inaugural Dinner gala and will pay special tribute to its 2007 honorees: Civic Medal of Honor recipients Richard and Nancy Daly Riordan, Distinguished Business Leader Award recipient John E. Anderson and Corporate Leadership Award recipient Vons.

"The Chamber is honored to recognize those individuals and companies who have made a strong contribution to enhancing the quality of life for the citizens of our community," said Chamber President & CEO Gary Toeppen. "As we begin a new year, our hope is that the Chamber will continue to play an integral part in shaping the political and economic future of our region."

### **CIVIC MEDAL OF HONOR: Richard Riordan and Nancy Daly Riordan**

The Chamber's "Civic Medal of Honor" award is the L.A. region's highest honor for civic leadership. The award is presented for extraordinary public service by an individual who, by commitment, leadership and character, reflects the very best in each of us, and who sets examples in civic life and personal excellence that serve as models for future generations. Past recipients of the award are former U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, business leader and philanthropist Eli Broad, civil rights leader John Mack and Sherry Lansing, former chair of Paramount Motion Picture Group of Paramount Pictures.

Nancy Daly Riordan, whose philanthropic work spans three decades, is known for her work as a children's rights activist. She is founder of United Friends of the Children, a

nationally recognized organization formed in 1980. In 1984, Daly Riordan lobbied for and was instrumental in the creation of the Los Angeles County's Children and Family Services Department and Commission.

Former Los Angeles Mayor Richard J. Riordan was appointed the state's Secretary for Education in 2003. In 1981, Riordan created the charitable foundation that bears his name to teach children how to read and write. Through its signature "Rx for Reading" program, The Riordan Foundation has distributed some 23,400 computers to 2,110 schools in 40 states and enabled the purchase of 145,000 books for elementary classroom libraries. Riordan also co-founded The Riordan Programs at The Anderson School at UCLA with Professor William Ouchi.

### **DISTINGUISHED BUSINESS LEADER: John E. Anderson**

The Distinguished Business Leader Award is presented to an individual who demonstrates an extraordinary dedication to the Los Angeles business community both professionally and through philanthropic pursuits.

As president and sole shareholder of Topa Equities, Ltd., Anderson oversees more than 40 wholly-owned subsidiaries involved in agriculture, insurance, real estate, wholesale beverage distribution and automotive dealerships. Anderson built a multifaceted career as a lawyer and business entrepreneur and co-founded, with James H. Kindel, Jr., the law firm of Kindel & Anderson.

In 1987, the UCLA Graduate School of Management was renamed The John E. Anderson Graduate School of Management at UCLA in honor of Anderson's contributions to the school and university. In 1985, he received the Distinguished Service Award of Loyola Law School where the John E. Anderson Chair of Taxation was established.

### **CORPORATE LEADERSHIP AWARD: VONS**

The Corporate Leadership Award is presented to a company for its exceptional contribution to the growth and prosperity of the L.A. region, while maintaining a commitment to personal service and the greater community.

The first Vons store opened in downtown L.A. in 1906. Since then, the company has grown to 325 stores in Southern California and Nevada. The Vons operation, which includes Pavilions stores, is now a part of the Safeway family of companies.

Vons employees are active in the community, raising millions of dollars annually for the local Easter Seals Society and giving funds for specific charities through the Vons Foundation.

Attendees of the annual Inaugural Dinner are a who's who of Los Angeles County political, civic and business leadership. From members of Congress to local city councilmembers, corporate executives to small business entrepreneurs, the audience represents the diversity and entrepreneurial energy of the Los Angeles region.

*The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce represents the interests of business in L.A. County. Founded in 1888, the Chamber promotes a prosperous economy and quality of life in the Los Angeles region. For more information visit [www.lachamber.org](http://www.lachamber.org).*