



Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**L.A. AREA CHAMBER BRINGS MORE THAN 1,100 COMMUNITY LEADERS
TOGETHER AT 118TH ANNUAL INAUGURAL DINNER**

***David Fleming becomes first Chamber Board Chair from
San Fernando Valley; Riordans, Anderson, Vons honored***

LOS ANGELES -- A sold-out crowd of more than 1,100 business leaders, civic leaders and elected officials will commemorate the L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce's 118th Annual Inaugural Dinner Thursday at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills.

This year's theme, *Together We Can Build a Better L.A.*, encourages the business community to work together to improve overall economic conditions for a better quality of life in Los Angeles.

At the gala event, David Fleming, of counsel at Latham & Watkins, LLP, will be installed as the new Chair of the Board. He takes on the role from immediate past chair Dave Nichols, Senior Vice President-External Affairs-California, AT&T.

"At the top on my list as incoming chair of this prestigious organization is making 2007 the year of organized business," said Fleming. "It's high time we unite the voices of the hundreds of thousands of job creators and risk takers that power the Los Angeles economy. I believe that business, working together, can achieve anything—and bringing those voices together will be my primary task in the year ahead."

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

CIVIC MEDAL OF HONOR: Richard Riordan and Nancy Daly Riordan

Former Los Angeles Mayor Richard J. Riordan and his wife Nancy Daly Riordan will receive the Civic Medal of Honor, the highest and most prestigious honor for civic leadership in and around the L.A. area. They exemplify, in their individual commitments, extraordinary models for accomplishments in public service, particularly for the children of L.A. County. Riordan was appointed to the state's Secretary for Education in 2003 and established The

Riordan Foundation, which provides schools with resources such as books and computers. Nancy Daly Riordan is founder of United Friends of the Children and was instrumental in the creation of the Children and Family Services Department and Commission. Past recipients of the award include former U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, business leader and philanthropist Eli Broad, civil rights leader John Mack, and Chair of Paramount Motion Picture Group Sherry Lansing.

DISTINGUISHED BUSINESS LEADER: John E. Anderson

This year's Distinguished Business Leader, John E. Anderson, has extended his professional success into personal philanthropic achievements and has demonstrated a dedication to the prosperity of the L.A. region. In his current position as president and sole shareholder of Topa Equities, Ltd., Anderson has built a multifaceted career. He also co-founded the law firm, Kindel & Anderson with James H. Kindel Jr. The UCLA Graduate School of Management bears his name in recognition of Anderson's contributions to the school and the overall university community.

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP AWARD: VONS

Tom Keller, president of Vons, will accept the Chamber's Corporate Leadership Award. 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 includes Pavilion stores and is now a part of the Safeway family of companies. Vons continues its commitment to the growth of the Los Angeles region by sponsoring numerous community-oriented programs for local store neighborhoods, workplace giving, and other charitable ventures.

Photos of honorees and of tonight's event are available upon request.

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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.