NEWTON, MA (12-1-08) -- Boston College Law School has announced a $3.1 million pledge from Liberty Mutual Group to establish the Liberty Mutual Insurance Professorship in property and casualty insurance law.

The pledge, to be paid over the next four years, represents the largest gift in the 79-year history of Boston College Law School, and will be used to hire a distinguished teacher and legal scholar with expertise in the field of property and casualty insurance.

In announcing the pledge, Boston College Law School Dean John H. Garvey said that Liberty Mutual's donation would consist of $3 million to endow the Liberty Mutual Insurance Professorship, and $100,000 to endow The Liberty Mutual Prize, an annual monetary reward for the best article published in a law review on property and casualty insurance law, regulation or governance.

"We are grateful to Liberty Mutual for its generosity in establishing this professorship and writing prize at Boston College," said Garvey. "The professorship will allow the Law School to attract one of the nation's top teachers and scholars to direct our affairs in the area of insurance law. The prize will allow us to draw attention to research in the field, and it will make Boston College's name synonymous with the best academic thinking about insurance."

Liberty Mutual Chairman, President and CEO Edmund F. Kelly said that through the professorship and writing prize, Liberty Mutual is taking a leadership position to improve understanding of the property and casualty industry and the vital role it plays in society, particularly in enhancing the financial security of the middle class.

"By establishing the Liberty Mutual Professorship, we hope to foster a better understanding, within the legal community, of the critical role property and casualty insurance plays in the broader economy," said Kelly. "Liberty Mutual's partnership with Boston College makes sense given our mutual histories as venerable institutions with Boston roots dating back tens of decades."

Liberty Mutual's General Counsel Christopher Mansfield added, "We are particularly pleased to be partnering with BC Law School. Well-educated and principled legal advocates benefit our industry as well as our society." Mansfield, a 1975 graduate of BC Law School, oversees Liberty Mutual's 800-lawyer legal department.

The Liberty Mutual pledge follows several high profile gifts to Boston College Law School, including a $1.5 million gift from BC Law School alumnus and energy entrepreneur Dr. David Donohue to establish a junior faculty position in business law, and a gift from the BC Law School Class of 1974 to establish the Rev. William J. Kenealy, SJ, Professorship in tax
law, which was awarded this September to BC Law School Professor James Repetti, one of the nation's foremost tax scholars.

Founded in 1929, Boston College Law is one of the nation's best and most selective law schools, enrolling 800 students from 35 states and 130 colleges and universities. Currently ranked 26th by US News and World Report, it is also ranked in the Top 5 for both Best Professors and Career Prospects by the Princeton Review and in the Top 15 in Recruitment by the National Law Journal.

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