

## **UCLA Law School Adds Immigration Scholar**

**By Sandra Hernandez**  
Daily Journal Staff Writer  
Daily Journal, March 4, 2008, Page 4

**LOS ANGELES** - The UCLA School of Law has hired **Hiroshi Motomura** for the faculty, making him the first full-time tenured immigration law scholar in the school's history.

Dean Michael H. Schill announced the hire Monday in an e-mail to faculty.

"This is really a home run for us," Schill said. "Before Hiroshi joined our faculty, we had no full time tenured faculty who taught immigration law. He is Mr. Immigration law. He knows everything."

Motomura is a nationally known immigration scholar teaching at the University of North Carolina School of Law at Chapel Hill.

"UCLA has scored a real coup by snagging him," said Stephen Yale-Loehr, who teaches immigration law at Cornell Law School. "Hiroshi is one of the pre-eminent immigration law scholars in the country."

Schill told the Daily Journal in July that he was committed to drawing more resources to immigration law.

Last year, the law school quietly began boosting its program, when it launched an immigration clinic and invited Motomura to teach as a visiting scholar.

A thousand students attend the UCLA School of Law, where immigration classes have been taught by an adjunct professor or visiting attorneys.

Motomura said the school's location and sizable immigrant community were a big draw.

"UCLA is the perfect place to do what I do," Motomura. "It's a tremendously vibrant law school with great students. And Los Angeles is the epicenter of work involving immigrant communities."

Motomura, 54, was born in Japan and moved to California as a toddler. He earned his law degree from Boalt Hall.

Since then, he has built a reputation for his scholarly work, including co-writing "Immigration and Citizenship: Process and Policy" and "Americans in Waiting: The Lost Story of Immigration and Citizenship in the United States," which won the 2006 Professional and Scholarly Publishing Award from the Association of American Publishers in the law and legal studies category. The book examines the history of immigration in the U.S., beginning with the birth of a nation through the 1920s, when no numerical limits existed and most newcomers emigrated from Europe.

Motomura has testified as an immigration expert in Congress and worked as a volunteer consultant on several cases in the U.S. Supreme Court and the federal appeals courts. He spent 21 years at the University of Colorado and, in 1997, was named the President's Teaching Scholar, which is the highest teaching award at the university. He is also co-founder of the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network.

UCLA law school faculty welcomed the news.

"I couldn't be more thrilled," said Gary Blasi, a law professor at the school.

"Students in the public interest program, which I teach, have been asking for more offerings in immigration law for a long time," Blasi said.

Motomura is scheduled to begin teaching in fall 2008.

\*\*\*\*\*

© 2008 Daily Journal Corporation. All rights reserved.