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AVE MARIA SCHOOL OF LAW NAMES
JOHN CZARNETZKY AS NEXT DEAN

University of Mississippi Professor to Head South Florida Law School

NAPLES, FL: (May 4, 2021) – Mr. Thomas S. Monaghan, Chairman of the Board of Governors of Ave Maria School of Law, today announced the appointment of Dean John Czarnetzky as the next Chief Executive Officer and Dean of the law school effective June 1, 2021.

Dean Czarnetzky is currently a Professor of Law at the University of Mississippi and a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (B.S., 1982, Chemistry) and the University of Virginia (J.D., 1989). Dean Czarnetzky was unanimously appointed by the Board of Governors following a national search for a new Dean of the law school.

"On behalf of the Board of Governors, I take great pleasure in welcoming Dean Czarnetzky as our next Dean," said Monaghan. "I am excited about his appointment and what it means for the future of the law school. I look forward to Dean Czarnetzky bringing his vast academic experience as well as his strong faith to Ave Maria School of Law in order to help the school continue to excel both academically and spiritually. I would also like to express my gratitude to all those who worked so hard during the search process. I appreciate the input from all sectors of the law school community and especially the Search Committee members who recommended Dean Czarnetzky and the Board of Governors who unanimously elected him. I would like to recognize the tremendous work of Ron Rychlak, chairman of the Search Committee, for his excellent leadership throughout the search process, and Interim Dean Eugene Milhizer for so diligently and effectively taking the reins of the law school during this time of transition," continued Monaghan, Chairman of Ave Maria School of Law.

Before law school, Dean Czarnetzky was an officer in the United States Army, where he served as an intelligence analyst, specializing in foreign chemical, biological and nuclear capabilities. After law school, he practiced bankruptcy and commercial law with Sidley & Austin in Chicago, and McGuire, Woods, Battle & Boothe in Richmond, Virginia.
Czarnetzky joined the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1994, teaching courses in bankruptcy, corporate reorganizations, secured transactions, civil procedure, business associations, and international trade. In 2016, he was the recipient of the Elsie M. Hood Award for the "outstanding professor at the University of Mississippi," the highest honor awarded to faculty members at the University of Mississippi.

Czarnetzky also serves as a legal adviser to the Holy See's Mission to the United Nations, representing the Holy See in negotiations, including establishing the International Criminal Court and several international treaties, including one on the rights of persons with disabilities.

Czarnetzky is a lay member of the Dominican Order and a third-degree Knight of Columbus. He and his wife, Sylvia Robertshaw Czarnetzky, currently reside in Oxford, Mississippi, soon to take up residence in Naples.

"I am blessed and humbled by the confidence Ave Maria School of Law is placing in me with my appointment as Chief Executive Officer and Dean," stated Czarnetzky. "Ave Maria Law is a unique and important organization, known for both its dedication to the Catholic intellectual tradition as well as its family-like commitment to its students. I am overjoyed to now be part of this important academic institution as it looks toward the brightest of futures," continued Czarnetzky.

Ave Maria School of Law was founded in Michigan in 1999 and in 2009 relocated to Naples, Florida. The school is an ABA-accredited Roman Catholic law school. It consistently ranks as The Princeton Review's "Most Conservative Law School," preLaw's "Most Devout Law School," and as one of Princeton Review's "Best Law Schools."

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