Washington University School of Law

DEAN
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Washington University in St. Louis invites applications and nominations for the position of Dean of the School of Law.

Washington University School of Law seeks a leader with the vision to build the future of the law school. The University and its administration have a long tradition of supporting new and creative leaders and initiatives to transform research and education and to engage the larger community. The dean of the School of Law has the opportunity to foster and develop influential intellectual programs at the heart of a world-class research institution.

The School of Law offers students a rigorous educational experience in an intellectually challenging and collegial environment. Its outstanding faculty members are leaders in their respective fields. Recognized for their excellent teaching and scholarship, they are also highly accessible to students. The School of Law’s curriculum blends traditional theory with opportunities for hands-on learning through lawyering skills courses and placements in New York, Washington, D.C., St. Louis, and around the world. This curriculum develops the critical thinking, legal skills, and interdisciplinary learning students need to effectively practice law.

The Dean is responsible for strategic leadership, academic excellence, and overall administration of the School of Law. The Dean also leads the development and implementation of the School’s strategic plan, advances its curriculum and educational programs, facilitates outstanding faculty research and teaching, and secures new resources. The Dean reports to the Provost and serves as a member of the University Council, an advisory board to the Chancellor.

The successful candidate will be a thoughtful, entrepreneurial, creative and collaborative leader who sees opportunity in the challenges presently facing legal education and who brings talented people together to develop a compelling, shared, and global vision that builds on the School of Law’s successes. A successful track record of administrative leadership experience is desired, including resource management and demonstrated fundraising experience or potential. The Dean must also be a scholar with a national reputation who can further inspire and motivate the School’s excellent faculty.

Overview of the School of Law

At the heart of a Washington University legal education is one of the strongest faculty in the country, comprised of influential scholars and teachers. With 46 tenured and tenure-track faculty members, 6 professors of practice, and over 20 lecturers in law, the faculty is highly diverse in background and methodology. Faculty members have substantial experience in a wide variety of practice settings. Many faculty members bring an increasingly interdisciplinary approach to their teaching and scholarship. Faculty members hold Ph.D.s in history, economics, psychology and political science. Several faculty members hold joint appointments with Arts & Sciences, the Olin Business School, the Brown School of Social Work, and the Medical School. The faculty produce authoritative scholarship in a diverse array of fields, participating in important international and national debates on law, legal theory, policy, and legal reform. In addition to the full-time faculty, visiting scholars and adjunct faculty enrich the curriculum. Each year, the School of Law brings top scholars and leading practitioners in their fields to St. Louis to engage with faculty and teach students. In addition, the teaching and scholarly mission of the law school is enhanced by several renowned Centers and Institutes: the Center for Empirical Research in the Law; the Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Work and Social Capital; the Center on Law, Innovation & Economic Growth; and the Whitney R. Harris World Law Institute. *U.S. News & World Report* currently ranks the School of Law 19th overall among ABA accredited law schools, and its clinical training and trial advocacy programs consistently rank in the top 10.
The School of Law enrolls a highly qualified and diverse group of students. This year’s 1L class of 189 students comes from 37 states, the District of Columbia, and a number of foreign countries. 39% of the class is female and 23% are members of racial or ethnic minority groups. The median LSAT for this class is 166 and the median GPA is 3.69. A rich variety of courses in law, legal theory, and lawyering skills provides Washington University law students with the training necessary to excel in both legal reasoning and writing. In addition, the law school offers students a number of opportunities for hands-on legal training such as working for members of Congress or administrative agencies in D.C., clerking for judges on the Delaware Supreme and Chancery Courts, and interning at agencies that play important roles in regulating the financial industry. Students in the J.D. program can pursue a joint degree with another school at the University or with a partner University abroad. Joint-degree students in the law school commonly combine their legal studies with programs in the Brown School, the Olin Business School, and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. The School of Law also offers a variety of non-J.D. degree programs including L.L.M., L.L.M. in Intellectual Property, L.L.M. in Taxation, L.L.M. with a Concentration in Negotiation and Dispute Resolution, and the L.L.M. in U.S. Law for foreign trained lawyers. This last program is available to students attending classes in residence, or through a new online L.L.M. offered by the law school. Currently, the law school student body includes 704 J.D. students and 119 L.L.M. students.

The School of Law’s location on Washington University’s Danforth Campus gives its students and faculty ready access to the University’s many physical and intellectual resources. Students are able to take classes at other schools, and faculty have easy access to events, conferences and colleagues in other disciplines. The University operates on a “reserve” system. Each school is responsible for maintaining its own operating budget, and is able to keep or draw from its own reserves. The Dean of the School of Law is a member of the University Council, an advisory board made up of the university’s senior leadership, which serves as an advisor to the Chancellor. The work of the School of Law is supported by the National Council, an advisory board of alumni, faculty from peer institutions, and national leaders in law and business. The School of Law is an active participant in the University’s current capital campaign, Leading Together.

Like all law schools today, Washington University School of Law faces challenges, including financial challenges, in responding to a radically changed legal environment. The faculty and administration are fully aware of the depth and significance of these changes, as well as the possibilities and opportunities they present for transforming legal education and strengthening our long tradition of excellence. The School of Law is seeking a dean who will provide leadership in meeting these challenges and determining how best to adapt to this new environment, including how to resolve questions about size, teaching methodology, viable sources to increase revenues, and the relationship to the larger university.

Washington University School of Law has unique strengths on which to build. The law school is embedded in a top-notch research university with an outstanding undergraduate program; it has built strong ties promoting interdisciplinary and empirical research related to the law; it has pioneered the use of analytics to help with student placement; it is committed to teaching and learning innovation, most recently by initiating an online L.L.M. program; it has involved faculty to implement effective, individualized job search strategies to help with job placement; it has created an executive education program for industry professionals; and it has cultivated partnerships with a number of top universities worldwide.

**Position Responsibilities**

The Dean is the chief academic and administrative officer of the School of Law and has responsibilities in the following areas:

*Strategic Leadership*: working collaboratively with all stakeholders to help articulate and pursue a vision of excellence.
Academic Quality: ensuring outstanding academic programs that attract exceptional students and prepare them for meaningful careers.

Scholarship and Faculty Development: promoting rigorous intellectual inquiry and excellence in scholarship, and maintaining a diverse and intellectually vibrant faculty.

Professional Opportunities for Students: enhancing career opportunities for law school graduates in light of the structural changes in the legal profession.

External Relations and Fundraising: communicating effectively the school’s strengths, building ties with alumni and the legal community, and successfully raising funds.

Management: managing the School’s resources, both personnel and financial, to achieve the School’s mission.

University Relations: strengthening ties with the University and increasing collaboration with other academic units.

Qualifications

The successful candidate will possess:

- A record of professional accomplishments demonstrating effective leadership and scholarly excellence.
- An understanding of the structural challenges facing legal education and the ability to plan strategically and implement needed changes.
- The ability to work collaboratively with a faculty that is committed to a strong partnership with the dean.
- A commitment to the success of our students, through excellence and innovation in teaching and scholarship, and enhanced employment opportunities.
- The ability to passionately articulate the School’s strengths and vision to local, national and international audiences.
- The ability to understand and to communicate effectively with diverse groups of people.
- A sense of humility, a capacity to listen and a commitment to leading in a candid and transparent way that engenders trust and inspires others to further the School’s mission.

Overview of the University

Washington University in St. Louis, a medium-sized, independent, private university, is among the world’s leaders in higher education, producing pathbreaking research in a broad range of disciplines and drawing outstanding students from all 50 states and more than 100 countries. The University is organized into seven academic units: the School of Law, the School of Medicine, the Olin Business School, the Brown School, the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, the School of Engineering & Applied Sciences, and the College of Arts & Sciences. The University enrolls approximately 13,000 students, about half of them undergraduates. The University is led by Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton and Provost Holden Thorp, and governed by a 56-member Board of Trustees.

About St. Louis

Greater St. Louis is the 19th-largest metropolitan area in the United States with a population of approximately 3 million. Thanks in large part to Washington University, other regional universities, and key Fortune 500 corporations, St. Louis is a national hub for important research and business development, especially in the fields of medicine, biotechnology, and science. The School of Law is located on the University’s Danforth campus, 10 miles west of downtown St. Louis, and surrounded by a number of vibrant neighborhoods, such as the Central West End and University City’s Delmar Loop. Consistently ranked among the nation's best places to live and raise a family, the St. Louis region offers affordable neighborhoods and high quality schools, in addition to all of the amenities of a major
city. It is home to the world renowned St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team. The city provides numerous opportunities to enjoy professional sports, attend cultural events, and participate in a wide range of recreational activities. Bordering the university campus is Forest Park, one of the largest urban parks in the U.S., and home to the region’s major cultural institutions including the St. Louis Art Museum, the Missouri History Museum, the St. Louis Science Center, and the St. Louis Zoo. It also provides countless recreational opportunities such as boating, golfing, tennis, bicycling, jogging, ice skating and more.

**Application and Nomination Procedure**

Review of applications, nominations and expressions of interest will begin immediately. All applications will be held in strict confidence. Applications are encouraged by January 10, 2014, though the position will remain open until filled. The start date is July 1, 2014. Candidates should submit a CV and letter summarizing their qualifications and interest to the Dean Search Committee c/o Korn/Ferry International by email at WashULaw@kornferry.com.

The mission of Washington University School of Law is to equip students with the knowledge and skills to ethically and effectively practice law and pursue justice in a dynamic and globally interconnected legal environment; to foster a vibrant intellectual culture, characterized by the rigorous exchange of views and the production and dissemination of influential research; and to cultivate a collaborative and supportive community of students, faculty, staff, and alumni that prizes diversity and values connection to and service in broader civic and professional communities.

*Washington University in St. Louis is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer and encourages applications from women, ethnic minorities, veterans and individuals with disabilities.*