



# University of Pittsburgh

*Office of the Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor*

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Patricia E. Beeson  
Provost  
Senior Vice Chancellor

June 29, 2017

Dear Colleagues:

After six years of outstanding service, William M. Carter, Jr., has informed me of his decision to step down from his role as the Dean of the School of Law and return to the faculty at the end of the 2017-18 academic year. I have accepted his decision with reluctance and with great appreciation for his leadership.

Thanks to Dean Carter's deep commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and public service, the School of Law has made impressive strides. Under his leadership, graduate employment rates and the School's overall rankings have risen significantly: the School is now ranked 50<sup>th</sup> by legal employers (an increase of 40 places in five years); 37<sup>th</sup> in graduate employment rates at the nation's largest law firms; and 50<sup>th</sup> for scholarly impact.

Dean Carter has helped the school navigate through difficult times for law schools nationally, by focusing on innovation, philanthropy, diversity, and student success. During his tenure, the School established six new legal clinics and practicums providing experiential opportunities for students to learn more about the practice of law. The Institute for Cyber Law, Policy & Security, the Energy Law & Policy Institute, the Pitt Legal Services Incubator, and the online Executive Health Care Compliance Certificate Program were all established during his deanship, positioning the School of Law to lead in advancing knowledge in critical areas for the future.

Total philanthropic giving has increased substantially during Dean Carter's service, totaling over \$20 million to date, including two new endowed professorships, and the Derrick A. Bell Fund for Excellence, which provides student scholarships and faculty research support in civil rights and public interest law. The Law School also received the largest single scholarship endowment in its history.

Moreover, applications to the Law School increased by approximately 15 percent from 2013 to 2017 during a time when applications to law schools nationally declined by approximately 40 percent. The diversity of the student body has increased to the highest levels in the school's history, and the percentage of underrepresented racial minorities on the full-time faculty has more than doubled.

Dean Carter maintained active research and teaching agendas during his tenure as dean. He taught multiple courses and published numerous scholarly articles, including in the *Columbia Law Review*, the *UCLA Law Review*, and the *NYU Review of Law & Social Change*, as well as a

book chapter published by the Oxford University Press and a friend-of-the-court brief in a case involving the constitutionality of federal hate crimes law. He has delivered lectures at NYU, Georgetown, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and the Sorbonne in Paris; his scholarly works have been cited by the federal Courts of Appeals for the Second and Tenth Circuits and in briefs filed by the NAACP Legal Defense & Education Fund. He also received numerous awards, including the Diverse Attorney of the Year Award from the Legal Intelligencer and the Leadership Diversity Award from the National Diversity Council. Dean Carter also has engaged in substantial service, including as a member of the American Law Institute, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Commission on Judicial Independence, the Allegheny County Criminal Justice Reform Task Force, and as a Fellow of the University of Pittsburgh's Institute of Politics.

It has been my pleasure to work with Dean Carter, both in his role as dean and as a member of our Council of Deans. I am pleased that he will continue as a faculty member here at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. A search committee to find his replacement will be formed in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia E. Beeson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Patricia E. Beeson