Position Description

Dean, School of Law
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

The University of Pittsburgh seeks an exceptional individual to become the 20th dean of its School of Law. The next dean should be an innovative thinker and approachable leader who welcomes the opportunity to articulate a vision for the growth of the law school that builds on its long history of excellence.

The School of Law is located on the main campus of the University of Pittsburgh, one of the nation’s top public research universities, close to state and federal courts, major corporate headquarters, and local, national, and international law firms. The University is one of the anchor institutions of Pittsburgh, a city that has enjoyed a remarkable transformation and continues to reinvent itself as a world-class center of education, medicine, and technology.

Reporting to Provost Patricia Beeson and working closely with Chancellor Patrick Gallagher, the Dean is the School of Law’s chief academic, advancement, and administrative officer, with overall responsibility for its academic programs, operating budget, personnel management, strategic planning, public relations, and fundraising. The Dean is also the School of Law’s principal representative to the University, alumni, and the legal community.

The next dean will be presented with the opportunity not only to propel Pitt Law to higher levels of prominence and distinction, but also to serve among the senior leaders of an internationally prominent research university. The Dean’s leadership skills will be essential to taking on the following opportunities and challenges:

- Developing a comprehensive and proactive strategic plan for the School of Law that meets the challenges of a highly competitive market and aligns with the broader objectives of the University’s strategic plan;
- Nurturing and expanding interdisciplinary relationships between Pitt Law and other university programs;
- Garnering additional private and public resources that will enable the School of Law to make continued advances in its programs and facilities, as well as the caliber of its faculty and students;
- Taking aggressive steps to better anticipate the needs of the external legal community in order to cultivate stronger relationships and forge collaborative partnerships in a city that is experiencing growth and transformation;
- Maintaining and enhancing Pitt Law’s strong sense of community among its principal constituents, including faculty, staff, students, alumni, other schools, and university administrators;
• Continuously improving student outcomes—including bar passage, job placement, and other quantitative and qualitative measures—and maintaining and enhancing the school’s student-centered environment; and
• Advancing the law school’s commitment to social justice, access to justice, and equality before the law.

The University of Pittsburgh School of Law

The University of Pittsburgh School of Law was officially founded in 1895, making it one of the oldest law schools in the nation. In 1900, the school joined with 31 other schools to form the Association of American Law Schools. In 1923, Pitt Law received full accreditation from the American Bar Association.

Recent years have seen dramatic growth in the law school curriculum, enhanced by programs such as the Center for International Legal Education, the Center for Bioethics and Health Law, the Innovation Practice Institute, and the Institute for Cyber Law, Policy, and Security. While continuing to offer the traditional core courses, the school has expanded its curriculum to reflect the increasing importance of statutory and regulatory law, as well as specialized areas of the law, including intellectual property and international/comparative law. In addition, current course offerings take into account the interdisciplinary nature of law practice today. Examples include Land, Race, and Property Rights; Crime, Law, and Society in The Wire; and the Health Law Clinic (featuring a medical-legal partnership).

Faculty

Pitt Law’s diverse, collegial, and internationally accomplished faculty currently includes 37 full-time and over 100 adjunct professors. Top law reviews have consistently published their scholarship, and over half of the faculty have authored leading casebooks, treatises, or trade books with major university presses such as Michigan, NYU, Oxford, and University of Chicago. Pitt Law faculty make policy as well as write about it. They are active leaders in national organizations engaged in the study and application of law, such as the American Bar Association, the American Judicature Society, the Association of American Law Schools, the American Law Institute, and the American Society of International Law.

Professors at Pitt Law have been at the forefront of fields as varied as bioethics, civil rights, and intellectual property. They advise the founders of new democracies abroad and provide perspective on civil liberties in the United States. Pitt Law has led the move to free worldwide sharing of legal and judicial scholarship online with JURIST, publishing international news and primary source documents. The school also sponsors legal symposia for industries from health care to natural gas, and brings experts to campus for formal lectures and informal debate.

The School of Law is proud to say that the scholar who wants to teach is a hallmark of its program. Faculty are recruited and evaluated for teaching ability as well as scholarship. There is a sophisticated faculty development process that includes peer and student evaluations, as well as regular faculty workshops focused on teaching. New faculty members are given reduced teaching assignments and are encouraged to concentrate on developing teaching skills. The emphasis on faculty teaching and its development explains why sixteen law faculty members have received the Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award since its inception in 1984 – an amazing achievement for a faculty of 37 in a university with well over 2,000 teachers.

Students & Alumni

The Pitt Law student body consists of approximately 450 students from more than 150 colleges and universities across the nation. The quality and diversity of the student body are key components of the
educational experience at Pitt Law. The school is proud of the supportive environment it provides to all students, including women, minority students, older students, LGBTQ students, and students from nontraditional backgrounds. Admissions are selective, with a 32% acceptance rate, and are conducted on a rolling basis. Pitt Law’s mission to develop talent includes a commitment to providing scholarships for highly qualified students through all three years. Nearly 70 percent of all students receive financial aid.

Pitt Law’s alumni serve as judges, U.S. senators, attorneys general, law school deans, corporate CEOs, and public interest leaders. A strong network of 8,000 alumni affords excellent career prospects for Pitt Law’s graduates in private practice, judicial clerkships, academia, business, government, and public interest. The Law Alumni Association was established in 1986. It aims to enhance the interests of the School of Law and its alumni through the establishment of student scholarships and a variety of activities that recognize and support alumni and current law students.

Curriculum

The School of Law offers the Juris Doctor (JD) degree as well as a number of joint degree programs. In addition, Pitt Law offers a Master of Studies in Law (MSL) degree for non-lawyers, a Master of Laws (LLM) degree for foreign-trained lawyers, and a Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD) advanced degree. In all of these programs, Pitt Law’s essential mission is to help meet the demands of a rapidly changing legal and professional environment.

Pitt Law offers particularly rich opportunities in:

- International law, featuring prominent international/comparative law faculty, a rich international and comparative law curriculum, several courses each year taught by visiting foreign law professors, internships abroad, internationally focused scholarships and fellowships, Languages for Lawyers courses, university programs (including area studies certificate programs), and international moot law competitions.
- “Live-client” clinics in a range of substantive areas and practice settings, giving students opportunities to develop valuable lawyering skills in the context of real-life (non-simulated) legal disputes and transactions.
- The Semester in D.C. Program, during which students spend a semester in Washington, D.C., earning a full semester’s worth of academic credit while working full-time as an extern with a non-profit organization or government agency.
- Certificate programs/areas of concentration enabling students to concentrate their studies in particular areas of law, and to take specialized advanced courses that incorporate lawyering skills relevant to particular areas of practice.
- Social justice, including through the Derrick A. Bell Fund for Excellence, which supports legal scholarship and student engagement in areas consistent with Professor Derrick Bell’s legacy and his commitment to social justice, access to justice, and equality before the law.
- Cross-disciplinary learning — Pitt Law students may take courses in other schools at Pitt or other local colleges and universities. (Up to six non-law graduate credits can be used toward the JD requirements.)

Motivated by the growing management and social science needs of attorneys and the increasingly intricate legal needs of society, the University of Pittsburgh School of Law offers several joint-degree programs on the interface of law and allied fields. These rigorous joint degree programs enable students to earn the JD as well as a master’s degree in another discipline more quickly than earning the two degrees separately. Joint degree partners of the School of Law include Business Administration, Bioethics, Arts Management, Security Policy and Management, Public Health, Public Administration, International Affairs, International Development, Public Policy and Management, and Social Work.
Pitt Law also offers several advanced degrees and certifications for non-lawyers who seek an alternative to the traditional three-year Juris Doctorate and wish to broaden their knowledge and understanding of legal systems. They include a Master of Studies in Law Degree, a Health Care Compliance Online Certificate, and a Certificate in Disability Legal Studies.

**Unique to Pitt Law**

**Innovation Practice Institute**

Pitt Law’s Innovation Practice Institute connects students with entrepreneurs, trains new lawyers to partner with innovators, and teaches lawyers to be innovators. The Institute supports the university-wide strategic emphasis on innovation.

**Center for Bioethics and Health Law**

The University of Pittsburgh Center for Bioethics and Health Law, now housed at Pitt Law, brings together clinicians, scholars, and researchers from multiple schools and disciplines across the University to investigate issues in bioethics and health law by employing empirical, philosophical, and legal research methods. Over the years, the Center has been recognized as a leader in empirical research on such topics as informed consent, organ donation, and long-term care, as well as scholarly research on issues ranging from global health and human rights to the right to die.

The Center’s programming enhances a rich array of health law offerings available to Pitt Law students. These offerings include the Health Law Clinic (the only medical-legal partnership in the country housed in a children’s hospital) and other inter-professional courses, as well as specialized courses taught by health law practitioners. Pitt Law’s proximity to and relationships with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center provide students with educational, networking, and employment opportunities.

**Center for International Legal Education**

The Center for International Legal Education (CILE) at Pitt Law exists to advance legal education and the rule of law, both at the school and throughout the world. CILE programs are designed to benefit JD students at Pitt Law, foreign students enrolled in the LLM and SJD programs, and external constituencies. CILE programs offer Pitt Law students exposure to the world of international and comparative law in settings that help develop the necessary competence to become a global lawyer.

CILE programs also bring students to Pitt Law from around the world to educate them in comparative legal systems, develop relationships, and enhance diversity in understanding of the rule of law. CILE programs reach out to countries in transition, instilling a focus on legal education as core to a functioning legal system that is necessary to the rule of law.

**University of Pittsburgh Institute for Cyber Law, Policy, and Security**

Established in 2017 and housed in the School of Law, the University of Pittsburgh Institute for Cyber Law, Policy, and Security provides a unique interdisciplinary environment for tackling cyber challenges. The Institute brings the breadth of one of the world’s leading public research universities to bear on the critical questions of networks, data, and algorithms, with a focus on the ever-changing gaps among law, policy, and technology. The Institute’s collective of legal, policy, and technical researchers engages with policymakers and industry to create both actionable proposals to address current demands and fundamental insights to understand the future as it arrives.
Barco Law Building and Library

The School of Law occupies the recently renovated, six-story Barco Law Building, which houses the 325,000 volume Barco Law Library. The library serves as the "laboratory" for the work of both students and faculty and is an important information center for practicing lawyers and for scholars from other disciplines. A permanent endowment helps ensure that the school can respond fully to the teaching and research missions of Pitt Law’s faculty and provide a continuing learning resource for practitioners in the law.

Staff

The School of Law enjoys a highly experienced, well-functioning, collegial, dedicated, and loyal staff that has contributed greatly to continuing successes in admissions, bar passage, advancement, and placement, among other areas. This staff will serve as a valuable resource for the incoming dean.

Rankings and Honors

- Pitt Law is ranked 82nd out of 197 law schools by US News and World Report.
- Pitt Law’s Health Law Program is ranked 18th by USN&WR.
- Ranking among legal employers in the most recent USN&WR survey is 50th out of 197 law schools.
- Ranking for student selectivity in the most recent USN&WR survey is 40th out of 197 law schools.
- Pitt Law is ranked 37th in the nation for 2016 graduates securing jobs at the largest 100 law firms.
- Faculty continues to be ranked in the top quartile nationally (50th out of over 200 ranked law schools) in scholarly impact in the recent Sisk-Leiter Study of Law Faculty Impact.
- One of only 82 law schools to be a member of Order of the Coif.

Qualifications and Characteristics

Pitt Law seeks a visionary dean with exceptional leadership credentials to meet the opportunities and challenges outlined above and to lead the law school into the future. The position requires an individual who can lead effectively and manage a large and complex school in a multi-campus research university. Candidates must have credentials appropriate for a tenured appointment at the rank of professor. Leadership experience with responsibility for strategic management of personnel, programs, and resources is strongly desired. Willingness to engage in institutional advancement is critical; demonstrated experience is preferable.

The ideal candidate will provide strategic vision to inspire and lead Pitt Law to a new level of national prominence, leveraging the strengths of Pitt Law’s faculty and programs, as well as the innovative interdisciplinary programs across Pitt’s campuses. The ideal candidate will also demonstrate:

- A commitment to innovation in legal education and a broad knowledge of the legal profession and emerging trends in the practice of law;
- Strong fundraising skills, including the ability to engage alumni, foundations, the legal community, and other donors in the school’s mission;
- The entrepreneurial ability to recognize and develop opportunities to enhance revenues from contracts, grants, non-J.D. programs, and other sources in light of the changing national market for legal education;
- The ability to lead fiscally conservative budgeting in conjunction with planned enrollment growth;
• A commitment to fostering the University’s core values of diversity and inclusion at Pitt Law and in the legal profession; and
• Outstanding interpersonal skills, leadership skills, emotional intelligence, personal ethics, and professional integrity.

The University of Pittsburgh

Since its founding in 1787, the University of Pittsburgh has established itself as one of the finest public research universities in the nation. With an enrollment of more than 34,000 students, the University is one of the largest and oldest institutions of higher education in the United States and is a member of the Association of American Universities. The University is internationally respected as a center for learning and research that supports the needs and interests of more than 13,000 faculty members, research associates, and staff members. The University is composed of 16 undergraduate and graduate schools, including nationally recognized schools of health sciences, engineering, law, and business.

Under Chancellor Gallagher’s leadership, the University of Pittsburgh recently launched The Plan for Pitt, the University’s strategic plan, which focuses on creating internal and external collaborations and partnerships to deliver impact; harnessing information in pursuit of grand challenges; and shaping a more entrepreneurial, innovative, diverse, and inclusive culture. The Plan builds on Pitt’s rich history of community support and global impact, its exceptional research strength, and its strong academic programs that prepare students for productive and meaningful lives. The Plan also builds on more recent strategic initiatives, such as the creation of the Innovation Institute, to advance Pitt’s successes in entrepreneurship, commercialization, and economic development.

The University of Pittsburgh has served as a key player in driving the growth of the education and health services supersector in the Pittsburgh metropolitan region. Pitt and its partner and affiliate, the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), have been major contributors to that economic sector; the “eds and meds” sector now is responsible for more than one out of every five local jobs. Pitt is the fifth largest employer in the city of Pittsburgh. University of Pittsburgh research has been a key source of economic growth, and since 1995, Pitt has attracted nearly $9.5 billion of sponsored research support into the region.

Pitt ranks 10th overall and sixth among public institutions in the National Science Foundation’s most recent ranking of federally-funded research and fifth in NIH funding. In 2016, Pitt was 39th on Reuters’ list of the world’s 100 most innovative universities, and was 13th among public universities in the inaugural Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education ranking of institutions based on student success and learning. The University is also the highest ranked public institution in the state of Pennsylvania on Kiplinger’s Best Value Colleges list.

The University of Pittsburgh’s research has provided the foundation for future-oriented, technology-based economic development initiatives. The growth and dynamism of the region is due in large part to the relationships forged by Pitt, UPMC, Carnegie Mellon, private industry, and the community.

From research achievements to the quality of its academic programs, the University of Pittsburgh ranks among the best in higher education. Faculty members have expanded knowledge in the humanities and sciences, earning such prestigious honors as the National Medal of Science, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation’s “genius” grant, the Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award, and election to the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Medicine. Pitt students have earned Rhodes, Goldwater, Marshall, and Truman Scholarships, among other highly competitive national and international awards. Alumni have won Nobel and Pulitzer prizes, led corporations and universities, served in government and the military, conquered Hollywood, and appeared on The New York Times best sellers list.
The University comprises five campuses. The 132-acre main campus is located in the city of Pittsburgh, a few miles from the city’s downtown business district. The University’s four regional campuses are located in Western Pennsylvania in Bradford, Greensburg, Johnstown, and Titusville. The University employs nearly 5,300 faculty and approximately 7,000 staff. Pitt has an endowment of over $3.5 billion and has more than 300,000 living alumni worldwide.

The City of Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh is in the midst of a remarkable transformation from an industrial capital to a center of education, medical research, and new technology. Increasingly, the city’s many attractions have become selling points for recruiting excellent talent. The city hosts a high concentration of diverse and influential nonprofits and, as an international center of emerging information technology, is home to many small start-up companies, one of Google’s national offices, Facebook’s Oculus virtual reality research center, and Uber’s autonomous vehicles development effort. Pittsburgh also is emerging as a leader in advanced manufacturing technologies and nanotechnology. While still a work in progress, the city’s reinvention of itself has garnered widespread attention and has become a model for other cities seeking to replicate its success. As Rhode Island’s governor put it while on a recent fact-finding mission to study Pittsburgh’s economic renaissance, “Pittsburgh is an impressive model of how an old-economy steel town transformed itself into a cutting-edge medical and educational center of excellence.”

Pittsburgh rose to the top of Places Rated Almanac’s most livable city list in 2007. In 2010, Forbes crowned Pittsburgh the nation’s “Most Livable City.” Forbes also named Pittsburgh “Best Housing Market” in 2010 and among the “10 Best Cities for New College Grads in 2016.” Pittsburgh ranked No. 1 on Zagat’s list of “The Top 17 Food Cities of 2015.” Pittsburgh has all of the advantages of a large, sophisticated city, as well as livability, affordability, high quality schools, community orientation, and friendliness. The city has a wonderful array of distinctive neighborhoods with an urban flavor, city neighborhoods that are equivalent to suburbs in other communities, and nearby beautiful suburban areas with large lots and rolling lawns. There is an abundance of residential choices ranging from unique lofts to living in the “country” while being only 20 minutes from the city. Housing is affordable and, as noted by Forbes, presents the second most stable housing market in the country. The city and its surrounding suburbs take pride in high-quality public, private, and parochial schools. Statistically, Pittsburgh is a safe city compared to other urban communities of its size.

Applications, Nominations, and Inquiries

All correspondence, including applications, nominations, and inquiries should be emailed to the Dean Search Committee c/o Korn Ferry at PittLaw@kornferry.com.

A complete application will include a letter of interest and a current CV. Candidate materials will be reviewed on an ongoing basis up to the application deadline of December 18, 2017. All correspondence will be held in strict confidence. The anticipated start date is July 1, 2018.

The University of Pittsburgh is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and values equality of opportunity, human dignity, and diversity. EEO/AA/M/F/Vets/Disabled.