



University of
Pittsburgh



Position Specification

Dean, School of Law

University of Pittsburgh

April 2024



KORN FERRY®



THE OPPORTUNITY

Position Dean, University of Pittsburgh School of Law

Location Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Reporting Relationship Joseph J. McCarthy, PhD
Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor

Website law.pitt.edu

The University of Pittsburgh invites nominations and applications for a visionary and dynamic leader to serve as dean of the School of Law. Reporting to the provost and serving as the chief academic officer of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, the dean will lead the faculty to develop strategic priorities and a vision for the future of the school. The dean will partner with a dynamic and accomplished faculty to advance innovative scholarship, promote excellence in teaching, and address opportunities and challenges in legal education and professional practice. The dean will be a champion for a vibrant and collaborative learning environment and play a critical role in supporting and promoting faculty teaching and scholarship that ultimately prepares Pitt Law students for the ever-evolving legal landscape.

THE POSITION

Reporting to the provost, the dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law provides academic, intellectual, and administrative leadership for the school and works with key stakeholders to champion the school's mission. The dean will support and promote the efforts of an accomplished faculty, advance faculty scholarship, enhance collaboration and partnership between the School of Law and the rest of the University, and promote teaching and service-based initiatives to transform students into leaders addressing emerging opportunities and challenges in a volatile world.

The successful candidate must demonstrate strong interpersonal skills to foster relationships with the greater university, legal, and professional communities. The dean will engage with a committed and accomplished alumni base and successfully partner with donors and philanthropic entities to effectively fundraise for the school. The dean must understand the importance of scholarship and teaching and advance the scholarly pursuits of faculty and career aspirations of all students. The school boasts a diverse faculty, and the next dean should value the school's commitment to and track record of outcomes fostering a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment. The dean will have the opportunity to work with all stakeholders, including faculty, staff, students, alumni, and external partners, to build on the school's strengths as well as identify and implement new initiatives for continued success.

Additional responsibilities of the dean include:



- Attracting, developing, partnering with, and retaining a world-class faculty.
- Supporting, promoting, and amplifying faculty scholarship.
- Being accessible to students and supporting all students in their aspirations.
- Maintaining Pitt's commitment to teaching excellence.
- Nurturing an inclusive and diverse environment where all members of Pitt Law look forward to learning, working and serving, and where they feel valued and supported in their efforts.
- Collaboratively developing a strategic vision for the school's future by planning and implementing the initiatives necessary.
- Advancing the school's commitment to the University of Pittsburgh's priorities and strategic goals, as articulated in the [Plan for Pitt](#), the University's strategic plan.
- Obtaining and managing financial and human resources to support key initiatives.
- Building strong relationships with advisors, alumni, and other donors, and leading the school's fundraising efforts.
- Partnering with students, faculty, administration, staff, alumni, advisors, and community members.
- Working with the School of Law Board of Visitors by keeping the members apprised of strategically important matters and soliciting and implementing the board's advice.

QUALIFICATIONS

Desired qualifications of the dean include:

- A demonstrated track record of achievement as a strong and collaborative leader and administrator, providing evidence of a capacity to lead the school.
- A demonstrated commitment to excellence in globally leading scholarship and the highest quality of teaching.
- An ability to effectively manage the school's programs, financial resources, staff, and infrastructure.
- Demonstrated ability to partner with the school's faculty, the chancellor, the provost, deans, and other members of the University's senior leadership team.
- A proven track record of promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion, with a track record of inclusive and inspired leadership.
- Strong evidence of being eager and able to lead, recruit, retain, and support a diverse and eminent faculty, staff, and student body.
- A demonstrated and unwavering ethical compass.
- Experience being a collaborative and strategic leader who has high aspirations and ambitions for the quality and reputation of the school.
- A demonstrated ability to establish and pursue clear strategic priorities, to lead the fundraising effort needed to implement them, and to manage resources effectively to steadily advance those priorities.
- A capacity to successfully raise funds and to connect effectively with a broad range of internal and external constituencies.
- A compelling vision for the important role of the school in the University, society, and the world.



UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF LAW

Since 1895, the University of Pittsburgh School of Law has been preparing students to become excellent attorneys and leaders in the legal profession and society. The school is known and respected globally for scholarship, quality academics, a world-class faculty, hands-on learning that prepares students for practice, and exceptional career preparation and placement. The school's scholarly profile is strong and ambitious with many faculty members at the forefront of their disciplines. The curriculum includes solid fundamentals while embracing innovation, focusing on issues ranging from commercialization of new technologies to civil rights and public interest law, to law and globalization. As such, the school boasts strong connections with law schools abroad.

Pitt Law offers a robust Juris Doctor (JD) program, as well as Master of Law (LLM) and Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD) programs for specialized legal studies, catering to both domestic and international students. It offers a successful online and in-person Master of Legal Studies (MLS) program for non-lawyers. Recent years have seen dramatic growth in the curriculum at Pitt Law. The school has expanded its curriculum to reflect the increasing importance of additional areas of the law, such as artificial intelligence and the law, international and comparative law, and constitutional and civil rights law. Over time the school has become home to programs such as the Center for International Legal Education, the Center for Bioethics and Health Law, the Center for Civil Rights and Racial Justice, the Resilience and Engagement Project, the Future Law Project, and the Institute for Cyber Law, Policy, and Security. Current course offerings such as Global Health and Human Rights, Law and Economics, and International Arbitration, consider the interdisciplinary and evolving nature of legal practice today.

Students in the school's seven legal clinics earn academic credit while working with actual clients on cases in the areas of elder law, child welfare, environmental law, securities arbitration, tax law, immigration law, and health law. They may also take advantage of an extensive externship program, in which students work for federal and state judges, county district attorneys, and public organizations. Skills courses such as Litigation Strategy and Planning, Legal Writing for the Transactional Lawyer, Community Lawyering, Trial Advocacy, and Appellate Advocacy, among others, prepare Pitt law students for real-world interactions.

All the while, Pitt has become an influential leader in student wellness and resilience, teaching wellness strategies in its mandatory Pitt Law Academy 1L course and launching the Resilience and Engagement Project to both study and effectuate methods of increasing student belonging and connection.

MISSION

Pitt Law provides a world-class legal education; advances and transforms the law and our society; serves and partners with communities; and develops and manages resources sustainably.



THE UNIVERSITY AND CITY OF PITTSBURGH



The University:

Since 1787, Pitt has never stopped pushing the edge of what's possible. From research achievements to the quality of its academic programs, the University of Pittsburgh ranks among the best in higher education. As one of the largest and oldest institutions of higher education, the University is a state-related public institution and a member of the Association of American Universities. With an enrollment of over 29,000 students on the Pittsburgh campus, Pitt is internationally respected as a center for learning and research.

Faculty members have made notable advances in the humanities and sciences, earning such prestigious honors as the National Medal of Science, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation "genius grant," the Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award, and election to the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Medicine. The University ranked in the top three institutions in funded projects from the National Institutes of Health in 2023 and topped \$1.1 billion in external research expenditures in fiscal year 2023. Alumni have won Nobel and Pulitzer Prizes, led corporations and universities, served in government and the military, pioneered in areas such as MRI and television, conquered Hollywood, and The New York Times bestsellers list, won Super Bowls and NBA championships, and been inducted into Halls of Fame. Students come to Pitt from all 50 states, three territories, the District of Columbia and more than 110 countries.



The 132-acre Pittsburgh campus, in the vibrant and beautiful Oakland neighborhood, is home to the Cathedral of Learning, a renowned and popular landmark that, at 42 stories, is the tallest academic building in the Western Hemisphere. Affectionally called "Cathy" by the Pitt community, the Cathedral houses 31 Nationality Rooms, each designed to reflect and celebrate the cultures of the diverse communities of Pittsburgh. The Pittsburgh campus is also home to the law school, the

University's health sciences schools, and is co-located with the highly ranked UPMC (formerly University of Pittsburgh Medical Center). Pitt has served as an integral partner



and a key player in driving the growth of the education and health services super sector in the Pittsburgh metropolitan region.

The City:

The University views the city as an extension of its campus, and Pittsburgh is no ordinary college town. The city is transforming from an industrial capital to a center of education, research, and innovation. Pitt [actively engages](#) with the surrounding community through its [Community Engagement Centers](#), community-driven partnerships and volunteer service. The University received the Carnegie Foundation’s Classification for Community Engagement in recognition of its institutional commitment to community engagement.

The city of Pittsburgh hosts a high concentration of influential nonprofits and, as an international center of emerging information technology, is home to companies such as Duolingo, one of Google’s national offices, and over 140 robotics companies. The city also has a long history in banking and manufacturing and is becoming a leader in advanced manufacturing technologies and nanotechnology.

The city’s reinvention since its days as a smoky steel town has received national acclaim and garnered numerous [accolades](#). Pittsburgh is a vibrant, approachable, midsize city with world-class arts and cultural institutions. Wrapped in rivers, intertwined with trails, and packed with parks, Pittsburgh is a green and outdoor city with fantastic urban views and a famed downtown skyline. In the eyes of its many visitors, Pittsburgh offers a surprising and unexpected experience, with natural beauty, unique terrain, and diverse offerings at every turn.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

The dean should have an earned JD or equivalent and possess a record of recognized professional, scholarly, teaching and service achievements that would warrant appointment as a full professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

COMPENSATION

Compensation arrangements are competitive and commensurate with both experience and achievement.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications should include a detailed curriculum vitae and a letter of interest highlighting the applicant’s personal interest, relevant leadership experience, and alignment with the Qualifications section of this document. For priority consideration, inquiries, nominations, and applications should be submitted electronically in confidence by **August 1, 2024**, to PittLawDean@kornferry.com.



KORN FERRY CONTACTS

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The University of Pittsburgh is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and values equality of opportunity, human dignity and diversity. EOE, including disability/vets.