



Dean of the School of Law

The University of New Mexico seeks an innovative leader to be dean of the School of Law beginning July 1, 2009. Located in mile-high Albuquerque, which has a metropolitan area population of more than 800,000, the Law School sits in a region known for its scenic beauty, recreational opportunities, art and cultural attractions, high-tech and scientific ventures, and reasonable cost of living.

The Law School has 340 J.D. students and 34 full-time faculty members, giving it one of the lowest student-to-faculty ratios in legal education. The faculty is composed of excellent classroom teachers and productive scholars. The law school community values its intimate, cooperative learning environment in which students interact frequently with faculty and practitioners, including many alumni who are judges, legislators, and bar leaders. As a public institution, the Law School is committed to training lawyers who will serve New Mexico as attorneys, lawmakers, judges, and bar and civic leaders.

As the chief academic and executive officer of the School of Law, the dean reports to the provost of the University of New Mexico, the state's flagship research university. Governance of the Law School is vested in its faculty and committees, which are appointed by the dean. The directors of three centers--the Institute of Public Law, the Utton Transboundary Resources Center, and the Guanajuato Summer Law Institute--report to the dean.

Because UNM is the state's only law school, the dean and law faculty play unique and essential roles. For example, they contribute to law reform, policymaking, and the continuing education of the bar. The dean is frequently called on by the state legislature, the governor's office, the state judiciary, and the legal profession to serve the state in various important ways. Under the New Mexico Constitution, the dean chairs the Judicial Nominating Commission, which is responsible for recommending applicants to the governor for appointment to the bench. The Commission is composed of appointees by the governor, the Senate president, the speaker of the House, judges, and the state bar president. This important and intensive decanal responsibility gives the dean the opportunity to become familiar with the bar and judiciary in each region of the state. By law, the dean also chairs the Judicial Compensation Commission, which annually reports findings and makes recommendations on judicial salaries to the Legislature.

UNM boasts several unique and highly regarded educational programs. The mandatory, in-house Clinical Law Program has been consistently recognized as among the nation's best and in 2008 was ranked among the top five such programs. The Natural Resources and Environmental Law Program includes a specialized program of study leading to a

certificate in the field, the faculty-edited *Natural Resources Journal* on which students serve as members of an editorial board, and the opportunity for students to collaborate with Utton Center initiatives. The Indian Law Program includes a specialized program of study leading to a certificate in the field, the Southwest Indian Law Clinic, the faculty-edited *Tribal Law Journal* on which students serve as members of an editorial board, and collaborative opportunities in connection with the American Indian Law Center, Inc., which is housed at the Law School.

UNM law students' classroom education is enhanced by a variety of co-curricular activities including the student-edited *New Mexico Law Review*, a half-dozen moot court programs (including the second-place team in the National Mock Trial competition in 2008 and the first-place team in the Hispanic National Bar Association moot court competition in 2006), community service activities, and more than 30 student organizations.

New Mexico is one of four majority-minority states, and the law school takes great pride in the diversity of its students, faculty, and staff. The entering class of first-year students who will enroll in August 2008 is 33% Hispanic, 11% Native American, 4% African American, and 3% Asian American. The number of Native American and Hispanic lawyers who have graduated from the School of Law in its 71-year history is among the highest of any U.S. law school. UNM also has large numbers of students and alumni who were the first in their family to attend college.

UNM, which sits on a 600-acre campus, is the only U.S. institution that is both a major research university (a "Very High Research Activity" institution under the Carnegie Classification) and a federally-designated Hispanic-serving institution. The University's 24,000-plus students are enrolled in 94 bachelor's degree fields, 74 master's degree fields, and 40 doctoral programs. The School of Law has close ties with the central administration and with various other schools and departments (including joint faculty appointments and several joint degree programs).

QUALIFICATIONS. Minimum qualifications include a J.D. or equivalent law degree. Candidates must possess academic credentials and qualifications or equivalent experience that would merit appointment as a full professor in the School of Law.

The UNM School of Law seeks an experienced leader with high personal integrity, who will preserve and enhance its reputation for excellence in teaching, scholarship, and public service as New Mexico's only law school. Candidates should be effective communicators who can inspire diverse constituencies of students, faculty, staff, alumni, legislators, and university administrators. Candidates should have demonstrated managerial and budgetary skills. They should have a strong aptitude for fundraising and a willingness to expend considerable energy engaging in this activity.

In addition, preferred candidates will

- have a demonstrated commitment to values long associated with the UNM School of Law, including innovative teaching, clinical education, ambitious scholarship broadly defined, faculty governance, academic freedom, and diversity;
- have the capacity to be a strong advocate for the Law School both within and outside the University;
- possess a track record of excellent interpersonal and communication skills that transfer across a wide range of settings, from one-on-one meetings to large groups;
- exhibit accessibility, collegiality and the ability to work with students, faculty and staff to address concerns and maintain a sense of community;
- have administrative experience at a law school or an equivalent organization, including the ability to take responsibility for academic programs, and knowledge of national accreditation standards, program reviews, learning outcomes assessment, and strategic planning;
- possess the administrative skills to effectively manage the Law School's budget and maximize all sources of revenue;
- have the capacity to be an active member of UNM's leadership team and participate in campus-wide initiatives; and
- have the relevant interpersonal skills to be successful in fundraising endeavors in a culturally diverse state.

APPLICATIONS. UNM invites applications and nominations for the deanship. Submissions should include: (1) a statement of qualifications and interest; (2) a curriculum vitae; and (3) the names of five professional references. The search committee will begin screening applications immediately, and the search will remain open until the position is filled. Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. UNM's confidentiality policy ("Recruitment and Hiring," Policy #3210), which includes information about public disclosure of documents submitted by applicants, is located at <http://www.unm.edu/~ubppm>. Applications and nominations should be submitted electronically to Bonnie Leigh Reifsteck, Search Coordinator, at bonniec@unm.edu (phone: 505.277.2611). The University of New Mexico is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer and Educator. Women and Minorities are encouraged to apply.