Provost Chaouki Abdallah announced today the appointment of David Herring as the dean for the University of New Mexico’s School of Law. “I am extraordinarily pleased to announce and welcome David to UNM. He is an accomplished Professor of Law and a talented administrator. He will be a great addition to our senior leadership team and I ask the UNM community to welcome him to Albuquerque,” Abdallah said.

David Herring is a Professor of Law at the University of Pittsburgh, where he teaches Constitutional Law, Lawyering, and Antitrust. He served as Dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law from 1998 to 2005. Among his accomplishments as dean were leading the school’s successful capital campaign and recruiting strong teachers and scholars to join the faculty. Prior to serving as dean, he founded and served as the first Director of Pitt Law School’s clinical legal education program.

Herring has written extensively on child welfare law issues and assessing student learning in legal education. His most recent work in child welfare focuses on behavioral biology research and its implications for children placed in foster care; his previous work focused on the political functions of the family in American society. Herring’s research on legal education has included a series of empirical studies of student learning gains in the areas of legal reading and cross-case reasoning, for which he developed and administered pre- and post-tests to measure gains.

“I am thrilled to join the University of New Mexico community. I have long admired the University of New Mexico School of Law for its commitment to clinical legal education and to community service. With its low student/faculty ratio, its emphasis on practical skills training, and its production of scholarship that engages the profession, the School of Law stands as a model for law schools throughout the nation. We can build on this solid foundation to become an even more prominent leader in legal education. This is the opportunity that I look forward to pursuing with my new colleagues,” David Herring said when asked for comment on his appointment.

Herring will join the University as Dean on July 1, 2013.