

August 28, 2008

Dear *Arizona Law* Community:

I am writing to announce that 2008-09 will be my tenth and final year as dean of the James E. Rogers College of Law. Provost Meredith Hay has appointed Eller College of Management's Dean Paul Portney as Chair and will soon name a search advisory committee to conduct a national search and make recommendations to the Provost and President. President Shelton and Provost Hay have conveyed their firm commitment to identifying the strongest possible pool of candidates, and to finding the very best person to lead Arizona forward. They also made clear that they will set the bar high - which will serve us all well.

This is a perfect year for us to recruit a new dean, and to showcase what is best about our academic programs and people. We recently returned to a refurbished law campus and are enjoying our greatly transformed, beautiful facilities. We look forward to an outstanding array of programs, conferences, speakers, visiting professors, and jurists - including three United States Supreme Court justices and a Nobel laureate. We are making great strides in our Campaign - Our Promise to the Future -with particular emphasis on the Scholarship Initiative of the Campaign. And we welcomed two terrific new colleagues -Professors Kevin Washburn and Melissa Tatum - to the Arizona fold.

Ours is a remarkable law school bound by two great cords. We first and foremost offer an "ivy" quality education, at a world class Research University, delivered by a faculty composed of nationally and internationally respected scholars and clinicians who take their teaching and outreach duties very seriously. Second, our rigorous academic program is complemented by our "cactus" character - which is fostered by our historically small and diverse student body, our long-standing commitment to public leadership, the intellectual and cultural openness of the West, and the abiding sustenance of surrounding mountain ranges, the Sonoran desert, and nearby canyons.

This enviable combination of academic excellence, collegiality, and aesthetics simply cannot be found elsewhere in the country. It is what drew me here in 1989; it is why I pursued the deanship in 1999; and it is why I remain dedicated to the College and to Tucson almost twenty years later. It surely will attract others who want to live and work in this inspiring academic setting.

The people who choose us *embrace* this difference, and they are a marvelous group indeed. Our dedicated alumni and friends actively support our students through teaching, mentoring, and philanthropy. Our terrific students -past and present --are worthy of this collective investment in their futures. *Arizona Law* students are bright, engaged, open, diverse, and public service oriented. Many are destined for true greatness, and are a source of hope for our profession and our world. The new dean will have the great privilege of seeing their talent and spirit across multiple generations.

Finally, the University leaders, deans (past and present, internal and across campus), fellow administrators, and staff here have created a working culture that invites genuine collaboration, that gives one's professional life texture, and that enables one to meet the challenges facing higher education with a spring in one's step. I cannot tell you how much I respect the team of people who really make things happen for the students, the faculty, and the wider community --no matter what obstacles are thrown their way. As a group, they are one of the most ethical, smart, creative, other-oriented, funny, and forgiving professionals in the country. (Trust me - "funny" matters a lot in making a dean's life the best it can be, and "forgiving" is something all deans need as they make their uncertain way through this job's many complexities).

The strength of this team has never been more evident than in the last 18 months during this wild and wooly time of construction and renewal. Some of my best memories will be of this time, and of the inner circle of people who made so much possible for others, under so much pressure.

Jerry and I also want to thank the family and friends who have been there for us personally --who provided wise counsel, uplifting humor, appreciation of the job's multiple demands, strong shoulders, and well-timed hugs. We surely would not have lasted what will soon be a decade -- nay, not a day! - were it not for the magical, mature folks who have been true colleagues *and* true friends to us along the way. We'll thank them individually, but want you all to know that this job is a team sport in every important respect.

Now I'll invoke the immortal words of Monty Python: ***"I'm not dead yet!"*** So let's roll up our sleeves for another great year for the College, come together in this important recruitment endeavor, and look forward to an even brighter future ahead. We are headed for challenges and change -this much is inevitable. But we will proceed from a firm foundation -this much is assured, thanks to all of you.

With gratitude,
Toni