Dean
Northwestern Pritzker School of Law
Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law invites nominations and applications for the position of Dean. The ideal candidate will strengthen the Law School’s reputation for scholarly excellence, broaden and deepen the Law School’s commitment to diversity and inclusion, and capitalize on the Law School’s well-established reputation for innovative leadership in charting a path for legal education in a post-pandemic world.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY PRITZKER SCHOOL OF LAW

Recognized as one of the nation’s top law schools, Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law traces its origins to the hustle and bustle of 1850s Chicago. Long an incubator for civic and industry leaders, Northwestern Law was among the first in the country to admit women and students of color to its classrooms on the Chicago campus. The Law School proudly counts such leaders as John Paul Stevens, Harold Washington, Dawn Clark Netsch, and a host of other well-known figures among its alumni ranks.

Today, the Law School enjoys a reputation for innovative leadership in legal education. From its early embrace of interdisciplinary scholarship and clinical education, to its development of the nation’s first Master of Science in Law (MSL) program and its holistic approach to the student admission process, the
Law School has created programs that serve as models in the legal academy. Northwestern students, mature and collaborative, recognize a Northwestern difference—both in the quality of student life and in the opportunities available upon graduation.

But as the nation reckons with tragic aftermath of the racial and economic disparities laid bare by the global pandemic and countless cases of racially charged police misconduct, legal education faces enormous challenges, and Northwestern is not immune. What does legal education look like in a post-pandemic environment? How can Northwestern faculty and students imagine and build more just communities? How should we configure classes and develop research to address today’s urgent problems? How might we use remote learning and new technology to supplement more traditional ways of disseminating knowledge?

The Northwestern Law community and its next Dean will work on these challenges together. We will do so with optimism and energy, with a continuing commitment to the highest academic standards, and with a sense of shared purpose as we navigate the changes that lie ahead. We seek a Dean with vision and proven leadership skills to help us tackle this important work.

Our People

Faculty

Notably interdisciplinary in its orientation, the research faculty at Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law has deepened society’s understanding of such wide-ranging issues as the selection and workways of the Justices of the Supreme Court, the impact of COVID-19, and the nature of commercial fraud in medieval Europe. Working at the intersection of law and economics, psychology, philosophy, political science, sociology, and history, among other fields, Northwestern Law faculty have won awards and government grant support for their work. Northwestern scholars publish frequently in the nation’s top journals, sharing their ideas with students, academics, legal and business professionals, and government officials.

In addition to the research faculty, more than 30 practicing lawyers serve as clinical professors of law in Northwestern’s Bluhm Legal Clinic. Offering students classroom instruction with hands-on experience, Bluhm clinicians have worked to reform the law in Cook County, Illinois, and around the world. Bluhm clinicians have successfully contested wrongful convictions, secured improved conditions of confinement
for prisoners at risk during the COVID pandemic, and worked to improve juvenile justice and immigration systems.

Legal writing professors, professors of practice, and adjunct professors from Chicago’s impressive legal community round out the Northwestern Law faculty. In all, 124 full-time, 116 part-time, and nine library faculty form the Law School’s academic backbone. With a 4:1 student-to-faculty ratio, the Law School offers many classes with 25 or fewer students and no class with more than 75 students. Of the full-time faculty, 68 identify as women and 16 as people of color. Of the part-time faculty, 25 identify as women and 15 as people of color.

Staff

Staff members provide essential support to the academic mission of the Law School and help execute the vision of the Dean. Proudly embracing an ethos of superior service to all of the Law School’s constituencies, staff members support student life and the classroom experience, and maintain outreach to prospective students, employers, and alumni. A diverse group of more than 150 staff members contribute to the intellectual life and excellence of the School, support its operations, and work effectively in times of change.

Students

Students thrive in a setting that blends a rigorous intellectual environment with a dynamic and interactive community and strong placement prospects after graduation. As one of the first law schools to ask each applicant to interview as part of the admissions process and to encourage work experience prior to matriculating, Northwestern is able to select students with the intellectual ability, maturity, and interpersonal skills essential to their success in law school and in the legal careers that they pursue.

Students work hard to preserve a collaborative, supportive culture in which they can grow and learn together as future lawyers and leaders. Northwestern students play an important role in shaping the culture through their advocacy and programming. More than 50 student-led organizations and affinity groups plan, organize, and execute a diverse slate of events throughout the school year that enrich our community. The Student Bar Association, a governing group that gives students a voice in the Law School’s curriculum and administration, also serves as a valued sounding board for the Dean.

In August 2020, the Law School welcomed 252 new students to its JD, JD-MBA, and JD-PhD programs. Continuing a longstanding practice, the vast majority of these students, more than 87 percent, had at least one year of post-undergraduate work experience. Of the students in this class, 51 percent identify as women, 34 percent as students of color, and seven percent are international students. Of the additional 164 students enrolled in the 2020 LLM class, hailing from nearly 30 countries, 55 percent identified as women. There are 216 students enrolled in the MSL program (including both full and part-time students), and more than 70 students participating in the Executive LLM programs.

Alumni

Northwestern Law’s alumni—16,000 strong and hailing from over 90 countries—form a network of support for the Law School and its recent graduates. With the second-highest employment rate of all law schools, Northwestern Law proudly places its graduates in law firms, business and industry, public interest careers, education, and government sectors. Between 2013 and 2019, Northwestern Law graduates secured 182 clerkships, including five at the Supreme Court of the United States.
Alumni regularly contribute to the annual Law School Fund and have graciously and enthusiastically supported the current capital campaign, *Motion to Lead: The Campaign for Northwestern Pritzker School of Law*. Part of Northwestern University’s $5 billion campaign, *Motion to Lead* is the most ambitious campaign in the Law School’s history, having set initial goals to raise $250 million and engage 10,000 donors. As of September 2020, the School had exceeded both goals with 12,761 donors contributing over $256 million to the campaign, including J.B. and M.K. Pritzker’s naming gift. This campaign is scheduled to conclude in 2021.

The [Northwestern Law Board](#) and its eight-member executive committee advise and support the Dean and act as alumni advocates for the Law School.

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**Our Programs**

In keeping with our tradition of innovation and interdisciplinary focus, Northwestern Law offers a wide range of degree programs and supports a variety of centers and key partnerships for intellectual engagement.

**Degree Programs**

**JD Programs**

The primary academic program is the [Juris Doctor (JD)](#) degree, which includes several joint-degree programs: JD-MBA, JD-PhD, JD-LLM in Taxation, and JD-LLM in International Human Rights. Our three-year JD-MBA program attracts entrepreneurial students to a joint program with the renowned Kellogg School of Management. Our JD-PhD program draws academically minded students who pair their legal studies with degree programs in fields such as sociology, history, economics, and computer science. Northwestern Law is also one of the first law schools in the country to offer a two-year JD program for foreign-educated attorneys. Students admitted into the program receive one year of credit for their foreign law degree.

**Masters Programs**

Northwestern Law offers a [Master of Science in Law (MSL)](#) degree, as well as several [Master of Law (LLM)](#) degrees. These degree programs expand students’ knowledge of the law and legal processes and allow them to gain expertise in a specialized law field. Our pathmarking MSL program, created five years ago for students who wish to pursue studies at the intersection of law, business, and technology, attracts talented early and mid-career professionals, mostly from STEM fields. LLMs are offered in a number of areas, including a general program for International Students, a program in Taxation, a program in International
Human Rights, and an International Executive LLM offered through partnerships with leading institutions in Spain, South Korea, and Israel.

The Law School also provides visiting and exchange programs, as well as executive LLM programs and continuing legal education (CLE) programs.

**Bluhm Legal Clinic**

Housing more than 20 clinics within 13 centers, the Bluhm Legal Clinic is one of the top clinical programs in the country. Offering students the opportunity to represent clients and fine-tune their skills as advocates, clinical faculty and staff work to improve the fairness of our legal institutions and propose solutions for reform. The range of clients is wide-reaching, from teenagers tangled in an unjust juvenile legal system, to refugees seeking asylum, to entrepreneurs in need of affordable legal advice.

By graduation, roughly 90 percent of our students will have taken a clinical class, and many will rate the class as their most meaningful law school experience. Working closely with Northwestern Law professors, students develop litigation, negotiation, and transactional skills that their peers from other schools may not achieve until several years into practice.

As students gain unparalleled hands-on, real-world experience, they also can dramatically improve the lives of those they serve. The Bluhm Legal Clinic is internationally recognized for its involvement in legal reform and for advancing the goal of providing a skilled, ethical, and public-spirited legal profession integral to a society that values and promotes justice.

**Academic Centers**

Northwestern Law supports a number of centers that provide opportunities for faculty and students to engage in innovative research, interdisciplinary collaboration with other schools within the University, and engagement with the practice, including:

*The Center for Practice Engagement and Innovation* brings together diverse voices and perspectives to better understand the practice of law and to shape best practices for training future leaders in law at a time of change and dynamic evolution in the profession.

*The Donald Pritzker Entrepreneurship Law Center* is one of the first programs in the United States to provide intensive training for transactional lawyers and the founders of startup companies. The DPELC exposes students to entrepreneurial thinking through clinical and simulation-based course offerings, a marquee annual conference, a speaker series, and workshops and outreach efforts in the entrepreneurship community.

*The Public Interest Center* provides strategic leadership of key public interest activities on campus. The Center offers students financial support to pursue public interest careers during and after law school, career programming and counseling, a wide range of pro bono and public service opportunities, and passionate student organization participation and leadership. In 2002, the Law School adopted a Public Service Strategy, designed to build an ethic of service and giving among all students, regardless of their career path.
The Northwestern University Center on Law, Business, and Economics is a research and educational Center committed to studying the impact of laws and regulations on economic growth. The Center’s mission also includes communicating the results of that research to academic, public policy, and judicial leaders, demonstrating a dual mission of research and education.

The Pritzker Legal Research Center

The Pritzker Legal Research Center is the library for the Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law community. With a staff that puts the needs of faculty and students first and an inspirational faculty that supports comprehensive intellectual inquiry, collaborative work, and dedicated study, the library provides an exceptional research and learning environment. The Pritzker Legal Research Center combines library collections from the Elbert H. Gary Library of Law, the Owen L. Coon Library, and the American Bar Association’s William Nelson Cromwell Library.

Partnerships

The Law and Technology Initiative is a partnership among Pritzker School of Law, McCormick School of Engineering, and external entities such as law firms, corporate legal departments, legal aid organizations, courts, other legal-services providers, legal technology companies, and information providers. It operates at the intersection of law and technology, including legal-services delivery technologies and laws and regulations governing technologies.

The American Bar Foundation is a world-renowned research institute dedicated to the empirical and interdisciplinary study of law. Located next door to the Law School, the ABF provides various opportunities for robust engagement with the law school’s faculty and students.

Our Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law prides itself on its active and diverse community, which brings together a passionate and talented group of students, staff, and faculty. We recognize that our community forms a part of a broader society in which societal inequities persist. Northwestern is committed to continuing the work necessary to foster a community where all members—particularly people of color and other underrepresented minorities—feel seen, included, and respected.

The Law School has taken important steps to create a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive community for all constituents. As one of the first law schools to establish the position of Associate Dean for Inclusion and Engagement, the Law School has embedded these values into its administration, providing support to students, faculty, and staff and driving change within the community. A newly formed alumni committee has joined in these efforts to improve the Law School’s transparency, inclusion, and openness. Northwestern Law’s gender equity initiative seeks to provide support for female graduates as they progress through what remains an often demanding and gendered profession.

We recognize that more, much more, must be done. The challenge to make good on the promise that all members of society have an opportunity to grow and flourish must be seen as the central commitment of this generation of lawyers and legal educators and the Law School.
Our Location

Chicago

Home to nearly three million city dwellers and anchoring a metropolitan region of nearly 10 million people, Chicago is the third largest city in the United States. The city boasts a variety of industries, from finance to telecommunications to education, all of which make up one of the most diversified economies in the country. Residents enjoy vibrant arts and culture, world-class museums, occasionally successful sports franchises, and a renowned theater and improv scene—all of which, in 2018, attracted over 58 million tourists to the city. Law School faculty and staff live in the city as well as in neighboring suburbs.

Northwestern Law’s location on Northwestern University’s downtown campus provides a wealth of opportunities to students and faculty alike. The campus’s downtown footprint, abutting the shore of Lake Michigan, provides close proximity to the city’s courts, law firms, corporations, and government offices, as well as to local nonprofits and nongovernmental organizations. This affords us the unique opportunity to tap these resources for teaching, classroom and event speakers, mentors, and intern and extern opportunities. In addition, the Law School operates within a network of five public and private law schools in the city of Chicago, and is one of nine law schools within the state of Illinois.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

In 1853, Northwestern University’s founders purchased a 379-acre tract of farmland along Lake Michigan, 12 miles north of downtown Chicago, as the site for the new university. Classes began in the fall of 1855 with two faculty members and ten male students. In 1869, the University enrolled its first female students, thereby becoming a pioneer in the higher education of women. In recent years, Northwestern has continued to expand its academic programs and opened a new campus in Qatar.

The Northwestern campus sits on the traditional homelands of the people of the Council of Three Fires, the Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and Odawa, as well as the Menominee, Miami, and Ho-Chunk nations. The greater Chicago area was also a site of trade, travel, gathering, and healing for more than a dozen other Native tribes, linking the Great Lakes to some 100,000 tribal members in the state of Illinois. Recognizing this history, the University established the Native American Outreach and Inclusion Task Force in 2013 to recommend strategies to strengthen Northwestern’s relationship with Native American communities through recruitment efforts, academic programs, and campus support services.
Northwestern enjoys a position as one of the country’s leading private research universities whose ambitions are enabled by an endowment of more than $11 billion. Recognized nationally and internationally for the quality of its educational programs, Northwestern University is home to faculty members who conduct innovative teaching and pioneering research in a collaborative, interdisciplinary environment that combines the resources of a major research university with the level of individual attention of a small college. All told, Northwestern enrolls more than 21,000 full- and part-time students.

The University’s 1,500 full-time faculty members range from MacArthur Fellowship recipients to Tony Award winners. Their ranks include members of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Council of Learned Societies, and numerous other honorary and professional societies. Northwestern’s 260,000 alumni include Supreme Court justices; Nobel and Pulitzer Prize laureates; governors; Academy Award-winning actors; college presidents; and leaders in law, science, medicine, and media.

**University Leadership**

**President**  
Morton Schapiro is the 16th president of Northwestern University.

**Provost**  
Kathleen Hagerty is the Provost of Northwestern University.

**Board of Trustees**  
The Board of Trustees of Northwestern University establishes policies for the governance of the University and is responsible for general oversight of the management of the institution.
Serving as the chief academic officer and chief executive officer of Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, the next Dean will chart the future of one of the nation’s most innovative law schools and join a thirteen-member council of deans under the leadership of Provost Kathleen Hagerty. More specifically, the next Dean will:

**Set strategic priorities to meet new challenges:**
The next Dean will shape the way the Law School approaches legal education in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. In setting scholarly, pedagogical, and strategic priorities for the future, the next Dean will work with faculty, staff, students, and alumni to build on traditional strengths and identify and implement new initiatives.

**Make concrete and tangible the Law School’s commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion:**
Achieving a more just and equitable world is the single most important task facing the next generation of lawyers and legal educators. Although Northwestern Law can point with pride to past achievements, the Law School must offer a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment as it prepares future lawyers for success. Recruiting new members of the community with various perspectives, backgrounds, and expertise, the next Dean will play a key role in realizing these aspirations.

**Deepen and support shared governance while building a more cohesive and collaborative culture:**
Recognizing the importance of shared governance, the Dean will champion collaboration, productive debate and transparency as the Law School continues to reinforce its position as a national leader in legal education. Leading by example, the Dean will demonstrate an inclusive, honest, and team-oriented approach that will facilitate an environment where all members of the community are seen and heard.

**Connect more deeply with the external legal market and expand outreach to potential students, faculty, and staff:**
In addition to internal responsibilities, the next Dean will serve as the external face of the Law School, strengthening Northwestern Law’s academic reputation nationally and globally. Working collaboratively with all constituencies, the Dean will build connections in the legal market; forge academic and professional strategic partnerships; and enhance the Law School’s reputation to attract the best faculty, staff, and students.

**Attract the resources to support the Law School’s ambitions:**
The Dean will actively engage donors, including alumni, foundations, corporations, and community members. Arriving at the end of a successful capital campaign, the Dean will connect donors with new and innovative strategic priorities to inspire increased financial support and individual engagement to further the school’s ambitions.

**Desired Qualifications and Characteristics**

Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law seeks as Dean a proven scholar and leader with a passion for legal education and an established record of innovative managerial oversight, preferably within a complex academic institution. Along with a juris doctorate or its equivalent, competitive candidates will demonstrate the following qualifications and characteristics:
• Strong academic credentials, an ability to recognize excellent scholarship and excellence in legal practice, and a commitment to academic integrity and academic freedom;
• A proven record of commitment to initiatives aimed at achieving diversity, equity, and inclusion;
• Nuanced communication skills that reflect the values of collaboration, empathy, and transparency;
• A record of collaborative leadership;
• An ability to learn an institution quickly and develop a shared strategic vision;
• A record of effective budgetary oversight and the ability to make strategic financial decisions;
• Experience and creativity in recruiting and retaining the highest quality faculty and staff;
• Aptitude for securing philanthropic support;
• Ability to balance immediate and long-term needs of an institution.

For more information, please visit the Law School’s homepage at law.northwestern.edu.

For best consideration, please send all nominations and applications – electronically and in confidence – to:

Shelly Weiss Storbeck, Managing Partner, Storbeck Search
Denielle Pemberton Heard, General Counsel & Managing Director, Diversified Search
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Northwestern University is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer of all protected classes, including veterans and individuals with disabilities. Women, racial and ethnic minorities, individuals with disabilities, and veterans are encouraged to apply. Hiring is contingent upon eligibility to work in the United States.