

Dean of the Dedman School of Law
Southern Methodist University
Dallas, TX

“World Changers Shaped Here”

OVERVIEW

Southern Methodist University, the premier private university of North Texas, seeks a new Dean for the Dedman School of Law (<https://www.smu.edu/law>) (“Dedman Law”) as it embarks on *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow*, a \$1.5 billion campaign to attract and support outstanding students and faculty, to explore new fields with cutting-edge research empowered by future-facing technologies, and to positively impact Dallas and the world beyond. With appointment beginning in advance of the fall 2022 semester, the new Dean will lead the planning for Dedman Law’s centennial celebration in 2025.

With the support of the Provost and a resourceful and deeply invested Board of Trustees, Executive Board, and alumni, the new Dean will lead a law school that, together with SMU’s Cox School of Business, has already had an outsized impact on the commercial and civic life of its community. Dedman Law faculty are prominent participants in the bar and are highly sought after as media commentators. The nationally recognized faculty features recipients of U.S. and international awards and distinctions as well as university-level teaching and research awards. Dedman Law alumni constitute a strong and long-established leadership network on the bench and in the partnership ranks of the most prominent law firms in North Texas, with a notable record of community leadership and *pro bono* service.

The Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex (“DFW” or “the Metroplex”), the fourth largest metropolitan area in the U. S., is an ideal location for a pre-eminent private law school to complement and successfully

compete with public institutions. Dubbed the “Silicon Prairie,” DFW has become a magnet for company headquarters over the past decade, with 140 headquarters relocations to the region from across the U.S. and abroad, including more than 45 companies moving from California. The Metroplex has surpassed Chicago as the top headquarters location for Fortune 500 companies: 22 now make DFW their home.

The new Dean will have the opportunity to freshly position Dedman Law as the law school of choice for employers and student matriculants seeking careers in DFW, as SMU consolidates its reputation as the anchor and go-to university for the region and as an incubator of national and international professional talent. The *National Law Journal* recently ranked Dedman Law 29th among law schools by number of graduates who took associate jobs at the 100 largest law firms. In 2021, Dedman Law ranked 52nd among all domestic law schools in *US News and World Report*. Dedman Law aspires both to maintain its long-standing top status in the region and to rise significantly—well within the top 50 in national rankings of the best law schools. With 41 full-time, 12 clinical, and 74 adjunct faculty members, and a student enrollment of 782, Dedman Law offers a full-time JD program, joint JD/MBA programs on a four-year or three-year fast track, a JD/LLM in taxation program, three LLM programs, and an SJD program. Dedman Law is committed to the success of a diverse student body: currently 33 percent of its first-year class are students of color and approximately 50 percent are female.

Following a successful deanship that raised \$50 million, delivered balanced budgets every year, and led the School in establishing and augmenting financial support for five prominent interdisciplinary centers and institutes (<https://www.smu.edu/Law/Centers>), the new Dean will sustain these initiatives. The new Dean will develop and retain faculty who complement the School’s established excellence across multiple disciplines and in experiential learning. With faculty approval, the new Dean will also work to inaugurate a pilot on-line master’s program commensurate with SMU’s distance learning ambitions. The distinctive features of Dedman Law already include outstanding corporate and commercial law offerings; graduate and international degree programs first established in 1949; the new Inns of Court program that matches small groups of first-year students with faculty, upper-level students, and attorney mentors; and a flourishing clinical program that offers 11 clinics and other projects that serve the public. Robust externship programs place students with in-house legal operations, judges, and not-for-profit and governmental legal departments. The Mustang Exchange, the first and only law school mentorship program of its kind, is an innovative “flash” mentorship program that connects each law student with multiple one-on-one mentoring meetings. With a resourceful enrollment operation that has bucked national law school admissions trends, and the best law school career services office in Texas, Dedman Law has expert functional support for the new Dean.

THE UNIVERSITY AND ITS LEADERSHIP

SMU began in 1911 when its founders determined to establish not a college, but a co-educational university in Dallas, to educate not only its ministers but also the youth of a “fast growing, increasingly urbanized state just then emerging from its rural pioneering days.” The University’s foundation was a community enterprise: local citizens gave 622.5 acres on one of the highest points in Dallas County and \$300,000 to create SMU’s “Hilltop” campus. The founders hired Stanford’s campus architect, Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge, to design SMU’s first building, Dallas Hall, realizing a cherished vision of SMU’s first president to build a version of Thomas Jefferson’s University of

Virginia Rotunda in Texas. Dallas Hall's naming acknowledged SMU's foundational linkage with the ambitions and growing fortunes of the city, and its design ordained Jeffersonian Neo-Classicism as the favored idiom for future campus development. Today's 233-acre main campus is notable for its architectural harmony and aesthetic appeal, earning it top ranking by *Condé Nast Traveler* as the "most beautiful campus in the country" in 2016. Arrayed in quadrangles connected by the oak canopied Boulevard (site of home-game football tailgates) and other thoroughfares are seven degree granting schools: the Dedman College of Humanities and Science, the Cox School of Business, the Meadows School of the Arts, the Lyle School of Engineering, the Dedman School of Law, the Perkins School of Theology, and the Simmons School of Education and Human Development.

An English professor's 1915 launch of what became the *Southwest Review*, the third oldest literary quarterly in the U. S., signaled the intellectual and cultural ambitions of SMU's founding faculty. The *Review* played an influential role in establishing American literature as a worthy field of literary study and later provided a showcase for new work by poets such as Amy Clampitt, James Merrill, and Robert Penn Warren. Football-celebrity SMU Mustangs brought the University to national attention in the 1930s, with a Rose Bowl invitation to play Stanford in 1936. Concurrently, the University's faculty earned academic prestige in its scholarship. By World War II, SMU had expanded beyond its denominational origins, even as students continued to display "a keen sense of social consciousness," with the Student Council of Religious Activities campaigning for improved public education for Dallas's African Americans. In 1951, with a new Dean from Pomona College, Merrimon Cuninggim, SMU's Perkins School of Theology began actively recruiting Black students, taking the initiative to pursue integration two years before *Brown vs. Board of Education* and ahead of mainline theological schools.

The presidency of devoted alumnus Willis M. Tate '38 from 1954 to 1972 stewarded SMU through years of cultural upheaval, steadfastly preserving and protecting academic freedom and "skillfully interpret[ing] what a university is to many SMU publics." Tate's Master Plan for SMU's Second Half-Century determined that SMU would no longer "be content to compare itself with universities in Texas and the region. We now make our comparisons with the finest institutions in the country." Tate's civic leadership in Dallas, *inter alia* serving as president of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce, cemented SMU's partnership with its community and region and attracted non-alumni benefactors such as Stanley Marcus of Neiman-Marcus and the oilman J. S. Bridwell, whose namesake manuscripts and rare-books library at the Perkins School of Theology is an international research destination for scholars of art history, book arts and theology.

Former Duke Law School Dean Ken Pye, who left Duke's chancellorship for SMU's presidency in 1987, greatly diversified SMU's enrollment and brought a global perspective to the curriculum, aiming to provide "the finest program of undergraduate education in chosen fields between the East and West Coasts," while enhancing faculty research and promoting a limited number of high-quality graduate programs and professional schools.

Gerald Turner's appointment as SMU's tenth president in 1995 followed his transformational tenure as chancellor of the University of Mississippi, where he launched that institution's first capital campaign, moved it beyond non-inclusive campus traditions and segregated social norms, while sustaining its high affinity character, and oversaw more than \$200 million of construction. Soon after arriving at SMU, according to *D Magazine*, "President Turner answered a question about which

university the SMU he envisioned could be compared to. ‘I don’t want to be the Harvard of the South, or the USC of the East, or the Emory of the West,” he answered. “I want SMU to be the university for Dallas.”” That vision proved irresistible to SMU alumni and Dallas philanthropists who have come to see the University as a point of civic pride and an engine and partner in the advancement of a great international city.

In the capstone years of President Turner’s leadership, SMU continues to advance as an institution of national excellence and international renown. With the implementation of the 2015-2022 Strategic Plan (<https://www.smu.edu/AboutSMU/StrategicPlan>), SMU’s progress has included increases in average admission test scores, a near tripling of student applications, an increase in enrollment of underrepresented communities up to 31 percent and a quadrupling of the endowment. Building on a history of excellence, *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow*, which launched publicly in September 2021, is the third \$1 billion-plus comprehensive fundraising campaign initiated under President Turner’s leadership. The multiyear campaign’s \$1.5 billion goal is the largest fundraising target ever set by a private school in North Texas. The campaign aims to build on SMU’s strengths to empower outstanding students, enrich teaching and research, and enhance campus and community.

Fueled by these investments, the University is a leading center of teaching and research that accelerates knowledge, addresses significant issues, prepares students to be world changers and broadens community engagement. SMU experienced record enrollment in fall 2021 with 12,391 students (6,914 undergraduate and 5,477 graduate), including matriculation of the largest, most talented, and most diverse undergraduate first-year class in its history.

Beyond the campus, President Turner has served on the boards of the Dallas Citizens Council, the American Council on Education and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and he co-chaired the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics for nearly 10 years. In Texas, he serves on the boards of the Methodist Health System Foundation, the Salvation Army of North Texas, and the AT&T Performing Arts Center. Earlier in his career, President Turner served in administrative positions at the University of Oklahoma and Pepperdine University. A native of New Boston, Texas, he earned an AA degree from Lubbock Christian University, a BS in psychology from Abilene Christian University and an MA and PhD in psychology from the University of Texas at Austin.

Elizabeth G. Loba has served as SMU’s Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs since July 6, 2020. At SMU, she has successfully challenged community members to establish academic priorities for the next three to five years that will allow SMU to reach its full potential as a premier research and teaching university with global impact. As a trained biomedical engineer and established researcher, Loba understands the importance of data to inform decisions and spent considerable time in her first year establishing the data and reporting structures that will best shape and define the University’s academic strategy. She has a deep commitment to transparency and has charted multiple avenues for consistent and open communication across the University.

Prior to SMU, Loba was the eleventh dean of the University of Missouri’s College of Engineering since October 2015 and Ketcham Professor of the College of Engineering. Since 2018, and concurrent with her deanship, she served as vice chancellor for strategic partnerships. She was the first woman to serve as the College of Engineering’s dean. Loba previously served as associate chair and professor of the Joint Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of North

Carolina-Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University, and as a professor of materials science and engineering at North Carolina State University. She earned her PhD in mechanical engineering and her master's degree in biomechanical engineering from Stanford University, and a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from UC Davis.

Provost Loba has been recognized for her work as an engineer, inventor, researcher, and academic administrator. She is a fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the National Academy of Inventors, the Biomedical Engineering Society and the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering. She has earned the *Insight into Diversity* Giving Back Award, the Sigma Xi Faculty Research Award, the Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Award, and the UK-US Stem Cell Collaboration Development Award. Loba also is the recipient of the University of California Davis Distinguished Engineering Alumni Medal as well as the Stanford University Distinguished Alumni Scholar Award. Loba serves on the advisory board of the AAAS Education Counsel Societies Consortium on Sexual Harassment in STEMM. She is a member of the board of directors of Applied Optoelectronics, Inc. (AOI). She currently serves on the nominations committee for the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering.

THE DEDMAN SCHOOL OF LAW

Following the establishment of the business school in 1920, SMU's trustees established two new schools in 1925: law and engineering. Board chair Judge Joseph C. Cockrell believed "that any respectable university should have a law school" and had been urging its foundation since 1919. With Cockrell serving as acting Dean, the Dallas Bar Association offered its full support, underwriting faculty salaries and donating books and law journal subscriptions. The law school initially found space in otherwise crowded Dallas Hall.

Almost a century later, SMU's Dedman Law Quadrangle, located on the southeast corner of Hillcrest Avenue and Daniel Avenue, comprises four legacy buildings whose complementary exteriors greet first-time visitors with the impression of a distinguished institution. Storey Hall houses deans' and faculty offices as well as lecture and reception spaces. Florence Hall contains classrooms and a moot courtroom. Carr Collins Hall, originally a law school dormitory, now houses admissions, career services and the Lawyers Inn, a café and lunchroom. The fourth building, Dedman Law's Underwood Law Library, is the largest private academic law library west of the Mississippi River and also houses a recently refreshed state-of-the-art moot courtroom. Its collections include approximately 666,498 law-related volumes and equivalents, ranking the library among the top 20 percent of law libraries in the United States. A 2019 analysis found that the Dedman School ranked 21st for Library Resources among all law schools.

Highlighting the celebration of its 75th year, SMU School of Law was named the Dedman School of Law in 2001 in honor of Dallas benefactors Nancy and Robert H. Dedman, Sr., and their family, whose earlier gifts had inspired the naming of the Dedman School of Humanities and Sciences in 1981. Robert H. Dedman, Jr. (Dedman Law '84) succeeded Michael M. Boone (Dedman Law '67) as SMU's board chair in 2018. Today's Dedman Law has a \$193.4 million endowment that supports a \$49 million budget. The School's Executive Board, including both alumni and friends of Dedman Law, encompasses a broad swath of DFW's most prominent law practitioners,

corporate and civic leaders, entrepreneurs, and philanthropists. Please visit: <https://www.smu.edu/Law/Alumni/Executive-Board>.

The deanship of Jennifer M. Collins, who is departing SMU for the presidency of Rhodes College, nurtured a culture of faculty and staff collegiality and academic ambition that will be great advantages to her successor. In addition to hiring a nationally prominent cohort of 14 new full-time junior and mid-career faculty, Dean Collins raised more than \$50 million for scholarships, endowed chairs, and new academic and student programming. During a period of fluctuating undergraduate interest in legal education, she increased the number of applications to Dedman Law every year, exceeding both national and regional averages, and improved the entering academic credentials and diversity of the student body. Dean Collins also increased alumni engagement by creating a new umbrella alumni organization and an Emerging Leaders Board for recent graduates. <https://www.smu.edu/Law/Alumni/Emerging-Leader-Board2020>.

DFW: THE METROPLEX

The new Dean of Dedman Law will arrive in a boomtown that is noted for its positive, can-do spirit, diverse and welcoming population, affordable quality of life, high culture, and recreational amenities. According to *City Journal*, more Americans have moved to DFW over the past ten years than anywhere else in the U.S. In another decade or so, DFW's population will reach 10 million people, surpassing Chicago as the country's third-largest metro area and making it the "de facto capital of America's heartland." From 2010 to 2020, the population of DFW itself grew by 1.3 million to 7.5 million, 40 percent by domestic migration, 20 percent by international migration, and the rest from natural population growth. Concurrently, the population of the surrounding counties grew by 36 percent.

For further detail, please visit: <https://blog.smu.edu/dedmancollege/2022/01/25/why-is-everyone-moving-to-dallas/>

Apart from New York, no American city has a more prominent footprint of fine and performing arts, major league sports, and cultural philanthropy than Dallas. The Arts District in the northern section of Downtown is the largest contiguous arts district in the United States. Notable venues in the district include the Dallas Museum of Art; the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, home to the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Dallas Wind Symphony; the Nasher Sculpture Center; and the Trammell & Margaret Crow Collection of Asian Art. The Perot Museum of Nature and Science, also in Downtown Dallas, is a natural history and science museum. Venues that are part of the AT&T Dallas Center for the Performing Arts include Moody Performance Hall, home to the Dallas Chamber Symphony; the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre, home to the Dallas Theater Center and the Dallas Black Dance Theater; and the Winspear Opera House, home to the Dallas Opera and Texas Ballet Theater. SMU's own Meadows Museum is the leading center in the United States for exhibition, research, and education in the arts and culture of Spain.

The Dallas Mavericks (NBA) and the Dallas Stars (NHL) play at the American Airlines Center, and the Dallas Cowboys (NFL), Texas Rangers (MLB) and Dallas Wings (WBNA) play in nearby Arlington. FC Dallas (MLS) plays in nearby Frisco. Wikipedia tallies that Dallas maintains and operates 406 parks on 21,000 acres of parkland. The city's parks contain 17 separate lakes,

including White Rock and Bachman lakes, spanning a total of 4,400 acres. In addition, Dallas is traversed by 61.6 miles of biking and jogging trails, including the Katy Trail, and is home to 47 community and neighborhood recreation centers, 276 sports fields, 60 swimming pools, 232 playgrounds, 173 basketball courts, 112 volleyball courts, 126 play slabs, 258 neighborhood tennis courts, 258 picnic areas, six 18-hole golf courses, two driving ranges, and 477 athletic fields.

Several websites, notably <https://dallas.eater.com>, track DFW's varied restaurant scene, which Bon Appetit singled out for praise in 2019: <https://www.bonappetit.com/story/dallas-texas-city-of-the-year-2019>. Two major international airports, DFW (the second busiest in the US) and Dallas Love Field (DAL), provide direct flights to most major domestic and international travel destinations.

DISTINCTIVE OPPORTUNITIES

The new Dean will have the opportunity to frame a market-differentiating identity for Dedman Law that draws on and looks to enhance its current faculty strengths, while reasserting its historic prominence as the law school resource of choice for DFW's bar, business community, and civic leadership. The new Dean will initiate planning for and oversee the celebration of the Dedman Law's 2025 Centennial, leveraging the loyalty and competitive spirit of the School's alumni to elevate its academic reputation, renew its physical plant, and increase access for academically gifted students from diverse backgrounds. The new Dean will situate Dedman Law as a strategic partner in SMU's determination to gain classification as an R1 research university. The new Dean will work to find a role for Dedman Law in SMU's distance education initiatives.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

SMU's Dedman School of Law seeks as its new Dean a prominent leader in the legal academy who will be a visible, credible, and effective advocate and promoter for the School, while also overseeing new program development and providing expertise and service in realizing SMU's ambition to gain Carnegie Classification as a Research One (R1) university. Candidates must possess a JD, at least ten years of experience in the teaching of law, and a record that meets the School's criteria for tenure at the full professor rank. Competitive candidates will evidence experience in or aptitude for building collaborative and sustainable academic programs; engaging and stewarding alumni; cultivating corporate and philanthropic supporters; and realizing institutional commitments to diversity and inclusion. Applications should demonstrate the candidate's readiness to pursue collaboration across SMU's other academic units; to provide professional mentorship for early-career law professors and students; and to lead a student-focused law school that nurtures high affinity among all its constituents. An aptitude and appetite for working with faculty to develop on-line and other innovative academic programs, capital and facilities fundraising, and raising endowments for named faculty chairs, scholarships, and public interest funding, will be essential to success in this deanship.

PROCEDURE FOR CANDIDACY

Review of candidate materials will begin immediately and continue until the appointment. A complete application will include a letter of interest, a current curriculum vitae, and contact

information for five professional references who can speak about the candidate's qualifications for this position. Named referees will not be contacted without the candidate's prior consent. Expressions of interest, applications, nominations, and inquiries should be directed to SMU's search consultant, Mr. Chuck O'Boyle of C. V. O'Boyle, Jr., LLC, at chuck@cvoboyle.com.

SMU will not discriminate in any employment practice, educational program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status.