



**POSITION PROFILE**  
**Dean, School of Law**  
January 2023

*In partnership with Summit Search Solutions, Inc.*



*Oklahoma City University (OCU) invites nominations, expressions of interest and applications for the Dean of the School of Law. OCU seeks a new Dean of the School of Law who will partner with the President and the Provost. The Dean will be a collaborative leader, will support the vision cast by the faculty, and will also have strong administrative and interpersonal skills.*



## ABOUT OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY

Established in 1904, [Oklahoma City University](https://www.okcu.edu/) (OCU) is a coeducational, urban, private university which occupies 104 park-like acres in the heart of Oklahoma City. The university is affiliated with The United Methodist Church and offers a wide variety of degrees in liberal arts, performing arts, health sciences, and business, with 59 undergraduate majors and 27 graduate programs, including a J.D. degree through the Oklahoma City University School of Law. OCU enrolls 1,362 undergraduate students and 1,188 graduate students from 45 states and 37 countries. To learn more, <https://www.okcu.edu/>

### OCU Accolades

1. Chronicle of Higher Education's "Great Colleges to Work For" list multiple years.
2. OCU is currently ranked as a national university by [U.S. News & World Report](#).
3. Listed in *Forbes* magazine's "Best Christian Colleges" and "100 Best College Buys."
4. Made the [Arbor Day Foundation's Tree Campus USA](#) list more than once.

### Mission

**Oklahoma City University prepares all learners to Create, Lead, and Serve.** OCU provides a diverse, inclusive culture committed to producing graduates who think critically and innovatively, communicate effectively, and use their knowledge and talents to make a local and global impact.

Oklahoma City University is committed to an education that:

1. Provides students with the skills and confidence to adapt to and excel in a complex and dynamic world
2. Invests continually in its students, staff, faculty, alumni, and programming to enrich academic and co-curricular offerings
3. Fosters partnerships within and beyond the university to enrich lifelong learning
4. Develops informed global citizens ready to engage with their communities and contribute to the world
5. Develops graduates who are ethical, highly employable professionals
6. Honors its United Methodist history and tradition of scholarship and service

### Vision

Oklahoma City University will be an innovative academic institution with local impact and global reach and reputation. By providing a student-focused learning environment and an inclusive, values-centered culture that engages the community and the world, Oklahoma City University will be a university of choice for talented and high-potential students, faculty, and staff.



## OCU Core Values:

**Integrity:** We hold ourselves and each other accountable to do the right thing in all circumstances.

**Respect:** We honor the worth of all by treating ourselves and others with dignity and kindness.

**Diversity and Inclusion:** We strive to understand and embrace our unique identities and perspectives. We take purposeful action to foster a welcoming and supportive environment for all.

**Collaboration:** We intentionally pursue our common goals with a genuine spirit of community.

## United Methodist Affiliation

While the university is affiliated with The United Methodist Church, the university's government and management are vested in its independent, self-perpetuating board of trustees. The university bylaws provide for an executive committee, the members of which include the chairperson and the vice chairperson of the board, the treasurer of the university, the resident Bishop for the Oklahoma Area of the United Methodist Church, and the chairs of certain standing trustee committees.

## University Strategic Goals

During the 2017-2018 academic year, the university's strategic planning leadership team engaged in a collaborative and participatory strategic planning process to develop measurable tactics for each approved strategic focus area, with the goal of moving the university forward toward the year 2023. In the fall of 2022 President Evans launched a comprehensive strategic planning process engaging stakeholders from across the university. The new strategic plan is scheduled to be completed in May 2023.

## Accreditation

The university is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) to award six baccalaureate degrees (59 majors), twelve master's degrees (23 programs), five doctoral degrees, and 15 certificates. The university's most recent decennial reaffirmation of accreditation from HLC was completed in 2021-2022.

The law school is accredited by the American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools.

## Leadership

Dr. Kenneth R. Evans was appointed the 19th president of Oklahoma City University on July 1, 2021, after serving as president of Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, for eight years and as dean of the Price College of Business at the University of Oklahoma for six years.

Dr. Evans holds the doctorate from the University of Colorado; a master of business administration degree from California State University-Sacramento; and a bachelor's degree from the University of California-Davis. His research has been published in marketing and business academic journals and he has received national and international recognition for his contributions. Evans has been recognized for his work in the design and implementation of interactive learning experiences and graduate education.

The president reports to the board of trustees. OCU has a 46-member board led by chairman Gary Homsey. [Click here to view a full list of \*university trustees\*.](#)



## Faculty & Staff

The university has a full-time faculty of 197 members as of the fall of 2022. To complement the university's faculty, there are more than 300 full-time and part-time staff positions (non-faculty). The university staff is focused on supporting the educational endeavors of the institution in an employee-friendly environment.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Oklahoma City University is committed to fostering a diverse, equitable, and intentionally inclusive community. The University seeks and creates opportunities for each person to examine their own beliefs, values, and cultures so that, as a community, it can fully embrace the experience, ideas, perspectives, and traditions of all who come to learn and work here. The intention is to champion an environment where everyone collaborates to make OCU a place where people from all identities, backgrounds, viewpoints, and experiences are embraced, validated, and supported. OCU recognizes that its students, staff, faculty, and community all benefit from and engage in its best learning, research, and community engagement when everyone is learning from and with each other. To learn more, visit the [Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#).

## Alumni

The Oklahoma City University Alumni Association supports more than 40,000 alumni and fosters connections through a variety of cultural, social, and community programs. An alumni-led OCU NYC chapter of the association is highly active in New York City, providing opportunities for alumni in the Tri-State area for networking, continuing education, and philanthropy, as well as assisting in the assimilation of new graduates into the New York City community.

Oklahoma City University graduates can be found around the world serving their communities and carrying forward the university's tradition of servant leadership.

## Schools and Colleges



**College of Health Professions**  
**Margaret E. Petree College of Performing Arts**

**Meinders School of Business**  
**Petree College of Arts and Sciences**  
**School of Law**



## SCHOOL OF LAW

Situated in the state capital, the OCU School of Law operates in a renovated historic building located in downtown Oklahoma City. The downtown location is enhanced by its proximity to numerous government agencies, law firms and service organizations and provides broad networking opportunities, internships, volunteer programs and entertainment, all within walking distance from the School of Law.

The School of Law's academic programs and faculty strive for excellence, academic achievement, and public service. The law faculty at OCU prepare students to become servant leaders in their local community and the world. Students are passionate about making a global difference by transforming the strategies and resources provided to them at OCU, to contribute to the world.

With a full-time faculty body of 21, and an enrollment of 453 students, the School of Law offers a learning environment that is challenging and supportive. Faculty, students, community members, and alumni are closely connected through opportunities for students to contribute in areas such as the Oklahoma Innocence Project and the Judge Alfred P. Murrah Center for Homeland Security Law and Policy Center. With an ongoing commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, the School of Law is committed to providing a world-class education to their diverse student body. The law faculty is committed to the success of their students and prepares students to become servant leaders in their respective communities.

For more information regarding OCU's School of Law, please visit: <http://law.okcu.edu/>.

### Faculty

The faculty at Oklahoma City University School of Law is committed to the intellectual and professional growth of every student. Faculty members hold law degrees from a variety of law schools, including the nation's most prestigious. Many faculty members also hold advanced degrees and have significant practice-based experience. First Amendment law, environmental law, firearms and Second Amendment law, health law, American Indian law, intellectual property law and national security law are just a few of the areas of focus for our faculty.

### Students:

The majority of the law students at the institution are residents of the state of Oklahoma (58%); 27% of students are from Texas. The balance of the student body represents 31 states and 5 countries. The student body is 55% female and 45% male. While 59% of the student body reports their ethnic origin as Caucasian/White, 19% report as Hispanic or Latino; 9% report as two or more ethnicities; 6% as African Americans; and 3% as American Indian, Native Alaskan or Asian respectively. 50% of the students did not report any religious preference or indicate no religious affiliation.

## Facilities

The School of Law is located near downtown Oklahoma City in a building constructed in 1910 to be the city's first high school by the same architect who designed the Oklahoma State Capitol. The building features iconic art deco details from its origins with state-of-the-art technology, classrooms, study spaces, courtroom, dining facilities and public areas. The building has played an important role in the life of the city for decades and, because of this, well represents the School of Law's tradition of more than a century of service and leadership in the community. The school's Chickasaw Nation Law Library is available to students 24/7 and offers 613,000 titles, including 450 digital study aids.

## Special Programs

In Oklahoma, students who have successfully completed half the course hours for a JD, as required by the American Bar Association, are eligible for a limited license to practice law, and those who qualify may appear in court under certain circumstances. As a companion to this state licensing policy, Oklahoma City University School of Law has created close to 100 externship opportunities at municipal and state courts, governmental agencies, corporate counsel offices and nonprofit organizations, where academic credit can be earned in a variety of practice placement sites with field supervisors, operating under the guidance of a full-time director of externship programs.

The Judge Alfred P. Murrah Center for Homeland Security Law and Policy is located in the School of Law. The center examines the unique legal issues central to protecting and securing the nation, with a focus on the prevention of domestic terrorism.

The School of Law houses three clinics: the state's first and only Innocence Clinic, in which students work under the supervision of a clinical professor on the cases of actual inmates who have viable claims of wrongful conviction; the American Indian Wills Clinic, in which students assist tribal members with basic estate-planning documents; and the Norick Municipal Law Research Clinic, in which students work with city attorneys on legal issues facing a large metropolitan area with a rapidly developing urban core.

Oklahoma Lawyers for Children, a nonprofit organization providing child advocacy legal services, is located in the School of Law, as is the Oklahoma Policy Institute, an independent nonpartisan nonprofit that provides factual information and advocates for fair and responsible public policies.

The School of Law will also lead the planning and serve as the host for the Sovereignty Symposium in 2023. Originally an initiative overseen by the Oklahoma Supreme Court, this center was established in 1988. Expansion of this will be an important initiative for the incoming dean.

The School of Law also offers three joint and paired JD/Masters programs: the JD/Masters in Business Administration, the JD/Masters in Nonprofit Leadership and the JD/Masters in Public Administration.





## THE OPPORTUNITY

### Dean, School of Law

The Dean who will serve as the chief academic officer and chief administrator of the School of Law, will report to the President and work collaboratively with the Provost. The Dean will ensure the school's commitment to providing a high-quality education for all students that prepares them for being effective, ethical, and competent legal practitioners. The Dean will be responsible for overseeing the academic programs of the school to assure the programs meet requirements of the board of trustees, the president, and accrediting and membership entities.

The Dean will oversee program review and ongoing assessment of all academic and support programs in the School of Law; will be responsible for assuring the School of Law is efficiently administering its academic and administrative programs and committees; and will be responsible for building and maintaining relationships with important stakeholders. A priority for the Dean is to maintain a presence in local, state, national and international legal/education communities. The Dean will represent the School of Law and the university in public speaking opportunities to further enhance the reputation of the university and the School of Law.



#### Opportunities and Challenges:

##### 1. Enrollment and Retention

OCU has seen growth in the overall enrollment of the School. In the next few years, it will be important to maintain that growth line that includes both new student enrollment and overall improved student retention of L2 and L3 students.

##### 2. Enhance and Promote the Distinctiveness of the School

The OCU law school is in a very competitive region. The next dean must be able to share the story of why this should be the school of choice for students seeking a law degree. The commitment faculty and staff have to the success of students; the resources available to students to help ensure that success; and the access to community, regional, and state-wide networks should be broadcast clearly and often.

##### 3. Fundraising and Revenue Development

Generate stronger external support through fundraising and outreach to friends in the community to grow student scholarships, add staff support, develop faculty, and promote student success.



#### **4. Student Success**

The next dean will continue to build strategies for academic success and provide research opportunities for students who bring varied academic backgrounds. A focus on increasing the overall bar passage rate for first-time and subsequent test takers will be an important priority.

#### **5. Emergent Trends and Management Processes**

Attend to the emergent trends and best practices in the administration and management of schools/colleges of law and bring an ability to bridge the gap between theory and practice.

#### **6. Alumni, Civic and University Engagement**

Expand and reinforce relationships between the School of Law and its alumni regionally, nationally, and globally. Concurrently broaden relationships with the Oklahoma City community so there is an increased awareness of the value of OCU law students as contributing members to the justice system locally and regionally.

#### **7. Communication and Transparency**

Foster and promote a culture of open communication, inclusivity, transparency, and accountability among faculty, staff, and students across the university.

#### **8. Budgetary Management**

Plan and execute an administrative budget for the School of Law assuring that operations are executed within allocated funding, and actively seek additional ways to strengthen the revenue stream.

#### **9. Faculty Development**

Continue to build, develop, and retain a robust faculty who are sensitive to the needs of the students. The Dean will maintain and strengthen the intellectual, research, and service aspirations of faculty offering ongoing support and encouragement for scholarly activities the lead to publications in leading journals, the procurement of grants, and contributes to expanding knowledge vital to the practice and profession of law.

#### **10. Diversity Efforts**

Build on the existing successful diversity and inclusion initiatives that have enhanced the student experience, the academic programs and the faculty profile of the School of Law.

### **Background**

The successful candidate will possess stellar academic and professional credentials sufficient to engender respect from the academy, the state, and the community at large. Preferably, the Dean will display both a successful record as a faculty member and evidence of leadership experience in higher education. The new Dean must understand shared governance and be adept in overseeing faculty and staff. The Dean must possess a maturity which promotes a natural exchange of thought with a diverse student body, community partners, alumni, and donors.

### **Qualifications:**

*The successful candidate should possess:*

1. A Juris Doctor (J.D.) or other terminal degree in law from an ABA accredited institution, and at least ten years of experience in the teaching and/or practice of law.
2. A record of successful fundraising experience and a demonstrated skill in partnering with university advancement officers to secure external gifts, grants, and funding to support law school programs.
3. Evidence of scholarly and professional achievement sufficient for appointment (with tenure) as a professor in the School of Law.
4. Demonstrated ability to foster and maintain relationships with external constituencies including donors, alumni, and community members.
5. Experience with national and international issues affecting legal and graduate education.
6. Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to collaborate effectively within the University, the School of Law, and the larger legal community.
7. A commitment to shared governance with the law school faculty.

8. The ability and desire to continue to build on collaborative programming opportunities across the university working specifically with the other academic deans.
9. Demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. Ability to work with diverse constituencies with multiple interests.
10. Knowledge, or a commitment to acquire such knowledge, of the Oklahoma legal environment.
11. Knowledge, or a commitment to acquire such knowledge, of budgeting, fiscal management, personnel management, academic planning, program review, strategic planning, and problem-solving.
12. A deep appreciation for legal scholarship, teaching, and service.
13. Demonstrated strategic, ethical, and effective leadership skills; a proven track-record as an innovator.
14. An effective communicator with a high level of integrity, sound judgment, and emotional intelligence; the ability to motivate and inspire faculty, staff, and students.
15. Knowledge of ABA accreditation procedures, practices, and standards.
16. Demonstrated ability to facilitate small and large group discussions.
17. Licensed to practice law in Oklahoma and/or their home state and in good standing with their bar association.





## PROCEDURE FOR CANDIDACY

Confidential review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled; **parties who apply before or by February 21, 2023, will be given first consideration.** Interested candidates should submit a curriculum vitae/resume and a letter of interest. **To apply online, go to: <https://theapplicantmanager.com/jobs?pos=su338>**

### For more information or to offer recommendations:

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*Oklahoma City University pledges to recruit, select, and promote diversity by providing equality of opportunity in higher education for all current and prospective students, faculty, and staff with respect to hiring, continuation, promotion and tenure, and applications for admission or employment, without discrimination or segregation based on sex (gender), race, age, ancestry, color, disability, genetic history, national origin, marital status, medical condition, religious creed, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, pregnancy, parenting status, status as a veteran, or the perception that a person has one or more of these characteristics.*



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## ABOUT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma City University is located in the historic and vibrant Uptown 23<sup>rd</sup> District in the heart of Oklahoma City, a unique, thriving, friendly city with a low cost of living and lots of sunshine. Oklahoma City has a population of more than 680,000 in the city proper and a 10-county population of more than 1.3 million people. Public and private partnerships during the last 10 years have dramatically transformed the face of the city, staking a claim for the future as a preeminent American city. Downtown Oklahoma City is made up of 8-character districts – each with a distinct feel and personality.

### Central Business District

Marked by the skyscrapers that form Downtown Oklahoma City's unique skyline, the Business District is the center for finance, business, and government. It features signature hotels and Class-A office space as well as classic architectural treasures that incorporate Oklahoma's history into a modern urban marketplace.

### Bricktown

Bricktown has become Oklahoma City's premiere entertainment district. With the passage of the MAPS initiative in 1993, the City of Oklahoma City constructed the Bricktown Ballpark and a one-mile canal that connects the north Bricktown area with the Chesapeake Boathouse along the Oklahoma River. In the last decade, several residences, restaurants, and offices have moved into Bricktown making the district one of the most unique and diverse areas in the state.

### Automobile Alley

In the 1920s, Automobile Alley was home to over 50 local auto dealers. After a period of decline its potential has been rediscovered by a new breed of driven locals who have jump-started revitalization and restoration efforts. New businesses, residences and galleries are relocating to the area, drawn by the creative reuse of existing buildings. The district is enjoying an economic resurgence as an urban, mixed-use community.

### Midtown

Midtown District is located north of the downtown business district, and is experiencing exponential growth due to new business, reinvestment by anchor tenants, revitalization of historic buildings, and a renewed interest in building a strong and diverse local community. The law school is located in the midst of this booming district. Home to some of Oklahoma City's best restaurants, shopping, events, and nightlife. Midtown is a vibrant and welcoming neighborhood to its residents and visitors.

### Film Row

In the 1930s, Sheridan Avenue was the destination for theater owners looking to screen and lease films for their movie houses. Dubbed "Film Row," it was home to notable film companies like Paramount Pictures, MGM, Universal, Fox and Warner Brothers. Today, the district breathes life again, thanks to the efforts of forward-thinking civic pioneers. Recent streetscaping celebrating the district's movie heritage has transformed the area, which is now home to several film-oriented and design-focused businesses.

### Deep Deuce

Known for its African American heritage, Deep Deuce is recapturing its glory days as a vibrant urban neighborhood. During the 1940s and 1950s, the area was a hotbed of jazz music and African American culture. Today, the neighborhood is undergoing a renaissance with many large-scale apartments and condominiums. The district is also home to cozy neighborhood restaurants, clubs, and art galleries.

### Arts District

The Arts District is home to several attractions, including the Civic Center Music Hall, the Oklahoma City Museum of Art, the Norick Library, the newly renovated Myriad Botanical Gardens and Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory.

### Park Plaza

Park Plaza is a redeveloping office district in downtown Oklahoma City. Area property owners in recent years have renovated many dilapidated offices spaces. In the last five years, the City has worked to enhance the appearance of the area with street improvements unique to the area.

Oklahoma City offers all amenities found in a modern metropolitan community including a vibrant arts community, quality health care, excellence in education, great food options and many recreational activities. It is a distinctly livable city where you can live comfortably without high energy costs, energy shortages, smog, or traffic congestion. The weather offers four distinct seasons with the annual average temperature of 60 degrees. The cost of living is low compared to similar cities in other locations.

*To learn more about Oklahoma City, Oklahoma:*

[Living in OKC: These are the best days](#)

[Be Larger Than Life in Oklahoma City](#)

