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'Innovative Leader'

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The University of Dayton has named a prolific scholar and innovative leader to take the School of Law to the "next level" as the next dean, University officials announced today.

Paul McGreal, director of faculty development and professor of law at Southern Illinois University School of Law, will begin the position July 1, 2011. He will succeed Lisa Kloppenberg, who championed curricular reform during her 10-year stint. She will return to the law faculty.

McGreal's areas of expertise include constitutional law, religion and the law, First Amendment rights and business ethics. He has published nearly 40 articles and essays for law review publications at the University of Notre Dame, Northwestern University and the University of Pennsylvania, among others.

"He is an outstanding candidate with an excellent scholarship record, leadership traits and enthusiasm for the law," said Jack Proud, a local attorney and University of Dayton trustee who co-chaired the national search with law professor Dennis Greene. "He will take our law school to the next level."

Added Greene: "He's an outstanding scholar who brings a powerful vision to the law school."

At Southern Illinois University, McGreal served as an interim associate dean for a year, where he oversaw a number of administrative functions including faculty hiring, curriculum development and budget planning. The graduating class of SIU's law school voted him the top faculty member the last three years.

Before joining SIU's faculty in 2006, he established the Corporate Compliance Center at the South Texas College of Law. As the founding director, McGreal spearheaded the center's fundraising and marketing efforts while developing continuing legal education events and corporate externships for students in the joint law-MBA program with Texas A&M University.

"He's a man of practical wisdom, a visionary. He's also an incredible scholar and a thoughtful leader — just a great fit for our Catholic, Marianist culture," said Joseph Saliba, provost.

McGreal said the University of Dayton School of Law's mission to serve in the Catholic, Marianist tradition of truth and intellectual inquiry attracted him to the deanship. The School of Law's nationally recognized curriculum, innovative faculty and commitment to community convinced him that this was a great career move.

"A dean has to be a good listener. I can't wait to speak with faculty, staff and students and hear what they think is the promise and future of the School of Law," McGreal said. "The law school has an excellent relationship with its alumni and the legal community. I look forward to discussing how we can continue to educate outstanding lawyers prepared to serve their clients and communities, and how our faculty can improve and strengthen the law through their research."

McGreal also wants to collaborate with other academic programs on campus to offer interdisciplinary conferences or joint degree programs.

"Law is not an island. Constitutional law has ties to history and political science. Corporate law and business ethics connect with work in the business school," McGreal said. "I am excited to work with the law school faculty on finding opportunities to partner with the other schools on campus on projects that enrich each other's disciplines."

McGreal also has taught in Texas A&M University's executive MBA program since 1999. He also has had stints as a visiting professor at George Mason University School of Law and Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law.

Before teaching, he worked in the Dallas office of Baker Botts LLP.

McGreal earned an LL.M from Yale Law School, a law degree from the Dedman School of Law at Southern Methodist University and a bachelor's degree in economics from Williams College.

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