



Chief Campus Counsel
Stony Brook University
Stony Brook, New York

THE SEARCH

Stony Brook University (“SBU” or “Stony Brook”), a comprehensive research university center within the State University of New York (SUNY) system, is seeking a Chief Campus Counsel. The Chief Campus Counsel (CCC) reports to the SUNY Senior Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs and General Counsel through the Deputy General Counsel. The CCC is an associate counsel within the SUNY Office of General Counsel (OGC) with the SBU president being the chief client for all legal matters.

The Chief Campus Counsel handles a wide range of legal issues pertaining to the operation of a large public research university and academic medical center. The CCC will act as lead attorney in all aspects of the management and supervision of the OGC satellite office for Stony Brook University, Stony Brook Medicine and its five Health Sciences schools — Dental Medicine, Health Professions, Medicine, Nursing and Social Welfare —as well as Stony Brook University Hospital, Stony Brook Southampton Hospital, Stony Brook Eastern Long Island Hospital, Stony Brook Children’s Hospital, and the Long Island State Veterans Home (collectively, “Stony Brook”), including providing highly competent, professional, and timely legal services to leadership and administrators at Stony Brook, as well as effective legal advice, advocacy, and preparation and review of campus documents/policies. The CCC also serves as legal advisor to the Stony Brook Council.

The CCC will provide legal guidance to colleagues in the OGC satellite office for Stony Brook and campus administrators on areas within subject matter expertise and/or working with subject matter experts; manage the office; manage complex transactions; support the implementation of OGC’s strategic plan; serve as a liaison to the Attorney General’s Office and other state and federal agencies; and perform other duties as requested and/or needed by OGC leadership and campus leadership.

Stony Brook has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in conducting this important search. Confidential inquiries, nominations and applications may be directed to the search firm as indicated at the end of this document.

The State University of New York System

The State University of New York is a system of public institutions of higher education across the entire state of New York. With 64 college and university campuses located within 30 miles of every home, school, and business in the state, SUNY is the nation's largest comprehensive system of public higher education. It serves more than 1.3 million students annually, employs more than 90,000 faculty and staff, and connects more than three million alumni around the world. It expends \$1.6 billion annually on research and grants about 96,000 degrees each year. Its annual budget is \$10.7 billion. SUNY's administrative offices are in Albany, the state's capital, with satellite offices in Manhattan and Washington, DC.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1957 and a member of the Association of American Universities since 2001, Stony Brook is a nationally and internationally renowned research-intensive university, located 60 miles east of New York City. *U.S. News & World Report* (USNWR) ranks Stony Brook as the #1 public university in New York and #26 best public university in the US. Its [mission](#) is to: advance student learning by offering high-quality, academically rigorous programs of instruction; support an outstanding faculty in their teaching and scholarship; and to address local, regional and state needs and goals while providing public service to the citizens of New York State.

Stony Brook's reach extends from its 1,452-acre campus (the largest in the SUNY system) on Long Island's North Shore, encompassing its 12 schools and colleges, an 8,300-seat stadium and sports complex, and Stony Brook Medicine (which includes the Stony Brook University Hospital and Health Sciences Center), to Stony Brook Manhattan, a Research and Development Park, four business incubators, and Stony Brook's Southampton campus on Long Island's East End. Internationally, Stony Brook has significant facilities or collaborations in South Korea, Kenya, and Madagascar. In fall 2024, SBU enrolled 26,689 students (18,263 undergraduate students and 8,426 graduate and professional students), including 3,864 international students from 103 countries.

The current University Strategic Plan – [Our Moment](#) – lays out the extensive strengths and priorities in front of the university at this critical and exciting time and describes vital objectives for the future.

Leadership

Dr. Andrea Goldsmith has been appointed as the seventh president of Stony Brook University, effective August 1, 2025. Prior to this role, she served as the dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science at Princeton University. Dr. Goldsmith is a distinguished researcher, educator, and entrepreneur

with extensive experience in academia and industry. She holds bachelor's, master's, and PhD degrees in electrical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Goldsmith's career spans over two decades at Stanford University, where she held various academic leadership positions. She is known for her staunch support of women in science and engineering and has served on multiple corporate boards. Her appointment has been widely praised for her innovative approach and commitment to advancing research, education, and community service.

Dr. Carl Lejuez was appointed Executive Vice President and Provost in July 2022. Prior to Stony Brook, Provost Lejuez served as the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Connecticut. As a first-generation college student, Provost Lejuez is a stalwart supporter of Stony Brook's mission, students, staff, and faculty. He received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from West Virginia University and completed his clinical training at the Brown University Clinical Training Consortium. His areas of interest and research include the development of behavioral mental health interventions to address a wide range of psychological conditions including mood disorders, addictions, and personality disorders for marginalized and underserved populations.

Mr. Kapil Longani is the Senior Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs and General Counsel for the State University of New York. Mr. Longani has had a distinguished career in public service from implementing South Africa's post-Apartheid Constitution, to serving as the minority staff's lead investigator for the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in the U.S. House of Representatives' most high profile and significant investigations, including the Flint water crisis, to serving 8.6 million New Yorkers as Chief Counsel to the Mayor of New York City. Prior to his work in Congress, Mr. Longani served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, worked as a litigator at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, and served as a law clerk to the Honorable Judge Roger L. Gregory of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and the Honorable Judge Richard Smoak of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida. He holds an undergraduate degree from Cornell University and legal degrees from the University of Florida, Yale, and Oxford University.

Dr. William Wertheim is the Executive Vice President for Stony Brook Medicine, appointed in 2024. Under Dr. Wertheim's leadership, Stony Brook has expanded patient visits across its hospitals, ambulatory centers, and clinical practices. The addition of 28 new providers on the East End enabled 14,000 more community visits. He has championed clinical research, supporting new research spaces at Stony Brook University Hospital and the Lake Grove and Commack Advanced Specialty Care centers, and actively participates in student and resident research initiatives. Since joining Stony Brook in 1996, Dr. Wertheim has served as vice dean for academic affairs at the Renaissance School of Medicine (RSOM), holds the Endowed Chair in Graduate Medical Education, and is president of the Stony Brook Medicine Community Medical Group. He earned his undergraduate degree from Harvard University and his medical degree from New York University School of Medicine. He completed his internal medicine residency and served as chief resident at the University of Michigan Hospitals.

ROLE OF THE CHIEF CAMPUS COUNSEL

This position reports directly to the Deputy General Counsel regarding all aspects of the position. In addition, the Chief Campus Counsel interfaces with other OGC colleagues to coordinate the delivery of legal services, including participation in OGC staff meetings and training. Additional responsibilities include an extensive range of legal matters on behalf of SUNY, including statutory and regulatory interpretation; contract negotiation and review; drafting legal guidance; answering legal inquiries from campus clients; and, performing special projects as well as other duties as may be assigned.

Key responsibilities include:

- Developing, negotiating, reviewing academic agreements with other colleges and universities.
- Providing legal counsel to Stony Brook Medicine entities regarding operations, strategic initiatives, regulatory and corporate issues.
- Providing advice and recommendations regarding campus-based policies.
- Advising on various student-related matters concerning reasonable accommodations, academic leaves, student discipline, and dismissal.
- Providing oversight of OGC attorneys representing Stony Brook in state and federal administrative agency proceedings as well as, on occasion, in state and federal courts.
- Providing oversight of OGC attorneys representing Stony Brook in employee and student discipline matters, discrimination cases and internal investigations, and with labor and employment issues.
- Developing and delivering training to campus constituencies on key compliance issues including First Amendment/free speech, attorney-client privilege, record retention/e-discovery, email, FOIL, media response, and other areas of importance to the campus.
- Maintaining awareness of the activities of the organization, its constituent hospitals and other corporations to provide more comprehensive up-to-date legal advice.
- Identifying areas which could benefit from proactive action by corporate and hospital personnel in order to minimize liability and other risks and working with such personnel to develop programs, policies and procedures to address the impact of such risks, laws and regulations.
- Supervising Stony Brook attorney(s) and/or legal support staff.
- Providing advice and mentoring attorneys on a variety of topics; and
- Performing non-litigation assignments and special projects as well as other duties as assigned as appropriate to rank and departmental mission.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE CHIEF CAMPUS COUNSEL

Provide Stony Brook leadership with legal counsel.

The CCC is a key senior advisor on the Stony Brook leadership team, providing input on a range of campus initiatives and issues, with a particular focus on institutional policy and decision-making that

requires a legal perspective. The CCC has responsibility for all legal matters pertaining to SBU, Stony Brook Medicine (SBM), and its affiliated schools and hospitals, and is responsible for the representation of the university and SBM in all legal proceedings. Stony Brook's success in education, research, clinical care, student experience, athletics, and community engagement, among many other areas, is driven by the ambitious, innovative, entrepreneurial spirit of its faculty, staff, and students. The CCC will work collaboratively with the president, provost, and other senior leaders at SBU and SBM to provide legally-informed guidance and counsel – advising on legal risk, ensuring compliance, and supporting continued excellence for the university in its many endeavors.

Partner closely with the SUNY Office of General Counsel.

The CCC will serve as associate counsel within the OGC, reporting to the Senior Vice Chancellor and General Counsel on the legal needs arising at Stony Brook and assisting the General Counsel in advocating and representing the interests of SUNY, working collaboratively with counsel on other campuses and in the central law office in Albany. While the CCC will stand as the primary decision-maker for SBU's legal matters, the Office of General Counsel will serve as a hub of knowledge and resources available for all SUNY counsel as needed. In addition, the CCC will partner closely with the General Counsel and colleagues on other campuses to respond to system-wide issues and initiatives. This role provides an unparalleled opportunity to collaborate with experienced, highly skilled lawyers in the practice of higher education law.

Ensure the OGC satellite office for Stony Brook provides direct, competent, and timely legal services for all academic and administrative units at SBU.

Given the breadth of the campus and its programs, the CCC will be expected to provide sound advice and solutions on a range of topics. To do so effectively, the incoming CCC will leverage the expertise of those within the Office of General Counsel to provide timely and effective legal services to the Stony Brook community. In addition, the CCC secures and oversees additional legal services for Stony Brook from external law firms with expertise in particular areas of the law and will manage the ongoing relationships as needs arise.

Lead the OGC satellite office for Stony Brook and provide guidance and oversight for its staff.

The CCC is responsible for recruiting, retaining, and supporting the team within the OGC satellite office for Stony Brook. In doing so, they will ensure the office is equipped with the knowledge necessary to support a wide range of matters and constituents, ensuring alignment of the needs of the campus with the expertise of the office. Operationally, the CCC will lead the office's day-to-day operations to ensure accurate and timely responses to the campus community. The CCC will be a steady leader and advocate for the office, intentionally investing in its personnel and operations to ensure it is poised to meet the needs of the campus.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

Minimum Qualifications

- Juris Doctor from an accredited ABA law school (or foreign equivalent).
- Admitted to New York State Bar in good standing or eligibility for admission to the NYS Bar within six (6) months of employment start date.
- At least ten (10) years of significant and progressively responsible legal experience.
- Significant legal experience working in-house and/or in higher education, an academic medical center, and/or government on complex legal matters.

In addition, the successful candidate will bring many of the following *preferred professional qualifications and personal attributes*

- Superior written and oral communication skills. Outstanding presentation skills, including the ability to communicate clearly, logically, and persuasively during interactions and utilize active listening skills.
- Knowledge of or familiarity with statutory and constitutional framework and federal and administrative regulations applicable to a public university, and process of governance in academic settings.
- Proven record of ability to undertake complex legal issues, and capacity to serve as a creative thinker and problem-solver able to negotiate creative solutions to complex problems.
- High ethical standards and mature judgment.
- Ability to function effectively in a fast-paced environment with multiple, changing priorities and objectives.
- Experience advising clients on complex healthcare transactional and finance matters or overseeing outside counsel on such matters.
- Demonstrated ability to make and communicate hard decisions; demonstrated credibility to win support for those decisions.
- Judgment, tact, and diplomacy to partner with senior teams to help them achieve their strategic objectives.
- Proven ability to maintain confidentiality with regard to sensitive issues and information and exercise discretion in dealing with sensitive or potentially sensitive topics.
- Outstanding interpersonal skills to interact effectively and develop and maintain productive working relationships with an array of diverse interests, individuals, and constituencies.
- Demonstrated ability to act as a team player in all circumstances, as defined by contributing to the successful outcome of initiatives, accountabilities, and operations of others; especially in unionized environments.
- An appreciation of operational implications of legal advice.

Compensation and Additional Information

- The anticipated salary range for this position is \$220,000-\$249,000 annually and is commensurate with related experience and qualifications. Position comes with excellent benefits.
- This position will be physically located at Stony Brook University in Stony Brook, NY. Travel may be required to other SUNY campuses and from time to time to Albany, NY and/or other OGC regional offices.
- Management/Confidential appointments serve at the pleasure of the SUNY Vice Chancellor of Legal Affairs and General Counsel and are not represented by a union.
- Offers of employment may be contingent upon successful completion of a pre-employment background check and verification of degree(s) and credentials.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, and resumes with cover letters should be sent to the Isaacson, Miller web site: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/stony-brook-university/chief-campus-counsel>

Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

Tim McFeeley, Partner
Robin Dougherty, Managing Associate
Henry Nickerson, Search Coordinator
Isaacson, Miller

Stony Brook University is committed to excellence in diversity and the creation of inclusive learning, and working environment. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status and all other protected classes under federal or state laws.