



Dean, College of Law  
Florida International University  
Miami, Florida

## THE SEARCH

Florida International University (FIU) seeks an accomplished and visionary leader to serve as the next dean of the FIU College of Law (FIU Law). Known for its outstanding students, highly influential faculty-scholars, innovative experiential learning opportunities, and interdisciplinary programs, FIU Law draws top talent from Florida, nationally, and globally. The incoming dean will have the opportunity to work with ambitious and committed stakeholders from FIU Law, the broader FIU campus, and the South Florida community that share the law school's mission to serve the citizens of Florida by providing access to the legal profession through a contemporary, high-quality educational program. FIU Law is poised to define the next era of legal education in Florida and beyond – it seeks a dean who can accelerate its momentum at a moment of extraordinary opportunity.

Florida International University, among the country's fastest-rising public research universities, was established in 1972. Today, with nearly 54,000 students, FIU is the third-largest public university in Florida and the thirteenth-largest four-year public university in the United States by enrollment. Since its inception, FIU has graduated nearly 330,000 alumni, over 195,000 of whom live and work in South Florida, making it one of South Florida's premier anchor institutions. With \$326 million in annual research expenditures, strong legislative support, and preeminent programs, FIU is well-positioned to expand its reach and impact.

The incoming FIU Law dean will be joining the FIU community at an exciting and pivotal time, as [Jeanette Nuñez](#) has recently been confirmed as the 7th president. Earlier this year, FIU launched a five-year [Experience Impact 2030](#) strategic plan, which is focused on student success, research excellence, national and international recognition, and leadership in arts and culture. The new dean will join the FIU campus community as it positions itself as a nexus for positive and lasting impact in Miami, the nation, and around the world.

The incoming FIU Law dean will have the opportunity to lead a college in excellent standing. Over the past decade, FIU Law has been among the nation's leaders in bar passage rates, far surpassing Florida's

statewide passage rates for accredited schools. On the July 2025 exam, FIU Law graduates achieved one of the best Florida Bar Exam results of the past decade with 89.3% of first-time takers passing the test on their first attempt. In the most-recent American Bar Association employment summary, 91% of recent FIU Law JD graduates were employed in professional positions, including those requiring bar passage or for which a JD is preferred. FIU Law has a strong track record of success and even greater potential to lead the way for innovation and excellence in legal education.

The marketplace for legal education across the nation is changing rapidly: law school applicants are confronting high tuition, increased debt levels, and a rapidly changing job market. Increasingly, law firms are demanding students who are not only prepared to practice law but are also adept at using technology and are comfortable working in global contexts. The incoming dean will work with faculty and staff to tackle the challenges the legal education landscape faces while leveraging its many strengths to ensure its continued growth and vitality.

In that context, FIU seeks a dean who can harness the successes of the past and carry the college into a prosperous future during a time of transition and opportunity. The dean will further student success through innovative program offerings and initiatives, see to it that the college's investments align with campus-wide objectives, and demonstrate a dedication to shared governance across campus and beyond. To that end, the dean will address the following opportunities and challenges:

- Develop and implement a strategic vision that clearly defines the distinctive, compelling, and competitive future for FIU Law;
- Develop a robust resource and infrastructure base that will allow FIU Law to fully achieve its ambitious objectives;
- Further the integration between the FIU College of Law and the broader FIU community to enhance the college's visibility and collaborative research and teaching efforts;
- Recruit, retain, and inspire a world-class faculty and staff; and
- Serve as an effective and passionate champion for FIU Law across campus and externally at the local, state, and national level.

A full list of desired qualifications and characteristics of the dean can be found at the conclusion of this document, which was prepared by the search committee with the assistance of Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm. All applications, inquiries, and nominations should be directed to the parties listed at the conclusion of this document.

## ABOUT FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Florida International University is one of the country's largest public research universities, enrolling nearly 54,000 students. FIU has an aggressive goal to be a Top 30 public university by 2030.

The outstanding quality of FIU's students and faculty have driven the university's research and learning ethos. The thirteenth-largest four-year public university in the United States by enrollment, FIU has

multiple [campuses and centers](#). In addition, the University supports artistic and cultural engagement through three museums: the [Patricia and Philip Frost Art Museum](#), located on the FIU main campus, [The Wolfsonian-FIU](#), and the [Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU](#), both of which are located in Miami Beach, Florida. FIU's national leadership extends to [Washington, D.C.](#), where its center in the nation's capital showcases the impact of the university's research collaboration, provides a platform for faculty and national partners to host workshops and conferences, and provides internship and public policy immersion for nearly 1,000 students each year.

FIU maintains a significant number of [community partnerships](#), locally and globally. At present, FIU maintains over 200 agreements including dual degrees, exchange, articulation, research collaboration, and recruitment pipelines globally.

FIU's strategic vision is anchored by the following pillars:

- **Creating exceptional opportunities** - focus on optimizing innovation to build world-class academic and experiential opportunities
- **Leveraging evidence-based outcomes and data-driven decision-making** – utilizing data to deliver and achieve performance outcomes;
- **Expanding its impact through investing in our community** – Creating a positive culture for the university community and continuing to evolve with technology and the world of work; and
- **Implementing a sustainable and agile infrastructure**- Providing resources that prepare FIU for the challenges of the future.

FIU is located in Miami, a global city and gateway to the Caribbean and Latin America. It is rapidly becoming one of the country's finance, arts, and technology centers, building on its strengths in logistics, tourism, real estate, media, and professional services. In particular, Miami is emerging as an innovation hub for the hemispheric region. FIU is a significant source of talent driving this development. The University's research and service efforts aim to identify the unique issues Miami faces in globalizing economy, major population shifts, and more. Miami is a dynamic metropolis that offers everything from trendy nightlife to beautiful beaches, the historic Art Deco District, and family-oriented neighborhoods. It also has a top-performing K-12 public education system. For more information, please see the [Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau](#), and [Visit Florida, City of Miami](#) websites.

## ABOUT FIU COLLEGE OF LAW

FIU College of Law stands as Miami's only public law school. Located on FIU's vibrant 300-acre Modesto A. Maidique campus, the law school's programs are housed within the 153,000 square-foot Rafael Diaz-Balart Hall, which includes dedicated state-of-the-art teaching courtrooms, classrooms, seminar rooms, vibrant courtyards and a three-story, 50,000 square foot [library](#). The college is accredited by the American Bar Association and its prime location in Miami offers a unique global gateway to a rich tapestry of legal fields from international law and environmental policy to intellectual property and national security.

With an enrollment of 696 students, FIU Law is consistently ranked as the top law school in Miami, and among the top three law schools in the State of Florida. From 2015 to 2023, FIU Law had the highest July bar exam passage rate in the state of Florida. The FIU College of Law offers a high-quality, personalized [Juris Doctor](#) (JD) degree program, provided on a traditional academic semester system and also on a flexible, part-time program format. Students may also enroll in a [joint JD/MBA program](#), significantly decreasing the amount of time it would take to obtain both degrees when pursued consecutively.

Within the JD program, FIU Law offers three certificates offering students an opportunity to expand their skillset in specific fields of law: [Environmental and Natural Resources](#), [Intellectual Property](#), and [National Security and Military](#).

- The Environmental and Natural Resources certificate program leverages Miami's unique location as a hub of environmental law to help students become competitive law practitioners in the State of Florida and beyond. The program provides graduate-level instruction to students interested in learning about laws surrounding state and federal environmental legislation, environmental policy, and governance of natural resources.
- The Intellectual Property certificate program is an opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge of the process involved in the creative economy. With this certificate, students can make an impact in a field that is central to society, global cultures, and the economy. The program provides graduate-level instruction to students interested in learning about laws surrounding U.S. and foreign copyrights, trademarks, patents, trade secrets, rights of publicity, and emerging fields like software and artificial intelligence law.
- The National Security and Military certificate program at FIU Law provides an in-depth study of emerging fields that impact national security including: the American military justice system; initiation of armed conflict; the use of force within conflict; treatment of non-combatants; sources of national security powers; intelligence collection laws; classified evidence proceedings; foreign intelligence surveillance court; admiralty law; aviation and space law; domestic emergency responses; artificial intelligence; cybersecurity; drone use; human trafficking; and resource competition.

In addition to its JD program, FIU Law also offers a variety of other degrees including a [Juris Master \(JM\)](#), [Master of Laws \(LLM\)](#), and a [Master of Science in the Law of Technology \(MSLT\)](#).

- The Juris Master degree program is specifically designed to close knowledge gaps for non-attorney professionals working in banking, education, and health law. Graduates of the JM program will develop a variety of competencies including documentation expertise, legal analysis and drafting, program and risk evaluation, and improved communication skills.
- The core Master of Laws curriculum provides foreign lawyers with a solid foundation in U.S. and transnational law, and advanced research and writing skills in English, while also allowing students to tailor their coursework to their own professional goals by designing a personalized academic

schedule that serves their needs. To this end, FIU Law offers several pathways to the profession that help its students build their law career to their individual goals. LLM students may take advantage of these options and enroll in virtually every course offered in the JD program and courses approved by the New York Board of Bar examiners, and other jurisdictions.

- The Master of Science in the Law of Technology is an interdisciplinary degree program focused on the convergence between law, science, and technology. The curriculum is designed so that it can be completed in three semesters. It covers key areas like artificial intelligence, blockchain, data protection, intellectual property, and cybersecurity. Faculty experts with vast experience in their respective fields offer students the knowledge and skills needed to prepare them for industry roles that demand both legal and technological proficiency.

FIU Law also provides its students with a variety of experiential opportunities to ensure their success after graduation including [law clinics](#), a [pro bono program](#), [legal externships](#), an immersive [semester-in practice](#) practicum, and [advocacy and competition teams](#). These opportunities build upon students' strong doctrinal and practice foundation developed during their studies, allowing them to acquire valuable insights and skills that better prepare them for practice. Whether through rigorous academic programs, immersive experiential learning, or the support of a passionate and award-winning faculty, FIU Law empowers students to become practice-ready attorneys and leaders in the legal profession.

## ROLE OF THE DEAN

The dean for FIU Law provides strategic vision for and operational leadership of the college. Reporting to Dr. Elizabeth Béjar, the provost, executive vice president and chief operating officer, the dean will collaborate with leadership across FIU as well as local, national, and international leaders in law and legal education.

The dean will advance research and scholarship; encourage distinctive programmatic innovations as needed; enhance excellence in educational programs, recruit and retain a world-class faculty and student body; and link the work of the college's faculty and students to other disciplines, communities, and interests within and outside of the academy. Supporting the university's research mission, the dean will advance the faculty's scholarship activities. The dean will serve as the college's public voice, articulating its contributions to local, state, regional, national, and international communities, while pursuing an ambitious development program to build the college's resource base. FIU Law has a strong shared governance tradition and culture, and the dean is expected to exercise leadership within this context.

## KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE DEAN

### ***Develop and implement a strategic vision that clearly defines the distinctive, compelling, and competitive future for FIU Law***

As an integral component of a top-tier research institution, FIU Law has already established a reputation for excellence and student success. A strong foundation has been laid to expand opportunities for students and deepen the college's impact on legal scholarship. Upon joining the FIU Law community, the incoming dean will engage with stakeholders at all levels to promote dialogue about where the college stands today and where it should be heading in the future, developing strategic priorities that are in alignment with the campus-wide strategic plan centered around student success outcomes, both during their studies and after graduation.

Working closely with administrators, faculty, and other key stakeholders, the dean will develop and advance this strategic plan that clearly defines its focus on academic and legal excellence in service to the State of Florida and beyond. Higher education and legal education are currently in a dynamic state: reexamining and clearly articulating FIU Law's identity and offerings will be critical to the college's continued work in recruiting and attracting top faculty, staff, and ensuring the continued success of its students.

### ***Develop a robust resource and infrastructure base that will allow FIU Law to achieve its ambitious objectives***

FIU Law has ambitious objectives for the future: further improve its reach and reputation nationally and globally; continue to improve bar passage rates; expand experiential learning opportunities to ensure job placement post-graduation; and secure resources to support the college's academic programs and world-class facilities. The dean will be an effective fiscal manager to address these strategic investments while diligently managing complex fiscal realities.

Located in the heart of Miami, FIU Law and FIU more broadly operate in a dynamic and resource-rich environment. The incoming dean is well positioned to take advantage of the city's local industries, philanthropic sources, and a growing alumni base. Responsible for creating and participating in activities that support fundraising, the dean will set ambitious goals and should be skilled in stewarding donors and securing resources. The dean will work closely with FIU and FIU Law's development teams to identify and support the needs of the college, including student scholarships, endowed faculty lines, classroom technology and equipment, capital projects, facility renovations, and other key initiatives. The dean will use exceptional interpersonal skills to articulate the identity of and vision for FIU Law to excite and engage donors, while leveraging their financial acumen to effectively manage existing resources to ensure the college has a healthy and sustainable future.

***Further the integration between the FIU College of Law and the broader FIU community to enhance the college's visibility and collaborative research and teaching efforts***

As part of a preeminent public research university, FIU Law is focused on student success, research excellence, forging strategic alliances, and community engagement. Part of the FIU 2030 strategic plan is focused on leveraging interdisciplinary opportunities to enhance the student experience. FIU Law has developed programs that are cross-disciplinary in scope such as their Juris Master and the Master of Science in the Law of Technology – there is significant potential to deepen and broaden these collaborative efforts.

To support interdisciplinary research and collaboration, the incoming dean will strengthen the integration between FIU Law's programs and the broader FIU community to build courses and degrees, encourage scholarship, and deepen collaborations between the college and the university's various schools and colleges. By sponsoring innovative partnerships, presentations, course material, and convenings, the dean will strengthen and promote linkages among scholars while producing and sharing important discoveries with the FIU community. This in turn will broaden the college's reach and impact, better serving the entire FIU campus and addressing a key component of the 2030 strategic plan.

***Recruit, retain, and inspire a world-class faculty and staff***

FIU Law's faculty and staff are indispensable to its mission. As the college works to develop and execute its strategic priorities in alignment with the 2030 strategic plan, FIU Law's dedicated faculty and staff will be critical to carrying these initiatives to fruition. The dean will oversee the recruitment, retention, and advancement of faculty, lecturers, and staff committed to advancing FIU Law's mission. This individual will invest in their team, ensuring that people are acknowledged for outstanding work and feel valued for their contributions. The dean will also invest in professional development opportunities for faculty and staff at all levels.

The incoming dean will display exceptional interpersonal and management skills and will be an accessible, visible, and engaged leader. This individual will be committed to ensuring a healthy workplace environment and will foster a culture of shared governance, transparency, team building, and collaboration in which a world-class faculty and staff are eager to teach and work. The incoming dean will inspire loyalty and dedication to the FIU College of Law.

***Serve as an effective and passionate advocate for FIU Law across campus and externally at the local, state, and national level***

As a senior leader on FIU's campus, the incoming dean will serve as a champion for FIU Law, attending university events to broadcast the great work being done by students and faculty, building relationships across schools and colleges on campus to identify opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaborations, and advocating for resources from university leadership.

Given its unique status as a top law school in the State of Florida, its South Florida location, and both the research and entrepreneurial strengths of FIU, FIU Law has tremendous potential to be at the forefront of contributions to law and legal education at the local, state, and national level. In coordination with the campus, a successful dean will engage at the local and state level to better frame FIU Law's ability to advance legal education and practice during a dynamic and pivotal moment in higher education. The dean will fully leverage the assets of the FIU campus to represent FIU Law credibly and effectively. Externally, the dean will continue to reinforce bridges to the Miami legal community, emphasizing strong job placement opportunities for graduates, and will partner with their development team to cultivate and steward philanthropic donors. The incoming dean will bring FIU Law, the FIU community, and external stakeholders together around collective objectives that are grounded in its unique strengths and public mission.

## QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The search committee enthusiastically welcomes applicants from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. While no individual candidate will possess all the desired qualifications, all prospective candidates should present a strong and compelling combination of the following relevant professional experiences and leadership achievements:

- An earned JD degree from an ABA-accredited program or its equivalent
- Teaching, scholarship, and service achievements in higher education that merit appointment at the rank of full professor with tenure, or exceptional experience in the practice of law or other related professions that demonstrate equivalent professional achievement
- Demonstrated fundraising success or the skill to develop relationships that result in transformative fundraising success, including actual experiences with philanthropy that support the ability to solicit and steward private donations
- A deep understanding of the current and evolving landscape and trends in legal education, in the practice of law, and in higher education more broadly
- Familiarity with the ABA and accreditation process
- Fiscal acumen – experience carefully stewarding and managing large and complex budgets; develop new sources of money
- A commitment to student success as it relates to bar passage, experiential learning opportunities, and job placement post-graduation
- Exceptional communication abilities, both oral and written
- Strong listening skills and the ability to learn from others
- Professional contacts and networks that contribute to a career placement ecosystem
- Experience in creating a strong sense of community and collaboration among faculty, staff, students, alumni, the university's other schools and colleges, the local bar, and the judiciary  
A leadership style characterized by leading with integrity, transparent communication, data-driven decisions, adaptability, and a commitment to innovation and shared goals

## APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/florida-international-university-college-law/dean>. **Please note that this search is subject to and being conducted pursuant to Florida “sunshine” and public records laws. To ensure timely and thorough consideration, applications should be received by January 20, 2026.**

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*FIU is a member of the State University System of Florida and an Equal Opportunity, Equal Access Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, disability, or protected veteran status.*

*This document has been prepared based on the information provided by Florida International University. The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and information provided by Florida International University would supersede any conflicting information in this document.*