

**Greenwood
Asher &
Associates®**



The Opportunity

West Virginia University (WVU) invites nominations and applications for an innovative and charismatic William J. Maier, Jr. Dean of the College of Law. As a land-grant institution designated with very high research activity (R1) by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, WVU seeks a leader with a vision that places a priority on community, educational rigor, traditional and applied scholarship, and the public interest, particularly in service to the state through clinics, pro-bono, and public-interest opportunities.

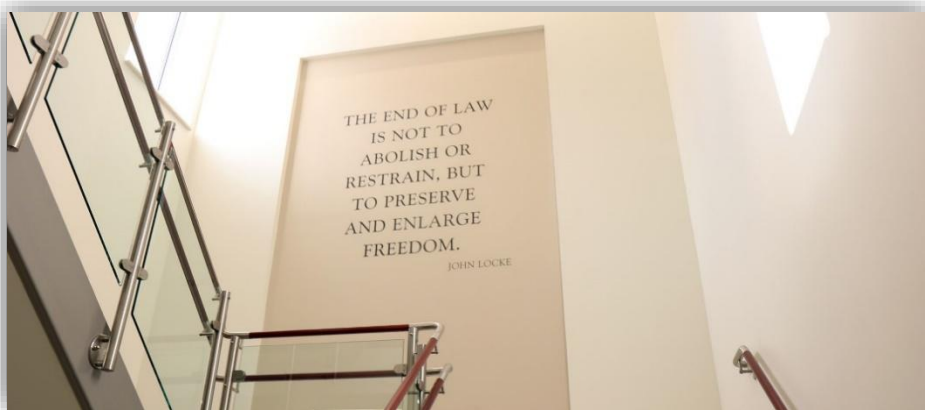
The Dean is the College's chief academic and administrative officer and reports to the incoming Provost, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Beverly Wendland. As the College's chief academic officer, the Dean provides intellectual and administrative leadership, guiding the College in its commitment to innovative, relevant education for current and future generations of students. Specifically, the Dean's responsibilities include consulting with and empowering faculty to revise and develop curricula; maintaining high standards of teaching, research and service; administering the College's budget; recruiting faculty; taking a leading role in other faculty personnel matters, including tenure, promotion, and renewal; and advocating for the College at the University and national level. The Dean will work collaboratively with the WVU administration, deans of other colleges, faculty, and staff to achieve WVU Law and University goals. The Dean is also responsible for developing, engaging, and cultivating alumni and other potential donors and facilitating school outreach to the state.

WVU College of Law

WVU Law excels in teaching and training future lawyers in a rigorous and supportive academic setting. Our students build an essential foundation of core legal knowledge in their first year, then focus on their expertise in their second and third years. WVU College of Law prepares lawyers by providing exceptional practice-ready learning opportunities and unparalleled access to the professional legal community.

Founded in 1878 and ABA-approved since 1923, the West Virginia University College of Law is an affordable, nationally recognized, accredited, and top-ranked law school. WVU Law is West Virginia University's first professional school and the only law school in the state. The West Virginia Law Review is the fourth oldest in the country, founded in 1894. The curriculum is competitive and rigorous, combining the best in traditional legal education with dynamic law programs that address emerging challenges with a focus on ethics, professionalism, and public service.

WVU Law offers a premier law degree and practice-ready experiences through law clinics and externships, guided by professors who are accomplished attorneys and distinguished legal scholars. A vibrant culture of excellence fosters a student-centered approach, ensuring a balanced and supportive academic community within one of the nation's leading public research universities. WVU Law prepares top lawyers and dedicated leaders for careers that span public service, private practice, government, and business.



The goal of WVU Law is to be a top choice as an affordable law school that offers excellent law programs, leading to law degrees valued

by employers in West Virginia and nationwide. Thousands of our successful graduates go on to careers to serve the public, government, and business, with a strong commitment to justice, ethics, professionalism, and service.

Mission

WVU Law's mission is to prepare 21st-century lawyers and leaders to serve the public, government, and business—both locally and globally—while focusing on justice, ethics, professionalism, and service in a diverse, vibrant, and respectful community. As the only law school in the state, WVU provides students with unparalleled networking opportunities and exclusive access to the legal community.

American Bar Association Approval

The West Virginia University College of Law is approved by the American Bar Association Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar. Since 1952, the ABA Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar has been approved by the U.S. Department of Education as the recognized national agency for the accreditation of professional schools of law.

Further information as to the Standards and Rules of Procedure for the Approval of Law Schools by the American Bar Association may be obtained from the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar.

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Client-Ready Focus

WVU teaches the law in ways that prepare students to be client-ready the day they graduate. Their classroom experiences are enhanced by widely available experiential learning opportunities through law clinics serving those in need; externships in nonprofit, government, and judicial settings; and legal work during the summer or academic year that prepares our students for a fulfilling career in the law.

Academic Programs

Pursuing an education at West Virginia University College of Law prepares students to be excellent lawyers, able to practice in any state, in the federal judicial system, and international settings. While providing a foundational legal education, particularly in the first year, the diverse [curriculum](#) permits a student to discover his or her interests by selecting specialized courses in the second and third years. Graduating from West Virginia University College of Law launches students into any number of practice areas, including those focused on the public interest, criminal or civil litigation, small and solo practice, or diversified practice areas within regional and national law firms.

Dual Degree Program and Areas of Emphasis

- The WVU College of Law collaborates with the WVU School of Social Work to offer a [JD/MSW](#). This program prepares students, particularly those focused on rural practice throughout the region, for a client and community-centered approach to lawyering.
- The Energy and Sustainable Development Law Area of Emphasis is producing the next generation of lawyers who will work in and shape the fields of energy, environmental, and sustainable development law.
- The Public Interest Law Area of Emphasis prepares students to work to further the interests of the general public using the legal process through the representation of individuals and organizations who might otherwise be unrepresented.
- The Civil Litigation and Advocacy Area of Emphasis provide a pathway for students to prioritize courses that prepare them for practice in general civil litigation and advocacy. This pathway combines subject areas and skills training in courses such as Interviewing, Counseling, and Negotiation, Pre-Trial Litigation, and E-Discovery as well as other co-curricular and experiential opportunities.



WVU Law Centers

- **Center for Consumer Law and Education:** A partnership between WVU Law and Marshall University, founded in 2018. It is the only center of its kind on the East Coast.
- **Center for Energy and Sustainable Development:** Founded in 2011, the Center conducts objective, unbiased research and policy analyses, providing a forum for issues to be explored by various stakeholders and promoting policies that balance the demand for energy resources alongside the need to reduce environmental impacts.
- **Center for Law and Public Service:** Offers law students externships in nonprofit, government, and judicial settings, locally and around the country, to help with career-building experiences while serving the public. The center also engages students in public interest law. Founded in 2009.
- **Fitzsimmons Center for Litigation and Advocacy:** Established in 2020, the Fitzsimmons Center for Litigation and Advocacy strives to train law students to become effective legal advocates by enhancing and expanding the litigation and advocacy curriculum at WVU Law.
- **West Virginia Access to Justice Commission:** Established by the West Virginia Supreme Court to address and resolve legal barriers faced by West Virginians to increase equality in the justice system. Founded in 2009, it was transferred to WVU Law in 2018.
- **Appalachian Justice Initiative:** The Appalachian Justice Initiative at WVU Law is a consortium of faculty and legal scholars dedicated to addressing economic disenfranchisement in Appalachia through legal scholarship, policy advocacy, legal services, and outreach.



Experiential Learning and Placement Opportunities at WVU Law

At WVU Law, student work in the classroom is enhanced by experiential opportunities that are available through the Clinical Law Program, Externships, and the Meredith Career Services Center. Supervised by law professors, the clinics serve the public while exposing students to all phases of lawyering, including drafting briefs and motions, trial advocacy, interviewing, counseling, negotiation, and drafting rules and policy guidance for local government. WVU's clinical law program provides, on average, more than 40,000 hours of pro bono legal aid per year. The national legal rating service Super Lawyers presented the Clinical Law Program with the 2012 Excellence in Pro Bono Award. Since its founding in the 1976–77 academic year, the Clinical Law Program has provided more than 600,000 hours of pro bono legal service to more than 2,000 clients. In the process, the Program has helped train more than 1,000 students to be client-ready.

WVU Law offers clinical law opportunities in six areas: General Practice; Immigration; Innocence Project; Land Use & Sustainable Development; United States Supreme Court; and Veterans Advocacy. Working in the clinical law program helps students develop practice-ready skills. Clinical training at WVU heavily emphasizes students' growth in their professional identity as lawyers, with particular attention to the Rules of Professional Responsibility.

Students from some clinics cover the Domestic Violence docket in the Monongalia County Family Court. Students assist petitioners requesting service on those days. On average, five to seven clients seek assistance every session, for a total of more than 200 clients a year. Their cases range from assaults to stalking to child abuse. The students interview the clients and then assist them in presenting their cases to the judge.

Additionally, the College of Law offers a wide variety of full-time and part-time externships in nonprofit, government, and judicial settings, both locally and around the country, to help students prepare for their careers. Practical experience through externships helps students put their classroom learning to work and deepens their commitment to public service.



Facilities

WVU Law is housed in a 162,000-square-foot building on Law School Hill. The front of the building overlooks WVU's Milan Puskar Stadium and J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital. Supporting a vibrant learning community, [the College's facilities](#) include eight classrooms, three courtrooms, a variety of conference/interview/meeting rooms, a bookstore-café, and the George R. Farmer, Jr. Law Library. A recent \$26-million expansion and renovation added new



classrooms and the third courtroom, additional conference rooms, an event hall, a rooftop garden, and a separate wing for law clinics. The renovation also includes state-of-the-art library upgrades and new facilities for the [Academic Excellence Center](#), [Center for Energy and Sustainable Development](#), Writing Center, Student Services, [West Virginia Law Review](#), and [student organizations](#).

The Role of the Dean of the College of Law

As the College's chief academic officer, the Dean provides intellectual and administrative leadership, guiding the College in its commitment to innovative, relevant education for current and future generations of students. Specifically, the Dean's responsibilities include consulting with and empowering faculty to revise and develop curricula; maintaining high standards of teaching, research, and service; administering the College's budget; recruiting faculty; taking a leading role in other faculty personnel matters, including tenure, promotion, and renewal; and advocating for the College at the University level.

The Dean of the College of Law will report directly to Dr. Beverly Wendland, incoming Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at West Virginia University. Dr. Wendland is a nationally recognized scholar and leader in higher education whose broad administrative background includes serving as department chair, dean, and provost at top research institutions, including Johns Hopkins University and Washington University in St. Louis. As WVU's incoming provost, she brings a scientific and strategic perspective to academic leadership, ensuring that the College of Law—and all university programs—are supported in their pursuit of excellence and innovation. Dr. Wendland's leadership is grounded in her commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration, student success, and the advancement of the University's land-grant mission to serve both the state and the broader community.

As the University's chief academic officer, Dr. Wendland provides executive oversight of all academic matters, including curriculum development, faculty engagement and recruitment, academic budgets, and accreditation. Her history of fostering academic excellence, driving strategic planning, and supporting innovative program development positions her as a collaborative and supportive supervisor for the Dean of the College of Law. The incoming Dean can anticipate regular partnership with Dr. Wendland to enhance legal education, expand opportunities for faculty and students, and strengthen the College's role within the University and the state of West Virginia.

Other responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Oversight of all academic programs;
- Oversight of all aspects of College governance;
- Continuing WVU Law's success in recruiting and supporting highly qualified students and providing them with a superior legal education;
- Hiring faculty and staff; management of personnel; and oversight of all review processes;
- Management of the budget;
- Oversight of strategic planning and implementation;
- Directing external relations, including developing relations with alumni, the Bar, the Bench, and state government;
- Leading fundraising activities;
- Implementation of all University and state procedures and policies;
- Representing the College to the University senior administration; and,
- Other duties as assigned.

Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

The next dean must be visionary with a strong commitment to public service and must possess the enthusiasm and emotional intelligence necessary to advance WVU Law and inspire its multiple constituencies. The ideal candidate will possess significant experience as an innovative, collaborative, and accomplished leader with a successful record of advancing complex organizations or institutions. Such experience may have been gained in the legal academy, on the bench, in private practice, in government or non-profit service, or in business. The new dean must prioritize and have the ability to maintain and develop good relations with legislators, the Bar, state agencies, alumni, and donors. Candidates must possess a J.D. or its equivalent from an accredited institution and a record of accomplishments (academic or experiential) to qualify for appointment at the rank of Professor.

It is desired that West Virginia University's next William J. Maier, Jr. Dean of the College of Law, possess the following qualifications:

- Ability to spearhead and articulate a shared vision and leadership role for the College;
- Demonstrated fiscal responsibility, budget management, strategic planning skills, and fundraising success;
- Commitment to enhancing the student experience and fostering a strong community;
- Ability to facilitate recruitment, development, and retention of exceptional faculty, staff, and students;
- Promote multidisciplinary research and teaching, including experience cultivating innovative scholarship and creative activity;
- Commitment to a collaborative approach to faculty and staff governance and decision-making and creating an environment that promotes and rewards excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service;
- Ability to act as an advocate for the College at local, state, and national levels;

- An understanding of and commitment to legal education;
- Ability to lead curricular and programmatic innovations and entrepreneurial efforts;
- Commitment to the land-grant mission of WVU Law and the University, as well as its public service focus; and
- Ability to build strong relationships with members of the bench and Bar and alumni in West Virginia, across the country, and around the world.



About
West Virginia University

Mission

As a land-grant institution, the faculty, staff and students at West Virginia University commit to creating a diverse and inclusive culture that advances education, healthcare and prosperity for all by providing access and opportunity; by advancing high-impact research; and by leading transformation in West Virginia and the world through local, state and global engagement.

Vision

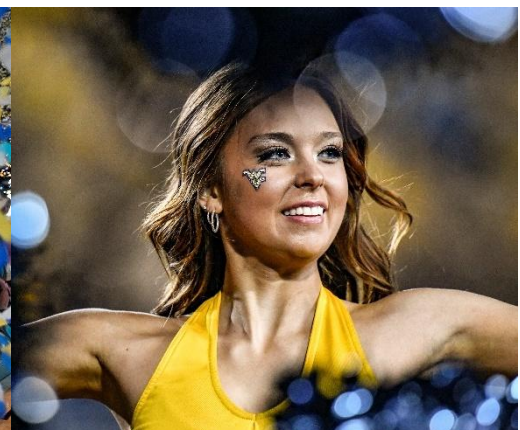
As One West Virginia University, we are purposeful in our studies and our work so that we can partner with our communities — both near and far — to bring needed and valued solutions to real-life problems within the pillars of education, healthcare and prosperity.

Values

- › **SERVICE** We seek opportunities to serve others and are committed to providing the highest quality of service.
- › **CURIOSITY** We ask questions, seek new opportunities and change through innovation.
- › **RESPECT** We are respectful, transparent and inclusive with each other.
- › **ACCOUNTABILITY** We perform at our very best every day to create a University that is responsive, efficient and effective.
- › **APPRECIATION** We support and value each other's contributions as we build a community that is One WVU.

Quick Facts

- **R1 Institution** Highest research ranking possible from the American Council on Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.
- **Accreditation** WVU is [accredited](#) by the [Higher Learning Commission](#). Many WVU programs hold specialized accreditation.
- **Governance** The [WVU Board of Governors](#) is the governing body of WVU. The Higher Education Policy Commission in West Virginia is responsible for developing, establishing and overseeing the implementation of a public policy agenda for the state's four-year colleges and universities. [Michael T. Benson](#) is WVU's 27th president.
- **300+ Majors** Total Bachelor's, Master's, PhD and Professional across 12 colleges and schools
- **170+ Undergraduate Majors Systemwide**
- **WVU Online** offers 13 undergraduate majors, as well as 32 master's, 2 doctoral and 2 associate degrees. Plus, 32 certificate programs.



This is WVU

WVU is **one of only about a dozen** U.S. schools classified as a land-grant, doctoral research university with a comprehensive health sciences center.

WVU is **one of only five flagship, R1, land-grant, community-engaged universities in the nation and one of 146 R1** (highest research activity).

WVU is **accredited by the Higher Learning Commission**. Many degree programs hold specialized accreditation.

WVU is a **space-grant university**, part of a network formed for outer-space related research.

According to College Scorecard, WVU graduates earn **\$10,000 more** than other college graduates 10 years after graduation — **32% more than other college graduates**.

Cost of a WVU degree compared to an average 4-year school is **29% LESS** (nationally).

In May 2024, **43%** of WVU System graduates earning bachelor's degrees had **zero federal student loan debt**.

We're the **best 4-year college in West Virginia** for future earnings (College Scorecard).

WVU ranks in the **top 2.4% of worldwide universities**, according to the Center for World University Rankings.

WVU SYSTEM DISBURSED

\$432,000,000+

IN FINANCIAL AID

(\$167,000,000+ IN SCHOLARSHIPS 2023-

WVU MORGANTOWN DISBURSED

\$385,000,000+

IN FINANCIAL AID TO 18,661 RECIPIENTS

The **WVU System** has **4,246 Promise Scholars** (2024-25) awarded a total in excess of **\$22 million in funding**. The current freshman class at Morgantown includes **1,106 Promise recipients**. Yearly, the **WVU System** educates about half of all West Virginia Promise recipients.

WVU System

The [WVU System](#) is a family of distinctive campuses united by a single mission. From the groundbreaking research of our flagship in Morgantown (ranked R1, the highest research category institution) to the student-centered focus of WVU Potomac State College in Keyser to the technology-intensive programs at WVU Institute of Technology in Beckley — we are leveraging our talents and resources to create a better future for West Virginia and the world.



The [WVU Institute of Technology](#) in Beckley offers more than 30 programs of study, including six ABET-accredited engineering and computer science programs.

[WVU Potomac State College](#) in Keyser is one of the nation's most affordable four-year colleges, as ranked by the U.S. Department of Education. Offering more than 60 majors, this campus combines the personal attention of a small college with the benefits of a major university.

The WVU System also includes Health Sciences campuses in Charleston and Martinsburg, as well as seven farms and five forests throughout the state and [WVU Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp](#). The WVU System includes 518 buildings on 15,880 acres. The Morgantown campus has 245 buildings (11 on the National Register of Historic Places) on 1,892 acres.

The [WVU Morgantown campus](#) is in a town named "#1 Best Small City in the East" by Guide to Life in America's Small Cities for its exceptional quality of life. [Morgantown](#), population 30,855, was also among Livability's top 10 best places to raise a family and is within easy traveling distance of Washington, D.C., to the east; Pittsburgh, Pa., to the north; and Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio, to the northwest. Other rankings: Southern Living included Morgantown as one of the South's best small towns; one of the "Top 15 College Football Towns in the Country" by Bleacher Report.

Nomination & Application Process

Compensation

Salary will be competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Contact GA&A

Greenwood Asher & Associates is assisting WVU in this search. Applications and nominations are now being accepted. Inquiries and nominations should be directed towards Julie Holley and Maggie Mayes with Greenwood Asher & Associates.

Julie Holley

julieholley@greenwoodsearch.com

850-687-5104

Maggie Mayes

maggiemayes@greenwoodsearch.com

850-869-9993

How to Apply

Application materials should include:

- › A letter of interest that clearly states the applicant's qualifications for the position
- › A current résumé/curriculum vitae

For a full application package, please submit a cover letter and CV to [WVU Dean of Law](#)

Submission of application materials as PDF attachments is strongly encouraged. The search will be conducted with a commitment to confidentiality for candidates until finalists are selected. Initial screening of applications will begin immediately and will continue until an appointment is made.



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West Virginia University is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We invite all qualified applicants regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or Veteran status.