



KORN FERRY

Position Description

PEPPERDINE



**Pepperdine University
Dean, School of Law**

October 2016

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position	Dean of the School of Law
Organization	Pepperdine University
Location	Malibu, California
Reporting Relationship	The Dean is the chief academic officer and chief executive officer of the School of Law. The Dean reports to the Provost of the University. Reporting to the Dean are the Vice Dean; Associate Dean for Administration and Leadership Development, and Director, Parris Institute for Professional Formation; Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development; Dean of Students; Dean of Graduate Programs; Assistant Dean for Admissions, Student Information and Financial Services; Assistant Dean, Career Development; Assistant Dean, Law Library; Associate Dean for Academic Success and Employer Relations; Assistant Dean, Information Services; Associate Vice Chancellor, Advancement, Alumni, & Public Affairs; Academic and Managing Directors of the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Parris Institute for Professional Formation, Wm. Matthew Byrne, Jr., Judicial Clerkship Institute, Nootbaar Institute on Law, Religion, and Ethics, Palmer Institute for Entrepreneurship and the Law; and the Executive Assistant to the Dean.
Websites	www.law.pepperdine.edu www.pepperdine.edu

ABOUT PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY AND THE SCHOOL OF LAW

Pepperdine University is a Christian university committed to the highest standards of academic excellence and Christian values, where students are strengthened for lives of purpose, service, and leadership. The university enrolls approximately 7,700 full-time and part-time students in its five colleges and schools with a full-time faculty of approximately 380. The School of Law has built a reputation for rigorous academics, personal attention (12:1 student/teacher ratio), strong experiential learning, and values-centered teaching and learning growing from the University's Christian mission. ABA-accredited and a member of the Association of American Law Schools and Order of the Coif, the School of Law currently enrolls approximately 595 J.D. students. The Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, which has been ranked number one by *U.S. News & World Report* for 11 of the past 12 years, offers an LLM in Dispute Resolution, Masters in Dispute Resolution (MDR) or Certificate in Dispute Resolution as a standalone program or as a joint program with several of Pepperdine's other schools. The School of Law has approximately 50 full-time faculty, 65 staff and nearly 10,000 alumni.

Located in the coastal community of Malibu, California, the Pepperdine University 830-acre campus has been ranked the most beautiful campus in the nation by *The Princeton Review*.

A. History

Pepperdine University was founded in 1937 by George Pepperdine, a Christian businessman who started the Western Auto Supply Company. For the first thirty years of its existence, the school was a small liberal arts college located in South Central Los Angeles. In 1969, Pepperdine added graduate and professional programs, and in 1971 became Pepperdine University. In 1972, Pepperdine opened its 830-acre campus in Malibu. The School of Law, which began as a night school in Orange County that Pepperdine began to operate in 1969, launched a full-time day program in 1970 and moved to the Malibu campus in 1978. The law school is located in the Odell McConnell Law Center, named for Los Angeles attorney and law school benefactor Odell McConnell.

Pepperdine University is religiously affiliated with Churches of Christ, of which Mr. Pepperdine was a lifelong member. Faculty, administrators and members of the Board of Regents represent many religious backgrounds, and students of all races and faiths are welcomed. It is the purpose of Pepperdine University to pursue the very highest standards within a context that celebrates and extends the spiritual and ethical ideals of the Christian faith.

Pepperdine University is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and classified as a Doctoral/Research University under the Carnegie classification system. The American Bar Association granted Pepperdine University School of Law provisional approval in August 1972 and full approval in August 1975. The School of Law gained membership in the Association of American Law Schools in January 1980, and in Order of the Coif in 2008. The last inspection by the ABA and AALS was in spring 2010, and the School of Law is preparing for another site visit this year.

B. The School of Law

The School of Law is located on the university's Malibu campus and boasts a 40,000 square-foot law library with ocean views, as well as conference rooms, classrooms, a dining hall, ample technology services, and on-campus housing.

Pepperdine School of Law provides a superior legal education with an emphasis on societal responsibility. In addition to the degree programs, Pepperdine offers experiential learning, mentorship, and continuing education to prepare practitioners to bring their best to their work and to the world.

Proximity to Los Angeles is an added benefit. With one of the most robust legal communities in the world, the city offers access to hands-on learning opportunities and internships in a variety of practice areas - real estate, international law, entertainment and sports, to name a few. Both Malibu and Los Angeles offer culture, dining, and recreational activities that support a healthy lifestyle near one of the most beautiful coastlines in the world.

The Pepperdine Juris Doctor encompasses professional development, specialized areas of interest, and co-curricular learning opportunities that combine to shape a "practice ready" graduate. Ranked 10th in the country (the 2nd highest ranking in California) by *National Jurist* for experiential learning, Pepperdine is not simply responding to popular opinion that law schools need to teach essential skills - it is actively helping lead the charge to deepen legal education. With individual needs and goals in mind, Pepperdine offers accelerated and extended options in addition to the traditional JD program. In addition to these degree

programs, the law school offers six joint degrees in collaboration with the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Graziadio School of Business and Management, the School of Public Policy, and the Seaver College Religion Division.

Pepperdine University is in stable financial condition with total assets of more than \$1.6 billion dollars and an endowment of \$789 million dollars as of July 31, 2016. The University's gross operating budget for the current fiscal year, FY17, is \$457 million. The School of Law's operating budget is approximately \$41 million.

The law school's advisory board, the Board of Visitors, is composed of judges, lawyers, and business people who help guide the direction of the law school. The Board of Visitors meets at the law school twice each year – once in the fall and once in the spring in conjunction with the law school's annual dinner. The Senior Advancement Officer manages the Board and organizes the bi-annual meetings. The Board is divided into several committees focusing on areas such as reputation enhancement, law student recruiting, job placement for graduates, and fundraising.

The Law School's professors have a dual research/teaching focus. *The Princeton Review* recently ranked the Law School's faculty the sixth best in the nation regarding teaching, and it gave the Law School the highest possible score for faculty accessibility."

C. University Mission & Vision

University Mission Statement: *Pepperdine is a Christian university committed to the highest standards of academic excellence and Christian values, where students are strengthened for lives of purpose, service, and leadership.*

University Vision Statement: *Pepperdine University will be a preeminent, global, Christian university, known for the integration of faith and learning, whose graduates lead purposeful lives as servant-minded leaders throughout the world.*

D. Law School Mission & Vision

The mission of Pepperdine University School of Law is to provide highly qualified students with a superior legal education. The school seeks to prepare students for positions as counselors, advocates, and judges; as business persons; and as researchers, teachers, and philosophers of the law. These ends are furthered by a program of academic excellence combined with practical experience.

The school's Christian emphasis leads to a special concern for imbuing students with the highest principles of professional, ethical, and moral responsibility. The school and university work to call together a faculty, staff, and student body who wish to share this experience of quality legal education in a value-centered context. It is the philosophy of the School of Law that lawyers best serve the interests of their clients, as well as the interests of society, when they possess a genuine commitment to high standards of personal conduct and professional responsibility. Therefore, the school tries to convey to its students not only the knowledge of the law and how to employ it, but also an awareness of the responsibilities to society that accompany the power inherent in that knowledge.

The faculty and administration of the School of Law are committed to the proposition that the

way in which they approach students, both personally and professionally, will shape the student's perception of the law and the role of lawyers. Both faculty and administration must, therefore, adhere to the highest standards of moral and ethical conduct, exhibit a concern for the total education and personal well-being of students, and uphold the ideal of the personal dignity of each individual. One significant manifestation of this faculty and administrative role is the emphasis placed on counseling students. Both faculty and administrators continually reaffirm their commitment to serving the needs of students and to being available to students. The faculty and administration believe that this role model concept is integral to improving the profession and accomplishing the mission of the Law School.

Pepperdine University and the Law School welcome the contributions of people of all faiths, and maintain a religiously diverse faculty, staff, and student body. Pepperdine University offers an education influenced by Christian values. These values are reflected in the curriculum, in the classroom, and in the University environment outside of the classroom. Faculty, administrators, and staff seek to be role models who demonstrate through their lives the values and ideals to which Pepperdine University is committed.

The Law School embraces the University's mission, vision, and affirmation statements.

E. Pepperdine's Other Schools

Seaver College is the University's undergraduate college of letters, arts, and sciences. It is highly selective, enrolling approximately 3,451 students who reflect the highest standards of academic excellence and personal conduct. Seaver College offers bachelor's degrees in forty-four fields of study, and master's degrees in seven.

The Graziadio School of Business and Management (The Graziadio School), with approximately 2,058 full and part time students enrolled each trimester, focuses on the needs of mid-career professionals. Its administrative offices are located at Pepperdine's West Los Angeles Graduate Campus. It offers courses at West LA Graduate Campus, the Malibu campus, at five other Graduate Campuses located in California, and online. The Graziadio School's Malibu program is a traditional, full-time residential MBA. The Graziadio School is accredited by AACSB International – The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

The Graduate School of Education and Psychology (GSEP) enrolls approximately 1,058 students and offers masters and doctoral degrees designed to prepare professionals for service and leadership roles in education, psychology, and related areas. GSEP offers programs to prepare students for teaching and administrative credentials, as well as the marriage and family therapist license and psychology license. Although its administrative offices are on the West Los Angeles Graduate Campus, GSEP offers courses at the Malibu campus, four other satellite campuses, and online.

Founded in 1997, the newest addition to Pepperdine University is the School of Public Policy (SPP). The Master of Public Policy degree combines emphasis on the ethical, moral, and historical roots of free institutions with analytical and leadership skills to influence questions of public policy. The School of Public Policy, with an enrollment of approximately 65 students, is located at Pepperdine's Drescher Graduate Campus in Malibu. The Drescher Graduate Campus includes an executive conference center, academic support facilities, graduate student housing, faculty/staff housing, and parking areas. The law school regularly avails itself of these

facilities.

F. Relationship Between the Law School and the University

The President of the University is the Chief Executive Officer, and in that capacity has primary responsibility for administration of the University. On June 16, 2000, Andrew Benton became the University's seventh president. Primary responsibility for academic administration is vested in the Provost, Rick R. Marrs. Deans of all five schools report to the Provost and meet with him regularly.

The University Planning Committee is the body responsible for coordinating university-level assessment, planning, program review, and resource allocation processes. Its membership includes the president, the vice presidents, the provost (chair), the vice provost, each of the deans of the five schools, three faculty representatives, and other executives who manage key areas, such as the director of athletics and the dean of libraries. The UPC facilitates the annual process for considering tuition and housing rates; the annual budgeting process; reviewing the findings of academic and co-curricular program reviews; and articulating and monitoring strategic initiatives at the university level.

The Deans' Council is a university-level committee, composed of the deans of the five schools, the dean of libraries, the president, and the vice provost for academic administration. This group, chaired by the provost, meets monthly to discuss areas of critical concern to the academic community.

In addition, tenured, tenure-track and long-term contract law school faculty serve on (and frequently lead) a variety of university-wide committees, including the University Faculty Council (recently chaired by the director of clinical education), which consists of faculty representatives from every school and serves as an advisory body, meeting regularly with the Provost and President; the University Academic Council, which gives final approval to course or program changes or additions proposed by one of the University's schools; the University's Institutional Review Board, which reviews research projects; and the University Tenure Committee, which reviews applications for tenure approved at the school level.

ROLE OVERVIEW AND KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Dean is the chief academic officer and chief executive officer of the School of Law. The Dean provides leadership of all teaching, research, and service, and represents the School within Pepperdine and externally through fundraising, career development, and alumni relations. The Dean reports to the Provost of the University.

The Dean of the School of Law will be responsible for:

- Advancing the Christian mission of the School of Law and the University.
- Developing and enhancing a vision for the School of Law and its strategic plan, working creatively to continue to improve its excellence, impact, and reputation.
- Working in close harmony with the President, the Provost and the senior administrative team.
- Representing the School and University to the community at large, the legal community, the alumni and relevant academic, legal, and business associations.

- Supporting alignment between the School of Law and the broader University's goals and initiatives.
- Inspiring and motivating faculty, staff, and students.
- Continuing to improve the diversity of the School's students and faculty.
- Providing leadership in developing external financial support.
- Administering and overseeing the School of Law's budget of approximately \$41 million.
- Fostering a commitment to academic excellence in teaching, research, and social responsibility.
- Continuing to raise the School's standards of excellence and maintaining the School's accreditation.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE/QUALIFICATIONS

The successful candidate will possess the leadership skills, vision, and enthusiasm to build on the School of Law's tradition of academic excellence. The successful candidate must be an experienced legal educator, jurist, or practitioner with experience in legal education. The successful candidate will have a strong record of legal scholarship, be eligible for a tenured teaching appointment at the School of Law, possess excellent administrative and leadership abilities, and demonstrate a commitment to advancing the intellectual and spiritual mission of the School. The successful candidate should be capable of further raising the profile and enhancing the reputation of the School of Law among its peers. A strong academic background is required for consideration, including a juris doctorate from an ABA/AALS-accredited institution. Desired qualifications include:

- An impeccable reputation as a person of integrity and ethics.
- Excellent communication skills (both verbal and written) and interpersonal skills.
- An entrepreneurial nature and innovative approach, with a clear vision for the future of legal education and the advancement of the law school.
- The ability to promote the law school to various constituencies, including within the legal education community, the legal community, and the University community.
- The ability to build and strengthen alumni support for the school.
- The ability to build consensus and to lead through collaboration and consultation.
- The ability to advance the mission of the University and the School of Law, including a record of participation in a faith community.
- Administrative experience (preferred).
- Law teaching experience (preferred).
- A strong scholarly record (preferred).
- Demonstrated leadership skills.
- Creativity, high energy, and resourcefulness.
- Fundraising experience (desirable).

- Ability to lead fiscally conservative budgeting and make tough financial and resource decisions while building consensus when possible.

EDUCATION

A strong academic background is required for consideration, including a juris doctorate from an ABA/AALS-accredited institution.

COMPENSATION

A comprehensive compensation package will be offered to the successful candidate, including housing and relocation assistance.

TO APPLY

Confidential review of applications, nominations, and expressions of interest will begin immediately and continue until an appointment is made, effective in July 2017. To be ensured full consideration, please send a letter of interest and CV to PepperdineLaw@kornferry.com by **November 30, 2016**. Please direct inquiries and nominations to Korn Ferry c/o John Amer, Senior Client Partner, at PepperdineLaw@kornferry.com or (310) 556-8577.

KORN FERRY CONTACTS

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Pepperdine University is an independent Christian university affiliated with the Churches of Christ. Pepperdine is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not unlawfully discriminate in employment practices. Pepperdine reserves the right to seek, hire, and promote persons who support the goals and mission of the institution, including the right to prefer co-religionists.