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Lauren Robel (2002 Acting; 2003-2011)

Law School Deans

Fall 2003

Welcoming Our New Dean

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Maurer School of Law
Bloomington

WELCOMING OUR NEW DEAN

On July 1, the Indiana University board of trustees made it official: Lauren Robel is the 15th dean of the Indiana University School of Law—Bloomington. For the past year, Robel had served as acting dean, replacing Alfred C. Aman, who stepped down as dean in 2002.

“It is a real honor to be able to continue to serve the school as dean,” Robel said. “I look forward especially to continuing to work with the outstanding faculty and students at the Law School, and to the support of our wonderful alumni in Indiana and around the world.”

When Robel’s appointment was announced last spring, IU Bloomington Chancellor Sharon S. Brehm praised her for both her scholarship and her administrative gifts.

“Professor Robel has been a superb faculty member and an excellent academic administrator. Her teaching is extraordinary, her scholarship innovative, and she is highly respected by both her students and her colleagues,” Brehm said. “She has also been very effective as acting dean this year, in terms of both internal administration and reaching out to external constituencies. I’m delighted that she has

agreed to serve as dean. I know that she will advance the academic mission of both the school and the university as a whole. We are very lucky to have her in this position.”

Professor Dan Conkle was chair of the committee that spearheaded the yearlong search. “Given our national search and an extremely strong pool of 25–30 candidates, the fact that Lauren emerged as our new dean is testimony to her enormous talent,” he said.

“She has proven herself an effective administrator and academic leader, not to mention a delightful colleague, who has simply wonderful interpersonal skills and abilities.”

Robel brings to her new position an abiding commitment not only to the highest standard of legal education, but also to the particular people and traditions the Law School comprises and to the community that is its home. Her career has been marked by rigorous scholarship, tireless community service, and a seemingly inexhaustible drive to improve the experience of students and faculty.

“The Law School is an academic community in the finest and truest sense of that sometimes overused word,”

said Robel. “My challenge will be to assure, to the best of my ability, that this community is nurtured and supported.”

Robel received her BA from Auburn University and, in 1983, her JD from Indiana University Bloomington. Before coming back to her alma mater in 1985 as a faculty member, she served as a law clerk for Judge Jesse Eschbach, JD’49, of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit. For many years, she served as the associate dean for academic affairs. She is currently the Val Nolan Professor of Law.

Robel’s research has focused on judicial federalism and the role of federal courts in supervision of state judicial administration. She has published many articles in leading law journals and has spoken frequently on topics ranging from procedural reform to sovereign immunity. She also served as a visiting faculty member at the Université Panthéon-Assas (Paris II). Her book, *Les États des Noirs: Fédéralisme et question raciale aux États-unis*, with Professor Elisabeth Zoller, a frequent visitor to the IU Law School, was published by the Presses Universitaires de France (2000). Robel regularly teaches courses in civil procedure, federal jurisdiction, and constitutional law.

Robel has been active in developing programs for students outside the traditional classroom setting, such as the Protective Order Project and the Appellate Colloquium. Because of her contributions, she has received the Law School’s Gavel Award, the Wallace Teaching Award, the Leonard D. Fromm Public Service Award, the Indiana Bar Foundation’s Pro Bono Publico Award, and the Indiana State Bar Women and the Law Recognition Award. Robel serves as the reporter for the Rules Committee of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana and as a member of the Indiana Supreme Court Rules Committee.

Conkle lauds Robel for her “tremendous knowledge of the Law School and the university.”

“She has working relationships with many of our alumni and with members of the bench and bar,” he said. “She combines exceptional energy with great personal warmth, fairness, and integrity.”

Brehm added, “Lauren is truly good and kind and caring ... and yet she is totally practical and very determined to do what’s right and beneficial for her school and her university.

“Lauren is an exceptional human being, and I feel very, very fortunate to know her and to get to know her even better as we work together for the greater good of IU.”

Law School leaders since 1842

Department of Law, senior professors

1842–1853: David McDonald
 1853–1857: James Hughes
 1857–1861: James R.M. Bryant
 1861–1870: George A. Bicknell
 1870–1872: Samuel E. Perkins
 1872–1877: Baskin E. Rhoads

School of Law, deans

1889–1896: David D. Banta
 1896–1902: William Perry Rogers
 1902–1906: George L. Reinhard
 1906–1918: Enoch G. Hogate
 1918–1925: Charles M. Hepburn
 1925–1933: Paul V. McNutt
 1933–1951: Bernard C. Gavit
 1952–1966: Leon H. Wallace
 1966–1971: William Burnett Harvey
 1972–1976: Douglass G. Boshkoff
 1977–1984: Sheldon Jay Plager
 1985: Morris S. Arnold
 1986–1990: Bryant G. Garth
 1991–2002: Alfred C. Aman Jr.
 2003– : Lauren K. Robel

