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*Indiana Daily Student*

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## Austen Parrish named new law school dean

By Kathrine Schulze | IDS | January 10, 2014

The Maurer School of Law has named its new dean.

Austen Parrish began his role as dean of law Jan. 1, replacing Provost Lauren Robel, who was dean of the law school starting in 2003 before becoming provost in 2012.

Along with the appointment, Parrish has also been named a James H. Rudy Professor of Law.

John Applegate, Walter W. Foskett professor of law and executive vice president for university academic affairs, chaired the search committee.

"I think the committee did a fabulous job of looking broadly at a wide range of candidates, being very collegial and thoughtful about the various points in which you need to make choices and selections," Applegate said.

"And I think that the outcome was excellent."

Parrish received his B.A. in political science and economics from the University of Washington before going on to complete his J.D. degree at Columbia University.

"I liked the problem solving aspect of law school," Parrish said. "At the time I was somewhat idealistic and wanted to make a difference. I saw a law degree as a way to do that, and a way to help people in a variety of ways."

After graduating from Columbia University, Parrish went to practice complex business litigation at the global law firm O'Melveny & Myers.

There he worked mainly in company-to-company litigation, but also did some civil rights work and policy litigation, Parrish said.

"This is the time where you need someone who has a lot of energy, who is truly committed to the value of the legal profession and legal education," Applegate said.

"Someone who has a lot of creativity and ideas and really wants to go out there and be thoughtful about the future of the legal profession, and be very enthusiastic about the great opportunities that legal degrees provide to people."

After five years of legal experience, Parrish entered academia in 2002 as a professor at Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles.

In 2008 he became vice dean of academic affairs.

Parrish said he thinks the strengths he brings to his job at IU is from all his past experience.

"A lot of the things I was doing at Southwestern, which was curricular innovation and working with faculty and trying to expand the school's reputation, are similar things I'll be doing at IU," Parrish said.

As vice dean of Southwestern Law, Parrish said he oversaw both full time and adjunct faculty and was heavily involved with students in academic support classes and bar exam support.

From July 2012 until November 2013 he served as CEO and interim dean at Southwestern.

"We thought it was really important to provide opportunities for our students to learn how to be a lawyer, to direct career paths into local communities," Parrish said.

Applegate said Parrish exemplified those characteristics the committee was looking for in a new dean.