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Herald Times

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Maurer School of Law
Bloomington

IU Maurer School of Law creates scholarship, mentoring programs with 4 colleges

By MJ Slaby 812-331-4371 | mslaby@heraldt.com | Posted: Wednesday, July 30, 2014 5:12 pm

Traditional law school recruitment – waiting for students to express interest and schools attending recruiting events – just wasn't making it.

To Indiana University Maurer School of Law Dean Austen Parrish, it was outdated even.

So Parrish has a new plan: reaching students first – and early – by establishing scholarship and mentorship programs with specific schools.

“It’s a way to get the best and brightest,” he said.

In March, Maurer announced a partnership with Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. Then, this month came partnerships with Wabash College, Knox College and Georgia Institute of Technology. And more are on the way, Parrish said.

The partnerships allows for at least two graduates from each school, who are accepted to Maurer, to receive a scholarship of 50 percent annual tuition along with a formal mentoring program. The scholarship is a savings of \$45,000 to \$75,000 over three years depending on a student’s residency. Participants from Rose-Hulman and Georgia Tech also will have opportunities to work at Maurer’s Center for Intellectual Property Research.

Each school will nominate students or alumni for the program, and the selected students will start law school in fall 2015.

The focus is to pair with strong liberal arts schools that don’t have their own law schools as well as with strong engineering schools, Parrish said. He said students with engineering and science backgrounds do well in intellectual property law and are what law firms want.

Parrish said he’s working to have partnerships with at least five engineering schools and with a balance of schools in Indiana and elsewhere. He’s also in conversations with groups to help veterans, under-represented students and corporations and hopes to make more partnership announcements within 6 months.

He said a program like this is a cost-effective pathway to law school when the national trend is that less people are applying.

“It’s certainly true that applications are down nationally, so this is helpful,” he said. But Parrish added he’d want to start this even in a boom year to bring the best to IU.

Now, he said students at these schools will hear the IU and Maurer names early in their college careers and learn about what Maurer has to offer such as the Center for Constitutional Democracy Center for Intellectual Property Research.

In the past, there would be a few students from Knox College at IU, Parrish said, but now hopefully, there will be more.

Plus, the program is more than funding a law education, the mentorship aspect creates a supportive environment and trains students to not just be lawyers, but leaders.

“It builds better students,” Parrish said.