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Maurer School of Law
Bloomington

Garth accepts offer to become law school dean



GARTH

By Jennifer A. Daniel
Indiana Daily Student

Acting Dean Bryant G. Garth of the IU-Bloomington School of Law accepted an offer Tuesday to become the school's permanent dean, the *Daily Student* has learned.

Garth, 38, was one of three finalists named by a 13-member search and screen committee. Following approval by IU President John Ryan, Garth's nomination will be voted on April 4 by the IU Board of Trustees.

He has been acting dean of the school since August 1986. Garth said Tuesday night he could not confirm or deny the appointment.

Garth's appointment will end a long list of deans in the law school in recent years. The search for a new dean began in March 1984 when Sheldon Plager resigned after seven years to return to teaching law at IU.

Replacing Plager was Morris Arnold, an IU professor who left in December 1985 to accept a federal judgeship. Mau-

rice Holland then replaced Arnold but left six months later to become dean of the University of Oregon School of Law.

Garth then became acting dean and agreed that he would serve as dean until a permanent appointment was made.

IU-Bloomington Vice President Kenneth Gros Louis said Tuesday Garth has been strongly supported by the school's faculty during his tenure as acting dean.

"Anyone who would become dean of the Bloomington law school now has an unusual challenge which is to solidify and exchange a school that has made significant and positive strides in the last decade," Gros Louis said.

He said the law school improved significantly during Plager's tenure, and that the new dean's job will be to "keep the snowball rolling."

"The challenge is to take something that is going well and make it better," he said.

Gros Louis described the position of law dean as an exciting one. He cited its young faculty and a new multi-million

dollar library as contributing to its improved reputation in recent years.

Garth was offered the position three weeks ago, sources said. The name of the new dean was supposed to be announced at the March meeting of the IU Board of Trustees, but because of the announcement naming new IU President Thomas Ehrlich, the law announcement was delayed a month.

Garth's educational credentials include graduating magna cum laude from Yale University in 1972 with highest honors in American Studies.

He acquired his law degree from Stanford University Law School in 1975. Garth was a student at Stanford at the time his future boss, Ehrlich, served as dean of the Stanford Law School.

Trustee Tom Haley has said in earlier interviews that the school needs an administrator who can provide long-term leadership. Haley, however, said Tuesday he could not comment on the appointment until after the trustees vote.

"In recent years, the average term of

service in Bloomington has been shorter than we like," Haley said. "It impairs the school's ability to develop long-term vision."

But Gros Louis said having one or two acting deans serving short terms did not hurt the school because many of the original long-term plans set in motion years ago have continued on course.

"Plager set a pattern of programs that would take years to reverse," he said.

Garth received his doctorate in 1979 from the European University Institute, in Florence, Italy. Garth was the first American to receive this degree.

He has been at IU since 1979, and has worked as a professor teaching comparative law, civil procedure, international law, and legal profession.

He has authored or co-authored 15 books with the most recent being, "The Movement Toward Procedural Informalism in Western Europe: A Critical Survey," published in 1982.

Garth has been married for 16 years and has three children.