

## **LSU Law Chancellor and Dean Jack Weiss to Step Down in August**

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BATON ROUGE – Following an eight-year stint as the head of the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center, Law Chancellor and Dean Jack Weiss has announced that he is stepping down from the position of law chancellor and dean, effective with the beginning of the new academic year, and will return to the law faculty.

“I am proud of the many positive developments at the Law Center during my eight years as chancellor and look forward to submitting the progress of the Law Center during those years to the judgment of history,” Weiss said. “Unfortunately, however, major policy differences with a vocal segment of the faculty have made it difficult, if not impossible, for me to continue to lead the Law Center on a day-to-day basis and to implement my vision for the Law Center’s future.”

LSU President F. King Alexander thanked Weiss for his years of leadership at LSU.

“Chancellor Weiss has done a great job leading our Law Center through some difficult times,” Alexander said. “He also brought the Law Center back to the LSU Flagship for the first time since 1977, which will undoubtedly benefit all law school students, faculty, staff and law alumni. LSU is a much stronger university thanks to his leadership.”

Weiss said the progress of the Law Center during his eight years as chancellor includes:

- Reunifying the Law Center with LSU after nearly 40 years of separation;
- Inaugurating a growing Energy Law program and generating more than \$5 million in outside support to date;
- Developing a model program of live client Clinical Legal Education and externships;
- Inaugurating Apprenticeship Week, an innovative intersession program of practical legal education;
- Dramatically increasing the diversity of the Law Center student body and numerous other aspects of school life;
- Managing the Law Center’s finances and enrollment successfully through five years of major state budget cuts on top of an unprecedented decline in law school applications nationwide;
- Eliminating restrictive, out of date student educational policies;
- Enhancing student course choices by eliminating extensive upper class course requirements.

Weiss said his key differences with the law faculty include his strong support for the reunification of the Law Center with LSU; his leadership in fostering the creation of an outstanding program in Energy Law at the Law Center; and his consistent advocacy of eliminating burdensome upperclass

course requirements in order to maximize student choice and opportunities for law students to focus on specific areas of legal study.

Weiss, a national media law authority and Louisiana native, was named chancellor of the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center in May 2007. Before becoming chancellor, Weiss, for many years, was one of the nation's leading defenders of the rights of a free press. In addition to his duties as chancellor, Weiss taught First Amendment Rights of Expression and Association, Media Law and related courses.

Weiss is only the 10th person in the Law Center's more than 100-year history to serve as its dean or chancellor.

"My years as chancellor have been challenging but more fulfilling than I ever dreamed. I will always be grateful to the Board of Supervisors for affording me this opportunity to serve students, LSU, and our state. My special thanks go out to our wonderful students, and to the dozens of fine people who have supported the Law Center and worked tirelessly for its success," said Weiss.

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