Members of Law School ‘family’ named to four deanships

Four members of the Law School family have become deans of major U.S. law schools:

- Former Law School faculty member T. Alexander Aleinikoff was named dean at Georgetown Law Center in July;
- Former faculty member Larry Kramer assumed dean’s duties at Stanford University Law School on September 1;
- Law School graduate Stewart J. Schwab, ’80, has become dean at Cornell University Law School; and
- Graduate Frank H. Wu, ’91, was named dean at Wayne State University Law School in Detroit.

T. Alexander Aleinikoff, who taught at the University of Michigan Law School for 15 years during the 1980s and 1990s, was named executive vice president for Law Center affairs and dean of the Georgetown University Law Center on July 1. He had been a professor at Georgetown since 1997, and is a nationally recognized authority on immigration.

Georgetown President John J. DeGioia called Aleinikoff “a distinguished scholar, teacher, and public policy leader” and praised his dedication to “scholarship, teaching, and service.” Aleinikoff, who has been serving as a senior associate at Georgetown’s Migration Policy Institute, said he was honored by the appointment and called Georgetown “unique among law schools because of its academic excellence, its commitment to the pursuit of justice, its service to the community, and its location.”

The new dean has published more than 50 books and articles on immigration law, constitutional law, and statutory interpretation, including Semblances of Sovereignty: The Constitution, the State and Citizenship, and was co-editor of the books: Migration and International Legal Norms and Immigration and Citizenship: Process and Policy.

Aleinikoff also has held high-level positions with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. He was general counsel from 1994–95 and served as executive commissioner for programs from 1995–97. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Swarthmore College and his law degree from Yale Law School.

Georgetown Law Center enrolls 575 full- and part-time students.

Larry Kramer, who taught at the U-M Law School from 1991–94, became dean of Stanford Law School on September 1. Kramer previously had been a professor and associate dean at New York University School of Law.

“Professor Kramer is a dynamic and thoughtful legal scholar and educator,” Stanford President John Hennessey said in his announcement of Kramer’s appointment.

Stanford Provost John Etchemendy, who co-chaired the search committee for the new dean, praised the matchup of Kramer and Stanford. “Stanford is probably unique in having an unbroken run of four constitutional scholars at the helm of its law school over the last generation,” Etchemendy said. “Moreover, Larry Kramer is widely considered to be among the best and the brightest of the new generation of leaders in legal education.”

Kramer has written several books and dozens of journal articles. His most recent book, The People Themselves: Popular Constitutionalism and Judicial Review, was published by Oxford University Press earlier this year.

Stanford Law School accepted its first students in 1893, two years after Stanford University opened, and currently enrolls 550 J.D. candidates.

Stewart J. Schwab, ’80, a member of the Cornell University Law School faculty since 1983, was named dean in December. The announcement was made by fellow U-M Law School graduate and Cornell President Jeffrey S. Lehman, ’81, a former dean of the U-M Law School.